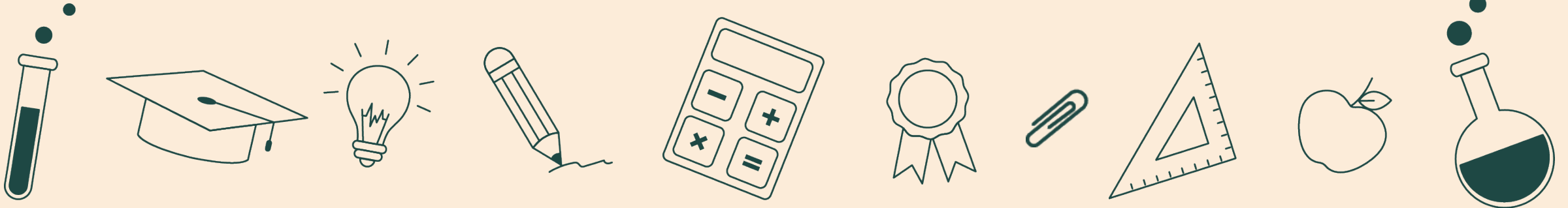




Petition Review Process

Cerrone Lockett
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



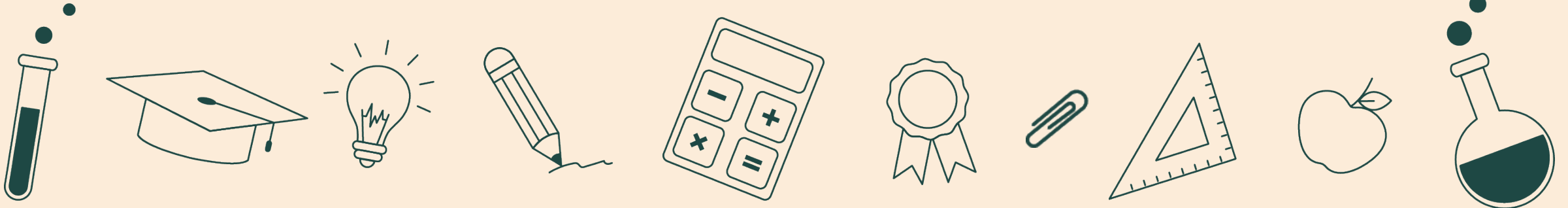
- Charter School Basics
- **Concurrent** Submission Requirements
- FY22 Petition Timeline
- FY22 Petition Priorities
- Early Feedback
- Petition Contents
- SCSC Review



