

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) FY20 Petition Cycle (Resumed)

On August 26, 2020, the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) voted to resume the previously suspended FY20 petition cycle. This document contains additional guidance on FY20 petition logistics. For additional information, please contact Rennie Laryea, SCSC Associate General Counsel (Rennie.Laryea@scsc.georgia.gov).

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1. If I submitted a petition for consideration during the FY20 petition cycle that was suspended in May, do I have to submit a new petition for consideration in the resumed FY20 petition cycle?**

FY20 petitioners may choose to: (a) resume the FY20 start-up petition cycle, by submitting an updated petition on or before November 20, 2020; or (b) submit a new FY21 start-up petition on or before April 9, 2021 as a part of the FY21 start-up petition cohort. The petition submission requirements differ depending on which cohort a petitioner elects to join.

- a. As an FY20 petitioner electing to participate in the resumed FY20 petition cycle, what are the petition update requirements?**

For consideration in the resumed FY20 petition cycle, petitioners are not required to submit an entirely new petition. Instead, SCSC staff will make the original FY20 petition available for revisions. The following petition sections MUST be revised/updated:

- **Budget.** Updated budget information MUST be submitted using the approved SCSC budget template which accounts for austerity reductions. The SCSC budget template shall not be modified in any way.
- **Attendance Zone.** Petitioners must indicate to what extent, if any, the selected attendance zone has been modified. Petitioners whose attendance zones have changed from defined to statewide must ensure that their petition update reflects the same. Any modification within a defined attendance zone must be clearly identified in the updated petition. Petitioners are required to meet all notice or local submission requirements incumbent to such changes.

- **Instructional Model.** Petitioners must confirm, or reflect all modifications to, the proposed instructional model. In particular, if a petition is updated to reflect virtual or hybrid instruction, the petitioner **MUST** indicate the same and complete the virtual instruction addendum.
- **Governing Board Membership.** Petitioners must confirm or update governing board membership and relevant background information. If board membership has changed since the petition was last submitted, updated conflict of interest and residency information is required for new board members.

NOTE: A modification in one area may impact implementation and budgeting in another. Therefore, petitioners are encouraged to review existing petition contents and updates to ensure internal and budgetary consistency.

b. As an FY20 petitioner electing to participate in the FY21 start-up petition cycle, what are the petition submission requirements?

For consideration in the FY21 start-up petition cycle, petitioners are required to complete the FY21 petition application in its entirety. Participation in the FY21 petition cycle requires that petitioners meet all legal obligations for start-up charter petitions in 2021, including, but not limited to, concurrent notice and/or local submission requirements. The requirement to meet applicable legal obligations applies regardless of whether these requirements were previously completed as a part of the initial FY20 petition cycle the prior year.

2. If I choose to resume the FY20 petition cycle, will my school, if approved, be considered to begin operations for the 2021-2022 school year?

Petitions that are updated as part of the resumed FY20 petition cycle will be considered for 2022-2023 operations.

3. If I choose to resume the FY20 petition cycle, may I resubmit a charter application as a part of the FY21 start-up petition cycle?

No. FY20 petitioners **MUST** choose to: (a) resume the FY20 start-up petition cycle, by submitting an updated petition on or before November 20, 2020; or (b) submit a new FY21 start-up petition on or before April 9, 2021 as a part of the FY21 start-up petition cohort.

4. If I was required to participate in the FY20 Early Feedback program, will I have to participate in another Early Feedback program in order to resume the FY20 petition cycle?

No. Petitioners who were recommended for denial during the 2019 petition cycle were required to participate in the Early Feedback program in order to submit a petition during the FY20 petition cycle.

Petitioners that were required to participate in the FY20 Early Feedback program, and did so, have met the Early Feedback requirements for resuming the FY20 petition cycle.

Petitioners who were recommended for denial during the 2019 petition cycle and did not participate in the Early Feedback program will be disqualified from the resumed FY20 petition cycle but may submit a petition as a part of the FY21 start-up petition cohort.