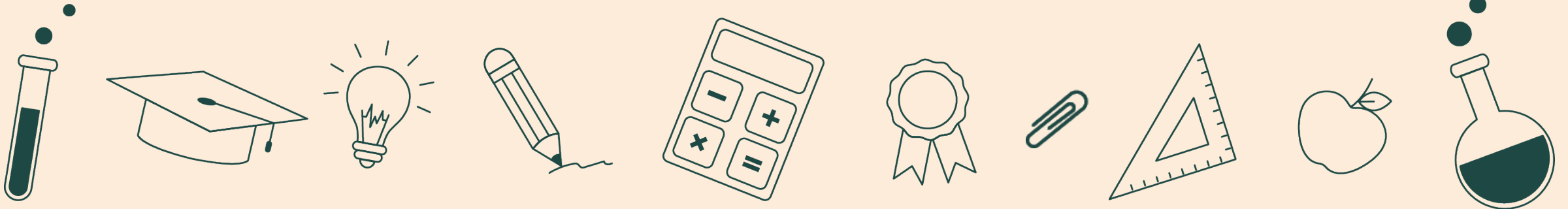




Operating as a Local Education Agency

Cerrone C. Lockett
SCSC General Counsel

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia





Mission

The mission of the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia is to improve public education by authorizing high quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.





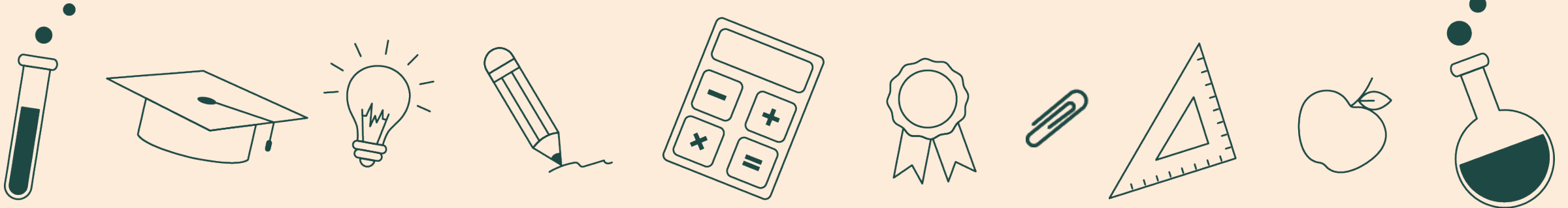
Presentation Overview

- Legal Overview
- Federal Legal Obligations
- State Legal Obligations
- Assessments, Accountability, and Data Collections and Reporting





Legal Overview



Local Education Agency

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2090

For administrative purposes, including data reporting, student enrollment counting procedures, student achievement reporting, funding allocations, and related purposes as defined by the State Board of Education (SBOE), each state charter school, including any students receiving education services through a state charter school shall, consistent with Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) rules and regulations, be treated as a single local education agency (LEA).





Maximum Flexibility

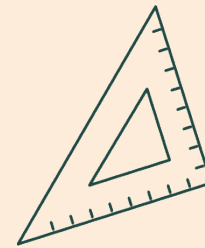
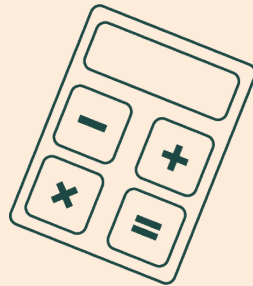
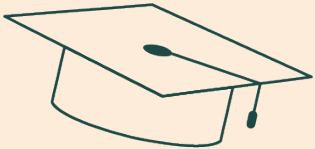
O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065

State Charter Schools are not subject to regulations within the state education code or any state or local rule, regulation, policy, or procedure relating to schools except for State Board of Education (SBOE) rules and procedures relating to charter schools.





Federal Legal Obligations



Federal Legal Obligations

- Constitutional Rights
- Civil Rights Statutes
- Privacy and Student Records



United States Constitution



- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Expression
- Freedom of Religion
- Due Process



Federal Civil Rights Statutes (Students)



1. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
2. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
4. Title IX of the Education Amendments
5. The Age Act



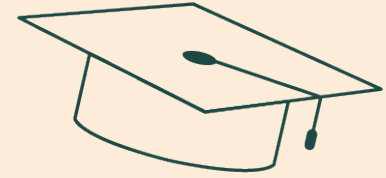
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



- Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Child Find
- Consent
- Evaluation and Placement (LRE)
- IEP
- Procedural Safeguards
- Discipline



McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



- Prohibits Segregation
- Requires Comparable Services
- Local Liaison
- Enrollment
- Transportation



Privacy and Confidentiality

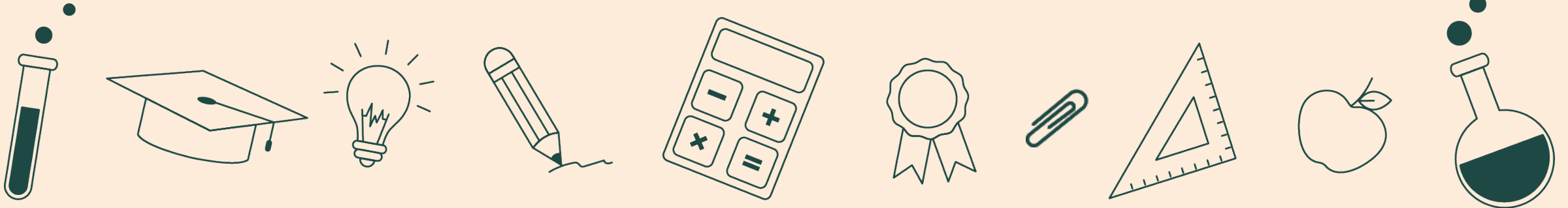


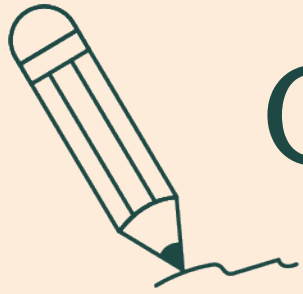
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)