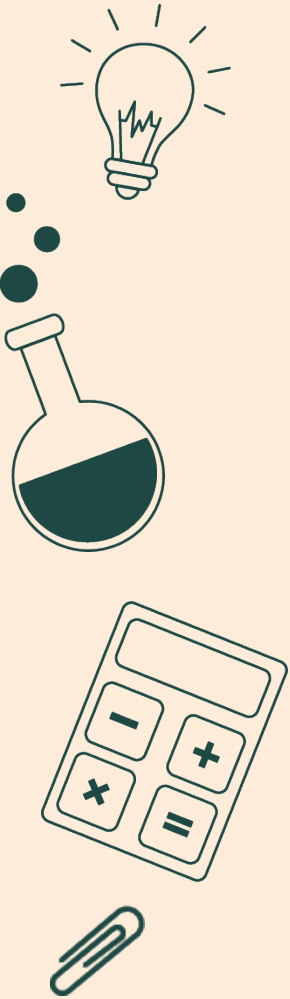
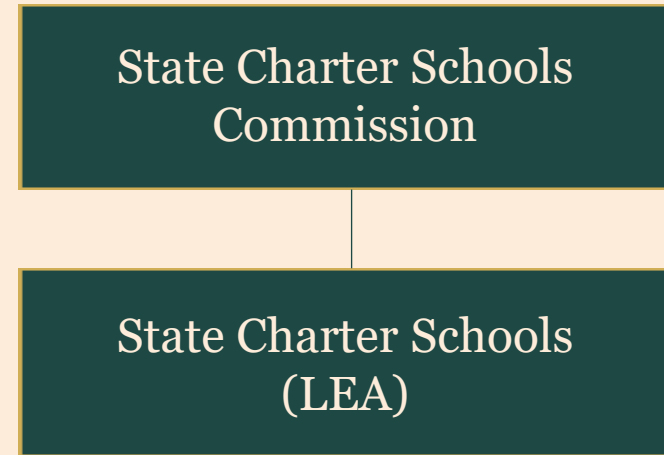
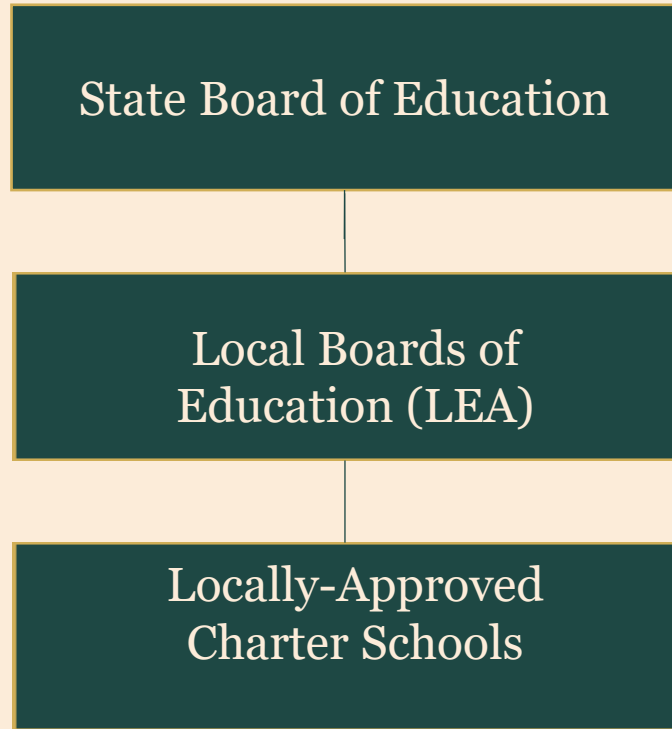


Charter School Basics

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia



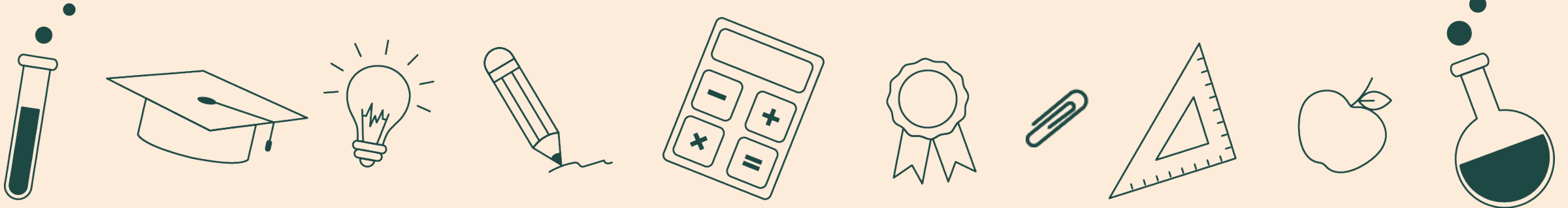
Charter School Basics





Attendance Zone

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia



Attendance Zone

Application and submission requirements are based on the attendance zone you select in your petition. Petitioners must select:

- A state-wide attendance zone

OR

- A defined attendance zone



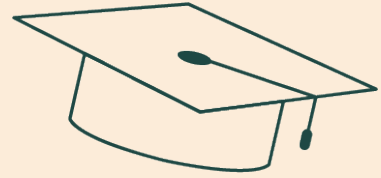
STATEWIDE Attendance Zone

A petitioner that selects a statewide attendance zone must submit its petition to the local board of education of the jurisdiction in which the school is proposed to be located. The local board submission is for informational purposes only.

