

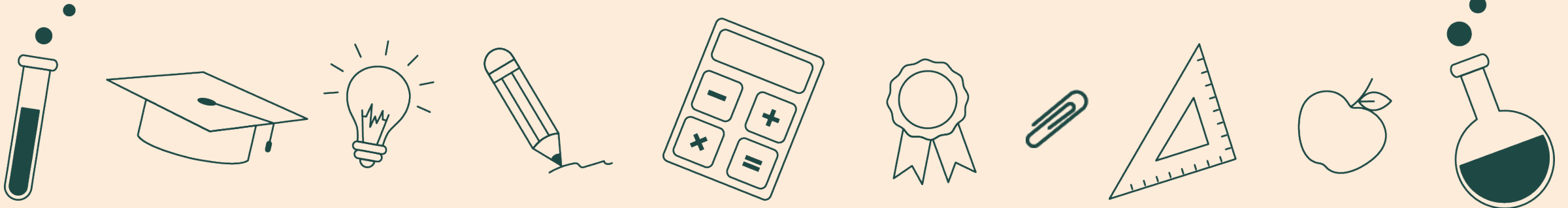


# Operating as a Local Education Agency

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State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia





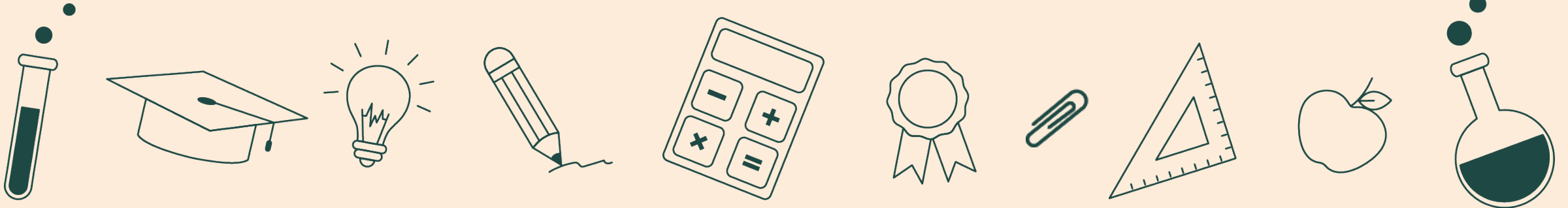
# Presentation Overview

- 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).



# Locally Approved Charter Schools

- The charter school is authorized by a local board of education.
- The local board of education is the LEA for the school.
- The local district manages:
  - LEA reporting obligations
  - Policy development
  - Funding
  - Special Education Services
  - English language learner services
  - Gifted services
  - Human resources and employer obligations

# State Charter Schools

- State Charter Schools are their own LEA
- State charter schools manage *all* LEA responsibilities and are responsible for ensuring awareness of and compliance with all applicable legal, regulatory, and contractual obligations





# Maximum Flexibility

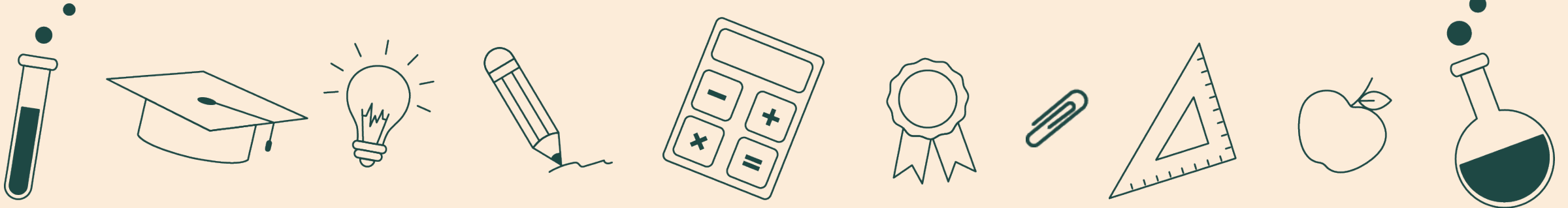
## **O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065**

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





# Federal Legal Obligations



# Federal Legal Obligations

- Constitutional Rights
- Civil Rights Statutes
- Privacy and Student Records
- Federal Education Requirements





