

Concurrent Submission Guidance

Introduction

Georgia law requires petitioners seeking authorization from the SCSC to submit their petition to the SCSC and, depending on the proposed attendance zone, to one or more local boards of education during the same petition cycle. These are known as *concurrent submission requirements*.¹ These requirements must be satisfied before the SCSC is permitted to act on your petition. Petitioners are strongly advised to contact SCSC staff in advance of the petition deadline with any questions about satisfying concurrent submission requirements.

Concurrent Submission Checklist:

- ☐ Determine your attendance zone.
- ☐ Determine which local board(s) must receive your petition.
- ☐ Submit all required petitions during the same application cycle, **while adhering to local submission deadlines.**
- ☐ Upload evidence of concurrent submission with your SCSC petition.
- ☐ Notify the SCSC of local board action within 30 days (as applicable).

Attendance Zones

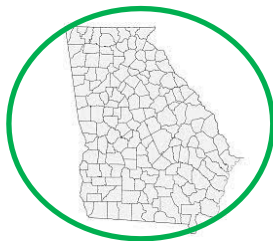
The SCSC is only authorized to approve charter petitions that have: (a) a statewide attendance zone, or (b) a defined attendance zone and special features that enhance educational opportunities.²



Defined Attendance Zone

School recruits students from less than a majority of Georgia's school districts (i.e., attendance zone includes less than 91 districts).

- Petitioner demonstrates community interest in and a plan to serve students from across the attendance zone.
- If approved, enrollment is limited to students residing within the approved attendance zone.



Statewide Attendance Zone

School recruits students from a majority of Georgia's school districts.

- Petitioner demonstrates community interest in and a plan to serve students from across the attendance zone.
- If approved, the school must accept enrollment of students residing in any local school system in Georgia.

*Please be advised that **brick-and-mortar** models (including hybrid models) typically do not meet the qualifications for serving a statewide attendance zone. Petitioners interested in proposing a statewide brick-and-mortar model should contact SCSC staff to discuss eligibility before submitting a petition application.*

¹ See O.C.G.A. [§ 20-2-2084\(c\)](#)

² See O.C.G.A. [§ 20-2-2084\(b\)](#)

Concurrent Submission Guidance

Your selected attendance zone must be supported by evidence demonstrating community interest within the geographic area. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, letters of support, pre-enrollment forms, signed petitions, and sign-in sheets from town hall meetings discussing the proposal. Petitions that fail to document sufficient community interest may be withdrawn from further consideration.

Concurrent Submission

Concurrent submission requirements mandate to which local board(s) of education a petitioner must submit a petition in addition to the SCSC.³ These requirements are based on the selected attendance zone, as outlined below:

Attendance Zone	Submit To	What to Submit	Purpose
Defined Attendance Zone	District Where the School is Located	Local Charter Petition	For Action
	Additional District(s) in the Attendance Zone	Copy of the SCSC Petition	For Information
Statewide – Virtual Instruction Only	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement
Statewide – Brick-and-Mortar (Uncommon)	District Where the School is Located	Copy of the SCSC Petition	For Information

Petitioners must submit timely charter petitions to both the SCSC and applicable local board(s) of education during the same petition cycle, and upload documentation of compliance within the SCSC charter petition.

Local Petition Process

For petitions with a defined attendance zone, the SCSC cannot act until the local board of education has either:

- denied the local charter petition; or
- failed to approve or deny the local charter petition within the statutory timeline, provided the petitioner has not requested an extension.⁴

Local boards of education are responsible for adopting policies and publishing deadlines for submission of local charter school petitions; applicants should contact the local district for more information about how to comply with local submission requirements.⁵

Petitions submitted to local boards of education in accordance with concurrent submission requirements must be substantially similar in substance and quality to the petition submitted to the SCSC. However, local board of education and SCSC petitions may differ to the extent necessary to address: (a) the additional obligations required to operate a state charter school as an independent Local Education Agency (LEA); and (b) the funding differences for state charter schools as opposed to locally approved charter schools.

Concurrent submissions to local boards of education must be made with a good-faith effort towards approval.

³ See O.C.G.A. [§ 20-2-2084\(c\)](#)

⁴ See O.C.G.A. [§ 20-2-2064](#); O.C.G.A. [§ 20-2-2084\(c\)](#)

⁵ See the [Office of Charter School Compliance](#) for more information.

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Local Board of Education Decision	Notification Requirement
Local Petition Approval	The petitioner must notify the SCSC of the approval within 30 days. The school must then adhere to the requirements and processes of the State Board of Education to become a locally-approved charter school.
Local Petition Denial	The petitioner must notify the SCSC within 30 days of either the denial or the expiration of time allotted. The SCSC will not act on the petition without this notification.

Notification of local board of education action must be emailed to Guin.Jones@scsc.georgia.gov or other individuals designated by the SCSC. Failure to provide notification in a timely manner may result in the petition package being incomplete and not considered by the SCSC.