

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation



Georgia Charter School Authorizer Evaluation

District Authorizer Evaluation Rubric | 2025

District Name: Cobb County School District

Reviewer Name: LaMarius Moultrie Agbaje

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Evaluation Rubric

Authorizer Name: Cobb County School District

Date: August 2025

SUMMARY	RATING
Category I. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity	
1. Human Resources	AD
2. Financial Resources	NI
Category II. The Petition Process	
3. Petition Application	AD
4. Petition Review	NI
5. Petition Decisions	NI
Category III. Performance Contracting	
6. Pre-Opening Period	NI
7. Performance Standards	EX
8. Contract Terms and Agreements	EX
9. Authorizer Obligations	EX
Category IV. Oversight and Evaluation	
10. Compliance Monitoring	NI
11. Intervention	NI
12. Upholds Charter School Autonomy	EX
Category V. Renewal and Termination	
13. Renewal Process	NI
14. Renewal Decisions	NI
15. Closure/Termination	NI
OVERALL RATING	NI

OVERALL RATING CRITERIA	
Rating	Criteria
Needs Improvement (NI)	Earned a majority NI (8 or more) across all standards
Adequate (AD)	Earned any combination of ratings across standards except as designated for NI or E
Exemplary (EX)	Earned a majority E (8 or more) and no NI across all standards
First Time Authorizer (FTA)	Charter authorizer in its first year of authorizing

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Category I. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity

Standard 1. Human Resources. The authorizer identifies appropriate personnel to carry out its authorizing obligations, including the point(s) of contact who will coordinate charter school support.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer has dedicated staff to supporting the charter schools in its portfolio. Whether staff are dedicated solely to charter school authorizing or have other duties, sufficient staff time and resources are allocated for the authorizer to fulfill its obligations, in light of the number of schools in the portfolio.	E. Kattoula supports charter schools. The district has a 1:1 school to staff ratio.	Dr. Kattoula is viewed as the main point of contact within the charter office. He believes he has the time and tools necessary to manage his responsibilities effectively. While an organizational chart was shared, it does not clearly outline how each role contributes to charter school support.	N/A	N
Taken together, staff have adequate experience in charter authorizing or other relevant experience (e.g., education accountability, school funding and finance, education law and legal compliance).	E. Kattoula demonstrates relevant experience in the submitted resume.	In the follow-up discussion, it was outlined that district personnel provide support in areas like budgeting, testing, staffing, and special education.	N/A	Y
The roles and responsibilities of the authorizing office cover key responsibilities in a coherent structure, specifically: - Petition receipt and review, - Oversight of academic, financial, and operational performance, and - Designated point of contact for charter stakeholder inquiries.	E. Kattoula resume notes responsibilities including petition review, however documentation was not provided that demonstrates a coherent structure.		N/A	N
<i>Districts:</i> Board members attend trainings on principals and standards. (GA Code § 20-2-2063.3)	N/A for 2025	N/A for 2025	N/A for 2025	Y (N/A for 2025)
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	AD
Evaluator Comments:				

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Standard 2. Financial Resources. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068.1 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089, the authorizer allocates the required financial resources to support charter schools, treats charter schools no less favorably than other local schools within the system unless otherwise provided by law, and provides transparency on the availability and allocation of charter school funding.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer clearly publishes and shares the calculation of current and anticipated public funding for each charter school in accordance with law, specifically: - GaDOE/SBOE/SCSC- district allotment sheets - Local Districts- allotment sheet itemizing the calculation of state, local and federal allocations to be provided.	Anticipated public funding for each charter school is not published online.	During the debrief it was discussed, Cobb County does not currently charge an admin fee to its current charter school, however, charter training materials indicate that such a fee is typically built into the monthly charges for charter schools.	N/A	N
Budget allocations for the school reflect an administrative fee that aligns with the charter contract and applicable law.	Budget allocation located here does not allocate admin fee.	While the current budget for the district's charter campus does not include an administrative fee, the charter training materials indicate that such a fee is typically built into the monthly charges for charter schools.	N/A	N
The authorizer publishes a budget reflecting the total amount received from any authorizing fees and other sources, and how those funds are allocated internally. The authorizer publishes the administrative services provided based on the administrative fees withheld.	Budget published online here does not show any administrative services provided based on the admin fees withheld.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2	3	NI
Evaluator Comments:				

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Category II. The Petition Process

Standard 3. Petition Application. The authorizer publishes a written petition application in accordance with state requirements and timelines. The authorizer provides reasonable and timely technical assistance and is responsive to petitioner questions.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer publishes petition materials (application, timelines, process and guidance) online in an easy-to- find location.	Petition materials are not published online however the authorizer did provide a charter school petition training deck dated July 2025.		N/A	N
The authorizer clearly articulates petition requirements. Requirements are focused on written content rather than form (i.e. application length, font size, etc.).	The authorizer articulates petition requirements in its CCSD petition evaluation form.		N/A	Y
The authorizer publishes times and locations for petition submission that are reasonable and easy to be met by the petitioner.	Times and location is published online here .		N/A	Y
The authorizer publishes staff contact information for technical assistance.	Staff contact is published online here .		N/A	Y
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	AD

Evaluator Comments:

The authorizer may wish to add additional staff members contact information online for technical support.

