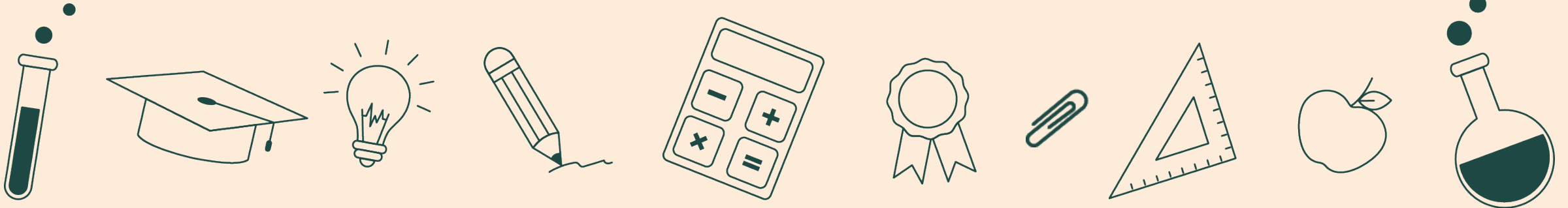




Petition Review Process

Erin Wright
Associate 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



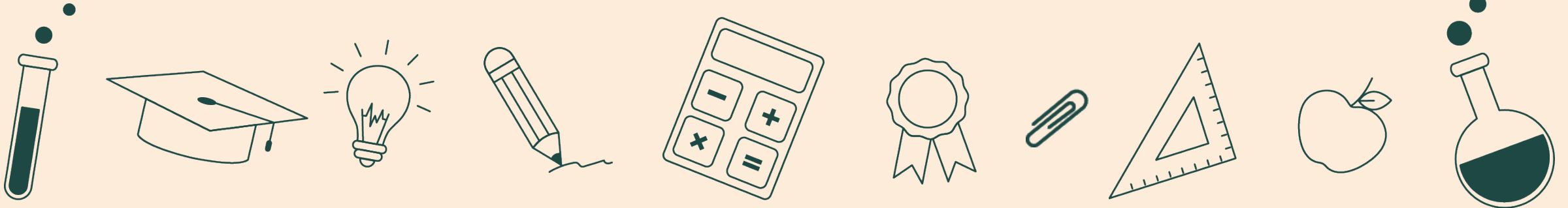
- Charter School Basics
- Concurrent Submission
- Petition Contents
- SCSC Review



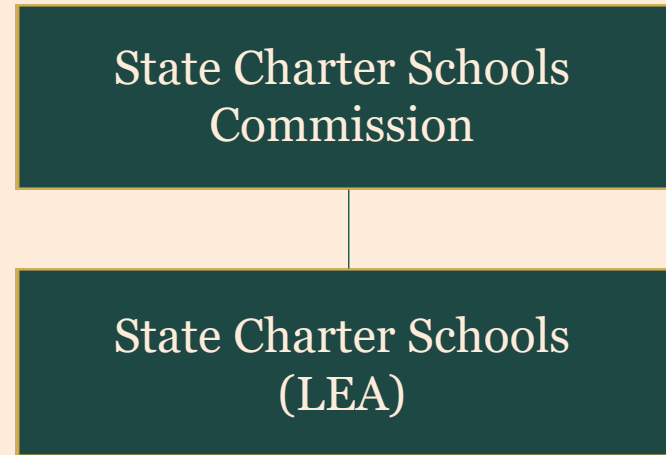
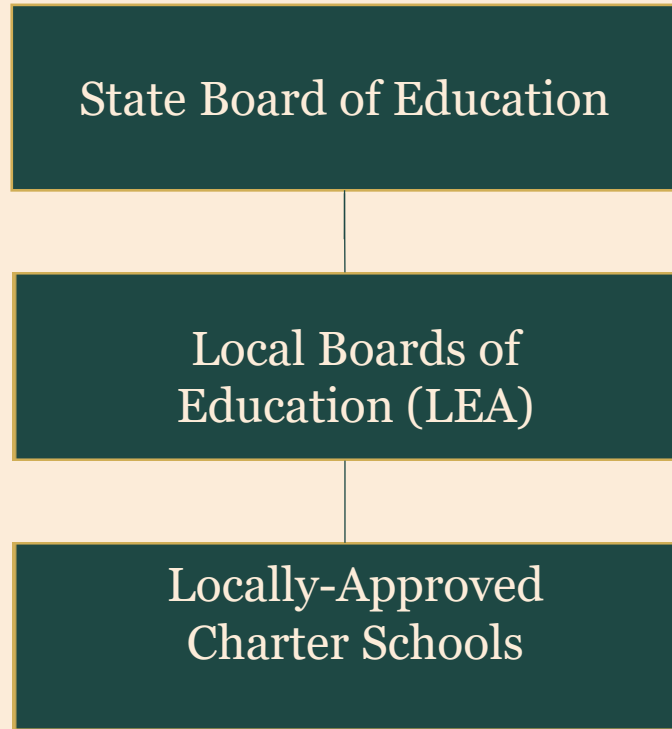