If the charter school will have a statewide attendance zone and only provide virtual instruction, it does not need to submit a charter petition to a local board of education.



Concurrent Submissions



If you are not submitting a petition for a fully virtual school with a statewide attendance zone, you **MUST** adhere to concurrent submission requirements.

FY22 charter applications **MUST** include documentation that all applicable concurrent submission requirements have been met at (or before) the time of the SCSC submission.



DEFINED Attendance Zone

A petitioner that selects a defined attendance zone must submit its petition to the local board of education in which the school is proposed to be located **FOR ACTION** and to each local school district from which the proposed school plans to enroll students **for informational purposes**.

The SCSC cannot act on a charter petition until the local board of education in which the school is proposed to be located DENIES the petition or fails to approve or deny the petition within the time allotted by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2064.

THE PETITIONER MUST SUBMIT THE PETITION TO THE LOCAL BOARD(S) OF EDUCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEADLINES ESTABLISHED BY THOSE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION.



Concurrent Submission



- It is the **PETITIONER'S** responsibility to identify the attendance zone. Submission requirements are based on the information in the charter petition.
- It is the **PETITIONER'S** responsibility to upload documentation IN THE APPLICATION showing that all submission requirements have been satisfied.
- SCSC staff WILL NOT independently confirm submission requirements.
- If the charter application fails to demonstrate that concurrent submission requirements have been met, the petition will be disqualified from further review as legally deficient.