Standard 4. Petition Review. The authorizer conducts petition review in accordance with state requirements. The petition review includes an evaluation team of no fewer than three individuals with diverse expertise, with at least one of the individuals having charter school experience.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
---------------------	----------------------	--------------------	---------------	---------------------

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

The petition evaluation team includes at least three individuals that have varied and relevant skills and backgrounds (i.e. education, finance, school governance, charter experience) trained in petition review or have completed a relevant training).	Documentation not provided regarding review team makeup.	According to Dr. Kattoula, the review group consists of executive level personnel.	N/A	N
The authorizer publishes the petition evaluation criteria and the requirements for petition approval on the authorizer's website.	Petition resources link to the SCSC website and authorizer provided review team instruments. Evaluation criteria and requirements for petition approval were not provided on the website.		N/A	N
The review process includes an interview.	Review process does include an interview.		N/A	Y
Petition review and interview process are free of conflict of interest.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	NI
Evaluator Comments:				
Standard 5. Petition Decisions. The authorizer grants charters only to petitioners that have demonstrated competence and capacity to succeed in all aspects of the school, including a strong plan for improving student opportunities and outcomes. The authorizer makes petition decisions that are free from conflicts of interest.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Board decision to approve or deny an application is made by the board within 90 days of receiving the complete application (GA Code § 20-2-2064)	Based on documentation provided, board makes a decision within 90 days of receiving the completed application.		N/A	Y
Authorization decisions are based on evidence tied to the petition evaluation criteria, applicable accountability metrics, and legal requirements.	While a summary of decisions was provided, documentation of deficiencies for each school related to petition evaluation criteria was not included.		N/A	N
If denied, petitioner is provided a written detailed description of deficiencies and information about how to reapply in the future.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

In the case of denied applications, the authorizer provides the applicant with detailed feedback to provide a public record of why the applicant was denied and assist the applicant if it wants to reapply in the future.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
Recommendations are shared with petitioners at least one week prior to the authorizing board meeting.	Timeline does not show one week notice is provided to petitioners and no evidence was provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4-5	NI
Evaluator Comments:				

Category III. Performance Contracting

Standard 6. Pre-Opening Period. The authorizer establishes clear and necessary, but not overly burdensome expectations for the pre-opening period including, but not limited to, expectations regarding facilities, student enrollment and board development.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer has a pre-opening checklist or other process that clearly communicates to schools what key readiness requirements must be met to open. The checklist or process includes adequate timelines, deliverables, responsible parties, and notes which criteria may defer opening.	Documentation not provided.	It's been some time since the district launched a charter school, but Dr. Kattoula shared that whenever a new school is approved in the future, a list will be shared.	N/A	N
Pre-opening expectations specify facility requirements that include, GaDOE Facilities Division sign off, obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy and submitting an Emergency Plan to required agencies.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Pre-opening expectations specify student enrollment requirements including a minimum and maximum threshold to operate.	Documentation not provided.	In the follow-up conversation, it was noted that the target enrollment should reach at least 80% of the projected numbers.	N/A	N
Pre-opening expectations specify board development requirements including required trainings, policy development and operational oversight procedures.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	NI
Evaluator Comments:				
Standard 7. Performance Standards. The authorizer, through the performance contract, establishes high academic, financial, and operational performance standards under which schools will be evaluated, using objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and growth as the primary measure of school quality.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Performance standards are included or referenced in the performance contract. These include clearly defined targets, thresholds or goals for each evaluation measure.	Performance standards are located in Appendix A pg.19 in the contract for Walton High School.		N/A	Y
Evaluation measures allow for annual review.	Evaluation measures are allowed for annual review. For example, Financial Performance Standards located in Appendix A, pg. 20-21 of the contract.		N/A	Y
Data sources used to evaluate performance are objective and verifiable.	All data sources are objective and verifiable.		N/A	Y