Charter School Basics

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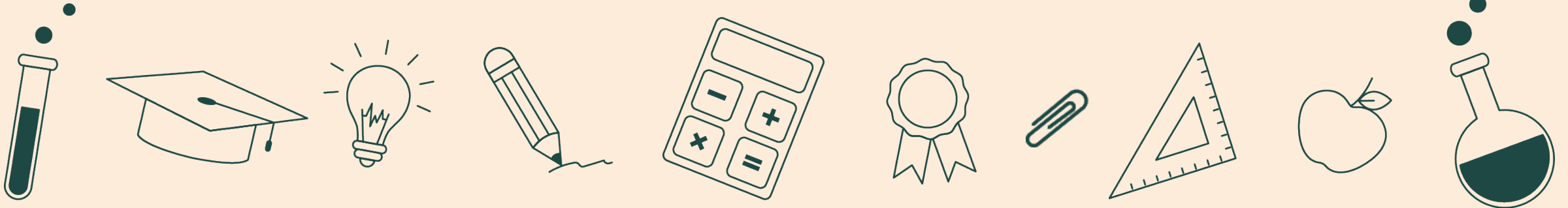
Charter School Basics





Attendance Zone

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Attendance Zone

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

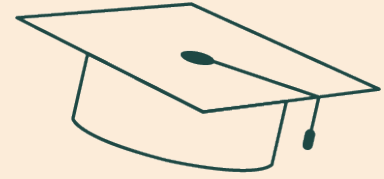
- A state-wide attendance zone

OR

- A defined attendance zone



Concurrent Submissions



Unless you are submitting a petition for a fully virtual school with a statewide attendance zone, you **MUST** adhere to concurrent submission requirements.

Charter applications must include documentation that applicable submission requirements have been met at the time of the SCSC submission.



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.



DEFINED Attendance Zone

- An attendance zone that includes less than all of the school districts in the state. A defined attendance zone can be single district or multi-district
- A petition with a defined attendance zone must be submitted 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.



DEFINED Attendance Zone

- The SCSC cannot act on a charter petition with a defined attendance zone unless the local board of education in which the school intends to locate DENIES the petition or fails to act within the required timeframe.
- Petitioners must submit local applications in accordance with local formatting requirements and deadlines.