# Constitutional Considerations



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



# Federal Civil Rights Statutes (Students)



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



# Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



- Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Child Find
- 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

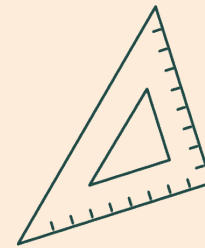
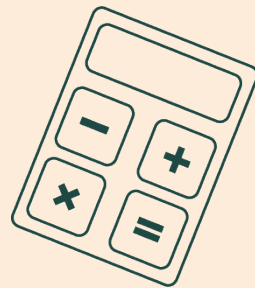
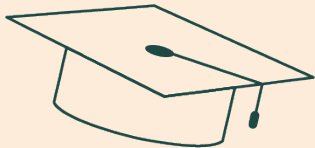


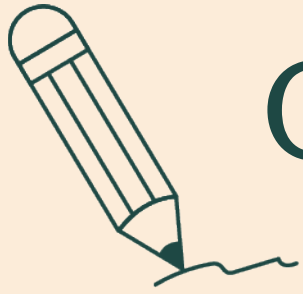
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)





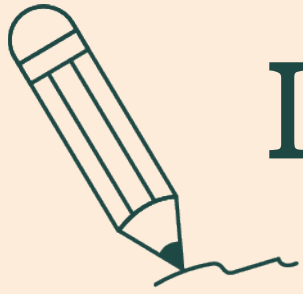
# State Legal Obligations





# Open Enrollment

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

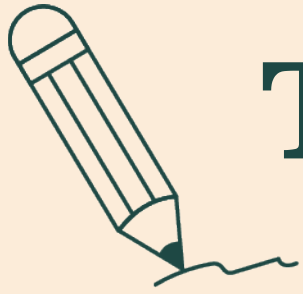


# Lottery Procedures

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 students within the attendance zone specified in the school's charter.
- Cannot 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



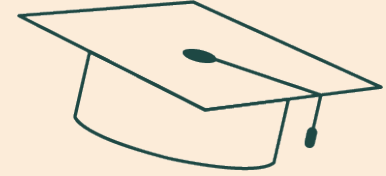
# Annual Operating Budget



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



# Additional Obligations

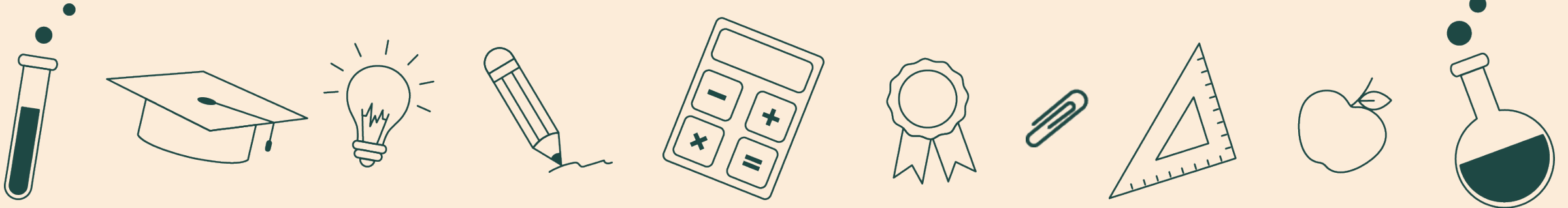


- Student Discipline
  - Code of Conduct
  - Bullying Policies
- Health and Safety
  - School Health Nurse Program
  - Infectious Disease Policies
  - Care of students with Diabetes
- Facilities
  - GaDOE Requirements and Timelines





# Assessment, Accountability, and Data Collections and Reporting



# Accountability

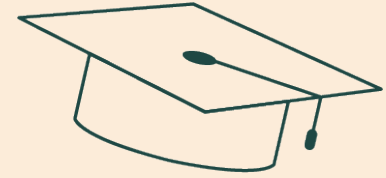


State charter schools must participate in and be evaluated by a Single Statewide Accountability System.

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



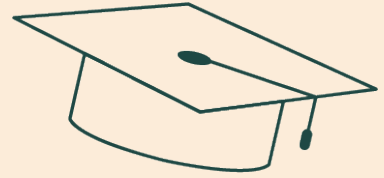
# Assessments



- 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