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

The authorizer measures academic performance using a framework that includes clearly defined expectations for: • Student achievement • Student progress measures Expectations consider ALL students, including students with special needs, students with disabilities, and English Learners.	All academic performance measures CCRPI progress in two major components, Content Mastery and Progress Score. Reference pg. 20, Appendix A. *		N/A	Y
Financial, operational and governance standards are grounded in best practice. Standards in these areas that are in addition to legal requirements are reasonable and not overly burdensome.	Financial, operational, and governance standards are grounded in best practices.		N/A	Y
The authorizer measures financial performance standards that enable the authorizer to assess and monitor schools' financial viability. These include clearly defined metric and targets to assess near-term performance and long-term financial sustainability.	Financial performance standards include 5 standards that must be achieved annually.		N/A	Y
Operational standards include measures in the following areas: educational program compliance, financial oversight, governance and transparency, protecting the rights of students and employees, and ensuring a safe school environment.	All operational standards must be achieved each year per its contract terms.		N/A	Y
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-2	3-5	6-7	EX
Evaluator Comments: *While the CCRPI captures subgroup performance, this performance is rolled in with other performance data. As a result, it is harder to discern how an individual campuses' subgroups are performing. It is the evaluator's recommendation that FCS include a distinct measure around the performance of English Learners and Students with Disabilities.				

Standard 8. Contract Terms and Agreements. The authorizer executes an initial contract for a term of five years that clearly outlines the rights and responsibilities of the school and the authorizer. Agreements related to funding or in-kind services not required by OGGA §20-2-2068.1 or §20-2-2089 or that are not included in the charter contract, must be negotiated and executed in writing and signed by the local authorizer and charter school (for local charter schools) or the State Charter Schools Commission and state charter school (for state charter schools).

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Executes a contract with a legally incorporated, nonprofit governing board independent of the authorizer	Contract is executed with a nonprofit governing board.		N/A	Y
Initial contract terms are five years as stated in 691-2-.01 of the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia.	Walton High School received a 5-year contract.		N/A	Y
The performance contract details the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, funding, oversight, performance measures, and consequences for not meeting performance measures and material terms.	Appendix B , pg. 25 is included in the contract outlining the rights and responsibilities of each party.		N/A	Y
The authorizer provides adequate and appropriate guidance to schools regarding what kinds of programmatic or operational changes constitute material changes that require authorizer approval.	Any programmatic or operational changes requires an amendment per the contract.		N/A	Y
Specific services provided by the authorizer are negotiated and agreed to by both parties and are outlined in a separate written contract or service agreement, if applicable.	Separate contract made with In Kind services on pg. 34.		N/A	Y
Contract and/or related agreements establish equitable per-pupil funding terms or amounts as required by state law.	Contract agreements established equitable per pupil funding.		N/A	Y
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-2	3-4	5-6	EX (6/6)
Evaluator Comments:				
Standard 9. Authorizer Obligations. The authorizer follows all authorizing obligations outlined in law, State Board Rule, and the charter contract.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer's contracts include or refer to the state and federal laws and other legal requirements the school must meet.	All state and federal laws are included in the contract.		N/A	Y

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

A local board of education authorizer makes unused facilities (as defined by 20-2-2068.2 (h)(2)) available to local charters. The SCSC follows guidelines from the state properties commission.	Cobb County does not currently have any unused facilities.		N/A	Y
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0	1	2	EX
Evaluator Comments:				

Category IV. Oversight and Evaluation

Standard 10. Compliance Monitoring. The authorizer protects the public interest and holds charter schools accountable for their obligations of governance, management, and oversight of public funds. The authorizer defines, communicates, and effectively implements the processes, methods, and timing of collecting and reporting school performance and compliance information. The authorizer conducts school visits as appropriate and necessary, and annually publishes school performance data.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer has a documented process for oversight and evaluation that aligns with the provisions of the performance contract.	Documentation not provided.	Dr. Kattoula shared a variety of ways that Cobb County conducts oversight and evaluation, however documentation was not provided.	N/A	N
The authorizer has a documented process for conducting school site visits that includes a review of school performance and compliance in alignment with the contract, and/or subsequent agreements.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
The authorizer clearly communicates its oversight processes, including site visits, and how information gleaned from those activities is used to hold schools accountable.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
The authorizer conducts an on-site visit to each charter school at least once during the school's charter term.	Documentation not provided.	Dr. Kattoula shared that they conduct a site visit at least once during the school's charter term.	N/A	Y

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Each year, the authorizer publishes a report on its website with individual and aggregate level school performance results based on evaluation measures included in the contracts, comparing academic, financial, and organizational performance of each school to established expectations.	Documentation not provided.	An annual report that was dated back to 2010 was provided showing that the district has collected information that is tied directly to applicable law or contract requirements. Given the date, this documentation did not result in the criteria being met.	N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-2	3-4	5-6	NI
Evaluator Comments:				