State Legal Obligations





Open Enrollment

- Open enrollment for all students within attendance zone
- No improper restrictions on enrollment
- Enrollment priorities

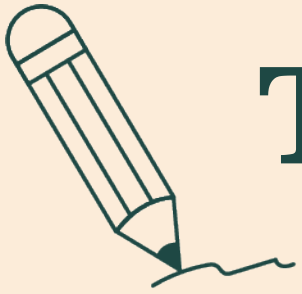




Lottery Procedures

When the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building of the state charter school, the state charter school must conduct an admission lottery that is a random selection process to ensure that all applicants that do not have an enrollment preference have an equal chance of being admitted.

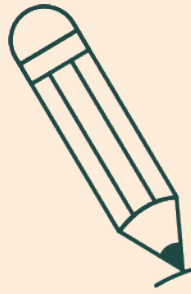




Tuition and Fees

- Cannot charge tuition or fees to a student residing within the attendance zone specified in the school's charter.
- Cannot not require students to provide materials or equipment to participate in the educational program of the school.
 - All required textbooks and other reading materials for students enrolled in the school must be provided free of charge.





Teachers

- Clearance certificate and background check requirements
- Certification waivers and requirements
- Employee Evaluations (TKES and LKES)
- Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS)
- Federal Employment Obligations



Annual Operating Budget



- Annual operating budget approval requirements
 - Public Hearings
- Posting of a budget summary
 - Website transparency



Additional Obligations

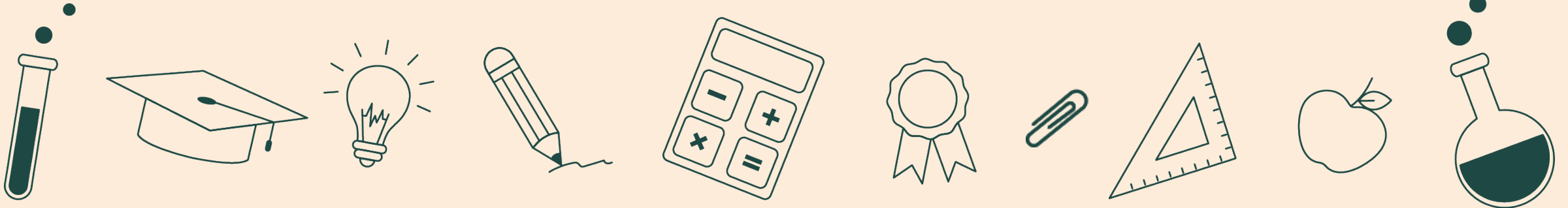


- Student Discipline
 - Code of Conduct
 - Bullying Policies
- Health and Safety
 - School Health Nurse Program
 - Infectious Disease Policies
- Facilities
 - GaDOE Requirements and Timelines





Assessment, Accountability, and Data Collections and Reporting



Accountability



State charter schools must participate in and be evaluated by a Single Statewide Accountability System.

In Georgia schools are assessed on a variety of indicators that collectively comprise the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).



Assessments



- All students present must be tested
- Grade-level Appropriate Assessments
 - Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS)
 - Georgia Milestones
- Georgia Alternative Assessments
- Testing personnel certification requirements
- Appropriate testing window



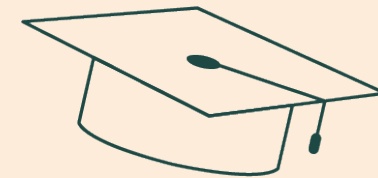
Data Collections and Reporting



- Relationship between data reporting and Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act funding.
- Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reporting



GaDOE Data Reporting



- Certified/Classified Personnel Information (CPI)
- Pre-ID Labels
- Student Records

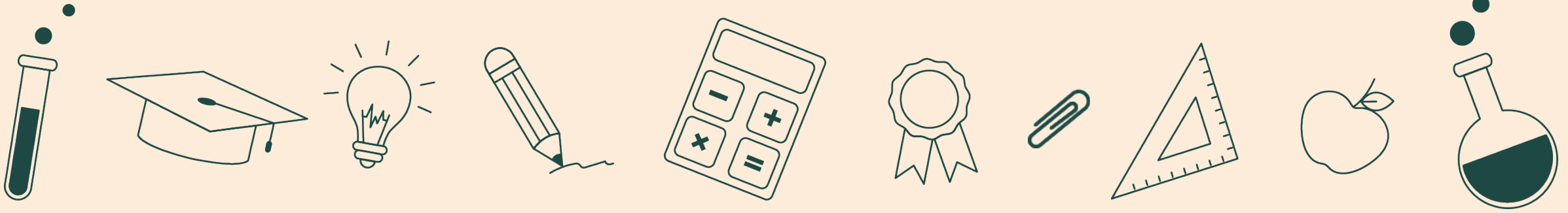


Final Thoughts



Questions





Contact Us

Website: scsc.georgia.gov

Twitter: @SCSCGa

Address: 504 Twin Towers West,
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr., SE,
Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: (404) 656-2837