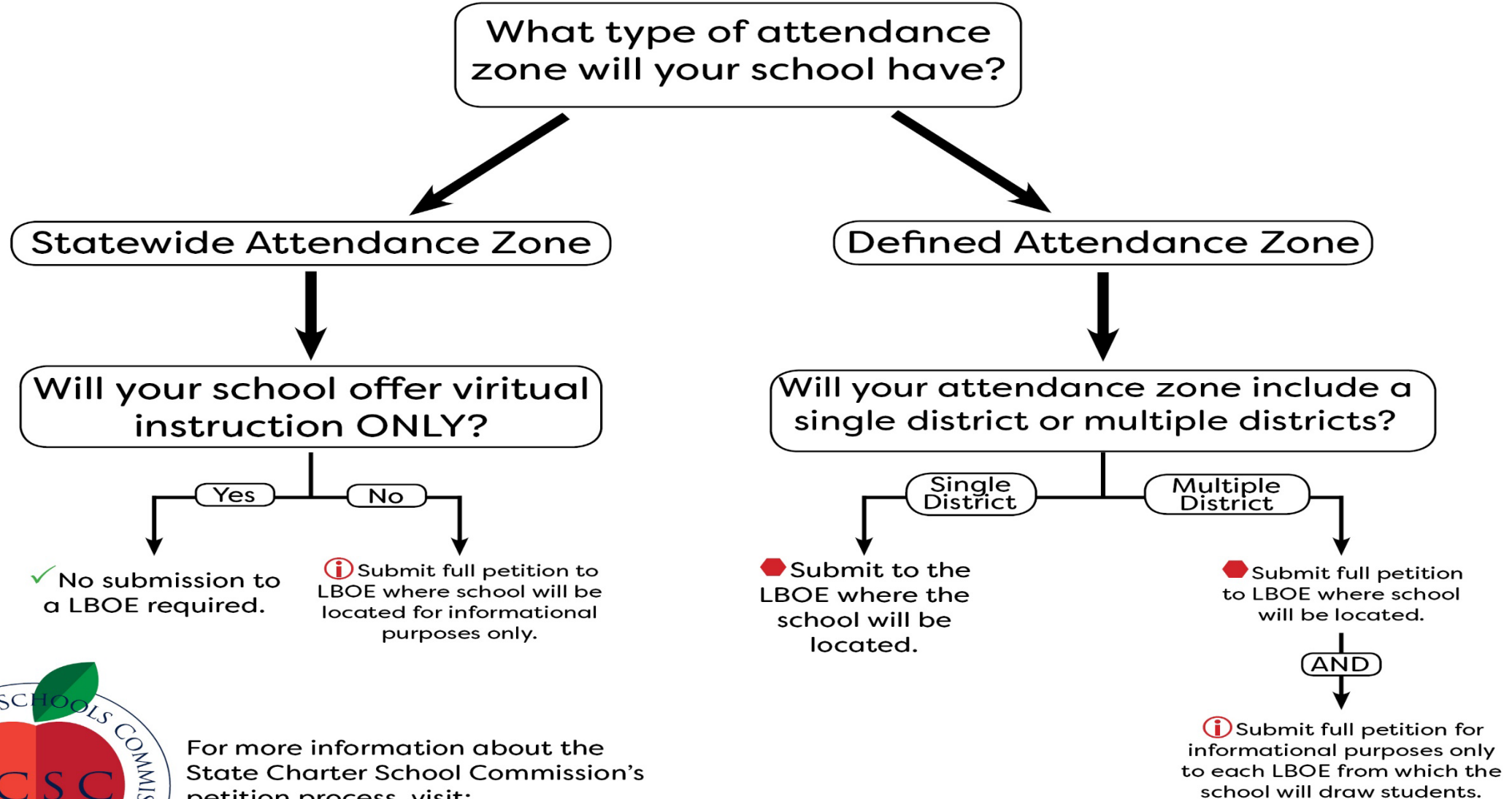
SCSC Submission



- 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 as your SCSC filing.



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.

Concurrent Submission



- Petitioners must accurately identify the selected attendance zone.
- Petitioners must upload documentation IN THE APPLICATION showing that all submission requirements have been satisfied.
- SCSC staff WILL NOT independently confirm submission requirements.

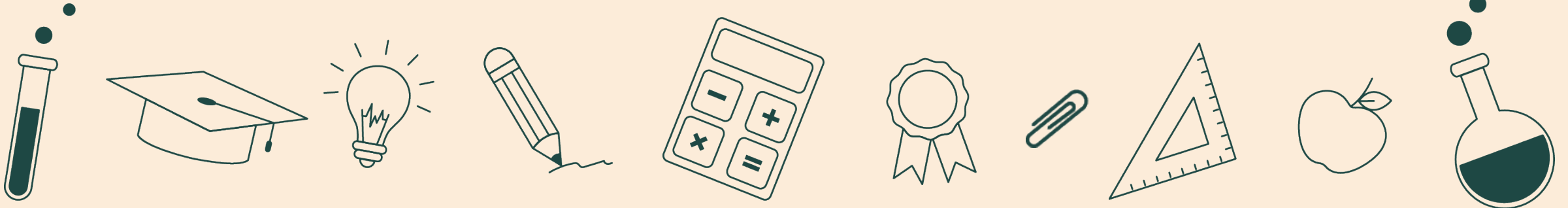
If the application does not demonstrate that concurrent submission requirements have been met, it will be disqualified from further review.