Standard 11. Intervention. The authorizer gives schools evidence-based, and timely notice of contract violations or performance deficiencies and allows schools reasonable time and opportunity for remediation.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer has an intervention protocol which determines when it may intervene and what consequences are possible (from a conversation to probation or other more serious actions). The intervention protocol includes actions that result from annual reviews using the performance framework and interventions required outside of “normal” monitoring findings (i.e. parent phone calls). This protocol is clearly communicated to schools.	Documentation not provided.	Authorizer noted that the school has had no problems.	N/A	N
Following each compliance site visit the authorizer provides timely written notification that includes information collected during the site visit, a summary of findings and areas needing improvement. The findings are tied directly to applicable law or contract requirements.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
The authorizer provides written notice to the school of any contract breaches or areas of noncompliance in a reasonable timeframe.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

The authorizer allows the school adequate time to remedy any identified areas of noncompliance, respecting the school's autonomy to determine how to remediate the noncompliance, when appropriate.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (Ni)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2	3-4	NI
Evaluator Comments:				
Standard 12. Upholds Charter School Autonomy. The authorizer upholds charter school autonomy in school level governance, including personnel decisions, financial decisions, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, establishing and monitoring the achievement of school improvement goals, and school operations.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The contract and the authorizer's practices recognize the school's autonomy in school governance, instructional program implementation, personnel, and budgeting.	Contract recognizes the school's autonomy.		N/A	Y
Specific requirements not otherwise required under state law are either included in the charter contract or charter schools are <i>notified at least one year prior</i> to the requirement going into effect.	Requirements are outlined in the charter contract.	During the authorizer debrief, Dr. Kattoula shared that the district communicates changes to requirements via Letter of Assurances and Epic Center.	N/A	Y
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	
Number of Criteria Met:	0	1	2	EX
Evaluator Comments:				

Category V. Renewal and Termination

Standard 13. Renewal and Termination Process. The authorizer clearly communicates to schools the criteria for charter termination, renewal and non-renewal that are consistent with the terms of the charter contract. The renewal process includes a written application and an opportunity for an interview.

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Renewal process, criteria, and a general timeline are clearly communicated to schools well in advance of renewal and are published in a publicly accessible location. The process includes a written renewal application and an opportunity interview to make factual corrections or present supplementary evidence of performance.	Documentation not provided.	Dr. Kattoula explained how the renewal process is communicated in multiple ways, examples include announcements made at the Board meetings and renewal orientation.	N/A	N
Renewal criteria are transparent, specific and align to performance standards and expectations outlined in the charter contract.	Renewal criteria are aligned with performance standards.		N/A	N
The authorizer uses a track record of performance over multiple years to make renewal determinations.	Authorizer tracks performance over multiple years as demonstrated by the renewal petition. Documentation was not provided that demonstrates how this track record of performance is used to make renewal determinations.		N/A	N
Revocation criteria are clearly communicated to schools. The authorizer provides written warning, timeline, and notice of anticipated termination prior to the end of the charter school renewal period.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	NI
Evaluator Comments:				
Standard 14. Renewal Decisions. The authorizer bases renewal decisions on a thorough analyses of the criteria outlined in the charter contract, with objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and growth as the primary measure of school quality. The authorizer ensures the renewal decision-making processes are free of conflicts of interest. The authorizer communicates renewal decisions to the school community and public within a timeframe that allows parents and students to exercise choices for the coming school year.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

Renewal/nonrenewal recommendations are provided through prompt, written notification to the school's governing board and the public within a reasonable timeframe, following the availability of necessary data, as to provide parents and students time to exercise choices for the upcoming school year.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
Standard (5-year) renewal terms are only granted to schools that met established performance expectations outlined in the charter contract.	Standard 5 year renewal given to Walton High School.		N/A	Y
Recommendations include a detailed, objective and evidence-based explanation for the decision.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
The authorizer uses policy or procedure to ensure individuals involved in the renewal decision are free from conflicts of interest.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	NI (1/4)
Evaluator Comments:				
Standard 15. Closure. In the event of school closure, either at the conclusion of the charter term or during the charter term, the authorizer oversees and ensures the school governing board and leadership carry out a detailed closure protocol that includes the provisions outlined in the charter contract, such as ensuring timely notification to parents; orderly transition of students and student records to new schools; and disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law, rule and contract terms.				
Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer has a written policy for termination procedures that ensures timely notification to parents, orderly transition of students and student records to new schools, disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law and effectively implements policy in the event of a school closure.	Documentation not provided.		N/A	N
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0	1		NI (0/1)
Evaluator Comments:				

Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

--