



2023 Petitioner Bootcamp

Held Virtually
October 4, 2023
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9:00 a.m. Welcome
Donovan Head, Executive Director

9:05 a.m. Petition Process Overview
Erin Wright, Deputy General Counsel

This session will cover charter school terminology, the role of an authorizer, a general overview of SCSC's process of review, the nuances of attendance zones, and FY24 petition priorities. The presentation will also discuss considerations related to the local district process for defined attendance zone petitioners.

10:00 a.m. Fiscal Feasibility
Carmen Freemire, Director of School Finance

Attendees will receive an overview of the state charter school funding formula and the SCSC petition budget template. The presentation will address common financial concerns, including staffing on a limited budget, alignment between the school's petition and its budget, allocating and underestimating expenditures, and appropriately documenting additional revenue.

10:45 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. Operating as an LEA
Tiffany Leach, Associate General Counsel

State charter schools are responsible for operating as Local Education Agencies (LEA) in addition to traditional school operations. This session will highlight some specific legal obligations related to operating as an LEA and explain how these obligations should be addressed in the petition.

11:30 a.m. Lunch Break

12:15 p.m. Board Overview and Building Capacity
Cerrone Lockett, General Counsel

This session will focus on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of a state charter school board, including understanding and dealing with conflicts of interest and demonstrating the capacity to operate as a local education agency.

1:00 p.m. Planning for Pre-Opening During the Petitioning Phase
Kristen Easterbrook, Director of Charter Development



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Upon approval, petitioners have a relatively short window to actually get their school up and running. As such, all petitioning groups are encouraged to begin planning for the pre-opening phase as a part of the petition process. This session will address SCSC expectations for how far along a school should be as it relates to preparing to open. Specific topics will include facilities, community engagement/enrollment, and board engagement.

1:30 p.m. Academic Program

Scott Riley, Academic Evaluation Manager

SCSC staff will outline expectations for the petition's academic program and address common mistakes made by petitioners. The session will emphasize the roles of standards, curriculum, instructional methods, assessment, and benchmarking.

2:00 p.m. Conclusion