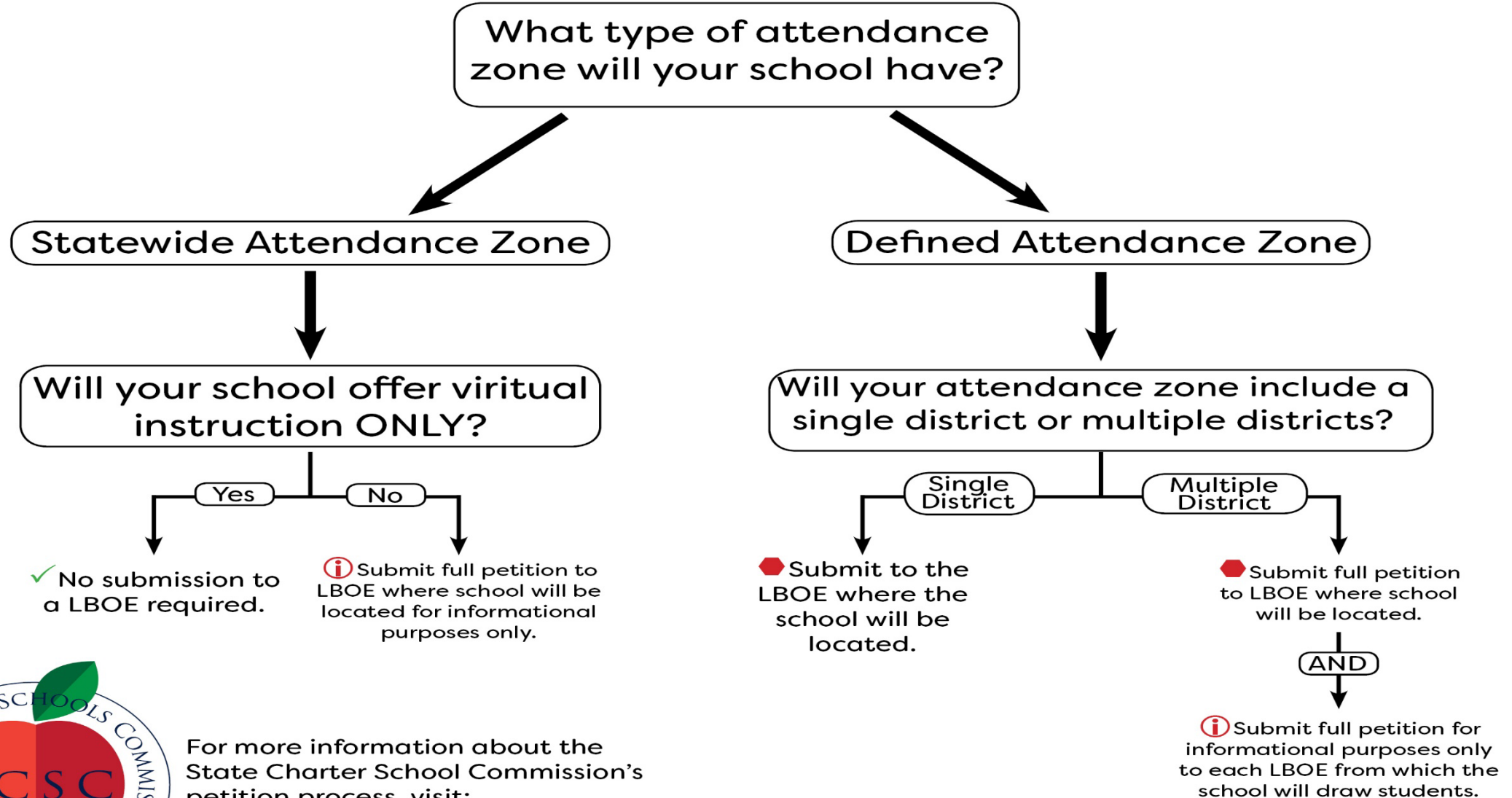
SCSC Submission



- If you wish to be considered by the SCSC but have not received an approval or denial from the local board, submit your petition to the SCSC by the applicable deadline.
- The SCSC's charter application requires acknowledgement that petitioners will notify the SCSC of local board action.
- If, at the time of the SCSC deadline, you have not submitted your petition to the local board – either because the local board does not have submission deadlines or you have a statewide attendance zone, submit the local board application at the same time or prior to filing the SCSC application.



Do I need to submit my petition to a Local Board of Education (LBOE)?

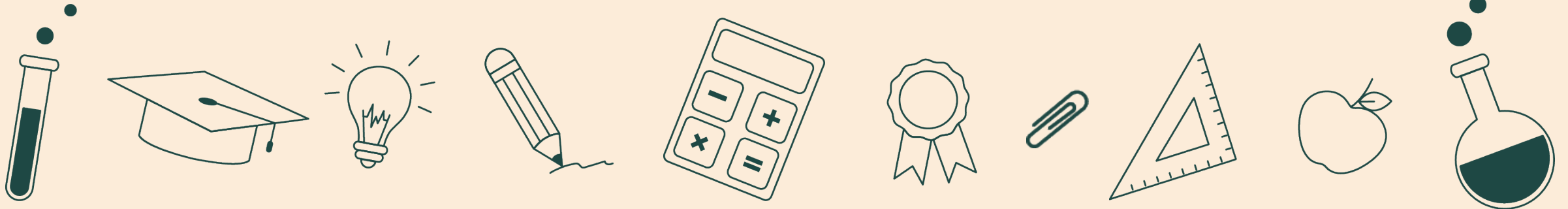


For more information about the State Charter School Commission's petition process, visit:
www.scsc.georgia.gov.



FY22 Petition Timelines

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia



FY22 Start-Up Petition Cycle Timeline



The application portal will open November 1, 2021.

* The 2022 SCSC meeting calendar has not been approved. SCSC meetings typically occur the last Wednesday of each month. Staff will begin making petition recommendations to the SCSC during its July 2022 board meeting.



FY22 Replication & Expansion Petition Cycle Timeline



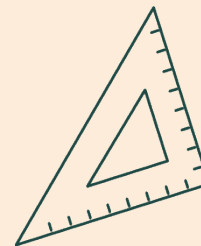
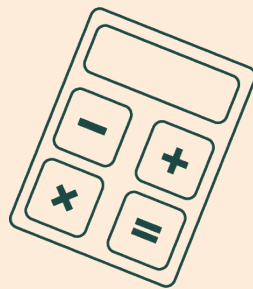
* Petitions will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning November 1, 2021, through July 15, 2022.





