

**STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA
CHARTER EXPANSION POLICY**

Article I
Purpose

This charter expansion policy aims to expand access to high-quality charter school options by establishing eligibility criteria for requesting a charter amendment to significantly increase student enrollment.

Article II
Definitions

1. **Existing state charter school.** For purposes of this policy, an existing state charter school shall mean a public school that meets the definition of “charter school” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2062(3) and the definition of “state charter school” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2081(5).
2. **Expansion.** For purposes of this policy, expansion shall mean the growth of an existing state charter school by significantly increasing student enrollment above the enrollment limit in the charter through the addition of grades or classes. Expansion shall occur by amendment of an existing charter contract.
3. **Eligibility/Eligible.** For purposes of this policy, eligibility and eligible shall mean an opportunity to submit a request for expansion upon meeting identified criteria. Eligibility does not guarantee approval by the State Charter School Commission’s (SCSC) Board of Commissioners.

Article III
Eligibility Criteria

1. Only existing state charter schools are eligible to request charter expansion.
2. SCSC staff will assess a state charter school’s eligibility to request charter expansion based on the three most recent years of complete academic, financial, and operational performance on the SCSC’s Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).
3. The governing board for a state charter school is eligible to submit a request for charter expansion to the SCSC if the performance data for the state charter school demonstrates that the state charter school has:
 - a. met the academic standards on the SCSC’s CPF for three most recent years; and,
 - b. has met or approached the financial and operational performance standards of the CPF for the three most recent consecutive years.

Article IV
Procedures

1. To initiate SCSC review of a request for charter expansion, the governing board chairperson or designee shall submit a written request to the SCSC Executive Director, or their designee, that meets the requirements in SCSC Rule 691-2-.08(2). The request shall be accompanied by documentation showing that a majority of the state charter school's governing board voted to request the charter expansion. A request for charter expansion does not guarantee SCSC approval.
2. SCSC staff will review the request and seek any information necessary to develop a recommendation to present to the SCSC Board of Commissioners. The SCSC Board of Commissioners will determine whether the SCSC agrees to the charter school's requested amendment, consistent with SCSC Rule 691-2-.04.
3. The eligibility criteria in Article III of this policy shall apply to existing charter schools that request expansion as a part of the charter renewal petition process.

Article V
Designees

The SCSC General Counsel shall be the Executive Director's designee for purposes of requests made pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

Adopted: September 27, 2023