Petition Contents

State Charter Schools Commission
Of Georgia





SCSC Electronic Submission Portal

- Petitions must be submitted through the Fluid Review Portal.
- In November, SCSC staff will host additional webinars to familiarize applicants with the Fluid Review system and provide an overview of the FY23 petition deadlines and any new application requirements.

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 and Initial Budget Screen Review
2. Substantive Review
3. Interview
4. Post-Interview Actions
5. SCSC Staff Recommendation
6. SCSC Vote



Legal Compliance and Budget Screen



- Adherence to state and federal laws applicable to the petition and charter school operations. General budget compliance requirements.
- Petitioners will be notified, in writing, if their submission fails to meet requirements.
- Deficiencies may be remedied in 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.
- In-depth budget analysis and examination of funding sources, business partnerships, facilities, and any other operational aspect of the school.



Tips for successful completion

- Consistency throughout all responses and uploaded documents.
- Describe how the school will meet all legal requirements through its operations and personnel. Merely reciting the requirements of law and rule is not sufficient.
- Virtual schools – ensure responses account for meeting goals and legal requirements in a *virtual* setting.
- Review all resources available on the SCSC website prior to drafting and submitting a petition.
- ESP Addendum

Priority Areas

- SCSC's Strategic Plan, approved this year, seeks to “Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.”
- Please join our next webinar on November 2, 2022 when staff will detail and explain any priorities given to schools that locate in certain areas of the state.



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, engagement, enrollment, operations, governance, and fiscal feasibility.



Interview

Local Board Feedback

- The SCSC 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 or action.
- 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 (but not limited to) input from local boards of education, proximity to other education options, and consistency with SCSC strategic plans and initiatives.

Petitioners may withdraw from the petition process at any time prior to SCSC action. If a petition is withdrawn, SCSC staff will not present a recommendation to the SCSC board of commissioners.



SCSC Action

- 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 overruled, an approved school will work closely with the SCSC, GaDOE, and other stakeholders to prepare for and begin operation.



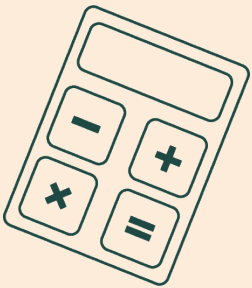
Post-Approval

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



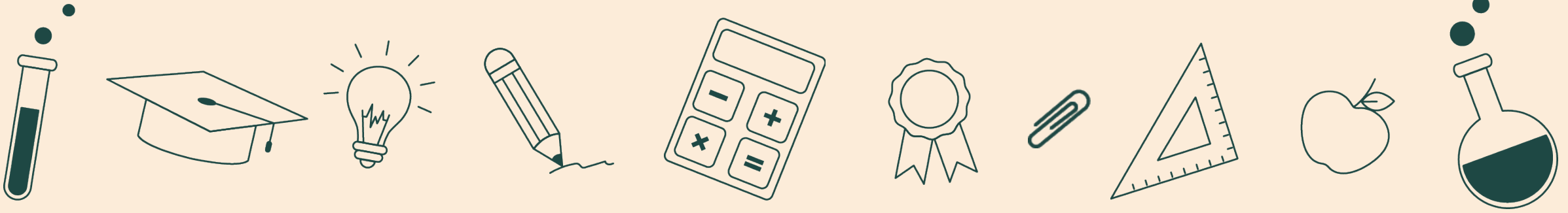
Presentation Highlights

- Ensure your petition shows preparedness for operations not just approval.
- Accurately identify your attendance zone and adhere to applicable submission requirements.
- If petitioning with a defined attendance zone, prepare to operate as a state or local charter school.



Questions





Contact Us

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