FY22 Petition Priorities

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia





Priority Consideration

- For the FY22 petition cycle only, the SCSC will give priority consideration to charter applications (petitions) that propose schools located outside of “high saturation areas.”
- Ex. Priority consideration will be given to schools that plan to locate in Athens-Clarke County; Macon-Bibb County; Albany-Dougherty County; Augusta-Richmond County; and Columbus, Georgia.



High-Saturation Area

A high-saturation area shall be defined as a geographic location containing more than one charter school that serves grades K-5 or 6-8 within a three-mile radius.

High Saturation Areas



FY22 charter applications that propose schools located within high-saturation areas shall be subject to additional scrutiny, including an evaluation of the probability that the school can achieve its projected enrollment metrics and remain financially viable, if approved.



Petition Requirements for High Saturation Areas



FY22 charter applications that propose schools located within high saturation areas MUST include:

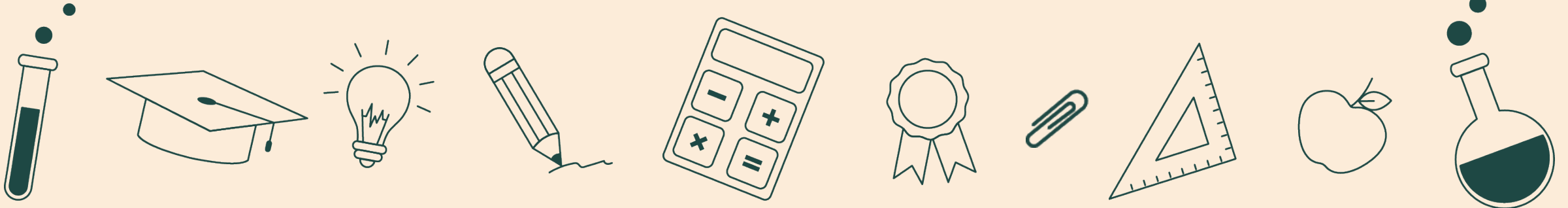
1. Student enrollment data and waitlist information for any existing charter school serving the same grade band(s) within a three-mile radius of the proposed school location; and
2. Pre-enrollment forms that demonstrate a high likelihood that, if approved, the school can meet its projected enrollment targets.





Early Feedback

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia



FY22 Early Feedback Start-Up Petitioners

The SCSC staff will offer Office Hours during the week of March 14-18, 2022.

Office Hours are designed to provide feedback and technical assistance to applicants before the submission deadline.





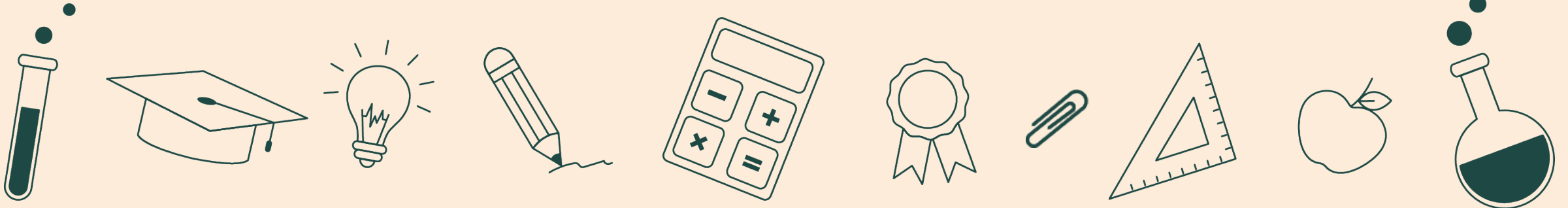
SCSC Electronic Submission Portal

- Petitions must be submitted through the Fluid Review Portal.
- SCSC staff will host a webinar to familiarize applicants with the Fluid Review system and provide an overview of the FY22 application.



Petition Contents

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia



Petition Contents

The concurrent submission filed with the applicable local board petition must be substantively the same as the petition submitted to the SCSC.

SCSC Petition Contents

- Narrative
- Budget Template
- Staffing Plan Template
- Required Appendices



SCSC Petition Review Process

1. Legal Compliance Review
2. Substantive Review
3. Interview
4. Post-Interview Actions
5. SCSC Staff Recommendation
6. SCSC Vote



Legal Compliance



- Adherence to state and federal laws applicable to the petition and charter school operations.
- Petitioners will be notified, in writing, if their submissions fail to meet legal compliance requirements.
- Legal compliance deficiencies may be remedied via a revised petition in a subsequent petition cycle.



Substantive Review



- Mission, educational program, innovations, and business operations.
- Consistency with state education goals, including enhancing public educational opportunities to meet the growing and diverse needs of students and to provide the highest academic quality to increase student achievement and positive outcomes.
- Budget analysis and examination of funding sources, business partnerships, facilities, and any other operational aspect of the school.





Interview

- **Interview Panel:** SCSC staff, SCSC commissioners, local and national experts.
- **Interview Participants:** The governing board and school leader for each petition for which legal compliance and substantive petition reviews did not reveal deficiencies.
- **Interview Focus:** mission alignment, consistency with state education goals, and fiscal responsibility.



Interview

Local Board Feedback

- For petitions that meet legal and substantive review standards, SCSC staff will solicit and review local board feedback on the proposed charter school.
- Feedback is reviewed in-person by addressing the interview panel; in writing via submission to the interview panel; or both.

Post-Interview Actions

- SCSC staff may make supplemental requests for technical and/or non-substantive information and/or request a petitioner to act.
- Supplemental information/action must be submitted by the identified deadline.
- For petitioners that fail to timely submit requested information or decline to do so, the associated petition will be reviewed as initially submitted.



SCSC Staff Recommendations

SCSC staff will recommend that the SCSC approve or deny each petition based on all available information, including:

Petitioners may withdraw from the petition process at any time prior to SCSC action. Withdrawal means that there will not be further consideration of your petition this cycle.



SCSC Action

- Board Recommendations will begin in July 2022.
- The State Board of Education (SBOE) may overrule the approval of a school within 60 days of the SCSC decision.
- If the SCSC decision is not overrules, an approved school will work closely with the SCSC, GaDOE, and other stakeholders to begin operation.



Post-Approval

1. Post-approval meeting with SCSC staff
2. Review [SCSC Guidance](#) documents
3. Review and become familiar with the [Starting Strong Study](#)
4. Attend New School Orientation
5. Meet all Pre-Opening Checklist requirements



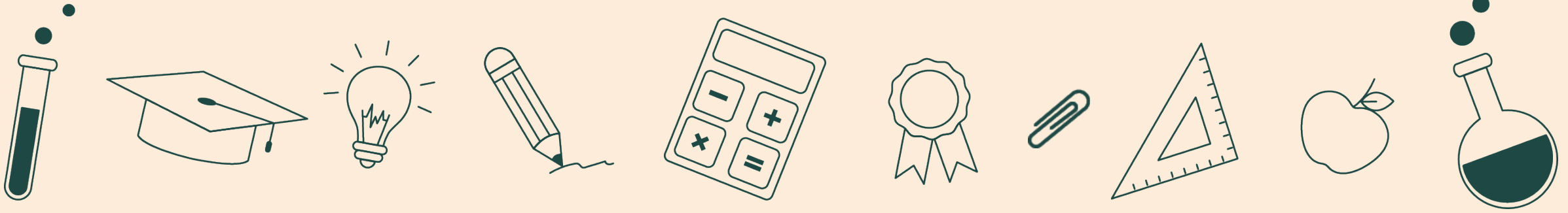
Presentation Highlights

- Follow local board submission procedures.
- Meet all local and state deadlines.
- Prepare for all authorizing avenues (local or SCSC approval).
- Be as complete and ready-to-open as possible.
- Use the petition and process as a demonstration of the school's potential.



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