

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Recommendation to Adopt 2021 Renewal Application

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve the 2021 State Charter School Renewal Application and Timeline as presented.

Summary of Proposed Action:

SCSC staff is prepared to begin the process of examining applications for renewal from state charter schools with charter terms expiring on June 30, 2021. Only one school's contract is set to expire on that date, Liberty Tech Charter School. As a reminder, due to COVID-19 and the resulting school closures that occurred in the Spring 2020, important academic performance data are missing for the 2019-2020 school year. In an effort to not penalize schools and ensure an adequate amount of data to assess school performance at renewal, the SCSC granted state charter schools a one-year charter contract extension. Liberty Tech opted to not extend their charter contract and proceed with the renewal process as scheduled.

Staff recommends the continued use of an abbreviated renewal application that emphasizes the school's track record of success as demonstrated through the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework. The application also provides the school an opportunity to discuss its academic, financial, and operational performance during the current charter term. Through the application, schools are asked a series of questions regarding the key aspects of the school, such as its mission and vision, innovative features, and educational model, and the application provides the school an opportunity to request changes to those key aspects.

The timeline provides schools with a two-month window to submit renewal applications and an opportunity to interview with SCSC commissioners and staff. The timeline contemplates commissioners voting upon renewal recommendations at the February board meeting.



Renewal Application Timeline*

Task	Projected Timeline
Renewal Application Approved	October 28, 2020
Financial Audits Due	November 2, 2020
Renewal Application Release	November 9, 2020
Applications Due	January 11, 2021
Renewal Interviews	January 26-28, 2021
Recommendation Letters Mailed	February 1, 2021
Recommendations Posted	February 17, 2021
Commission Votes on Recommendations	February 24, 2021

*This timeline is subject to change.

Charter Renewal Application Form

You may find it helpful to reference the school's current charter contract as you complete this form. All charter contracts are available [here](#). You may also want to refer to the school's performance on the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework. School results can be found [here](#).

Applicant Information

School Name

- Atlanta Heights
- Brookhaven Innovation Academy
- Cherokee Charter Academy
- Cirrus Academy Charter School
- Coastal Plain Education Charter High School
- Coweta Charter Academy
- DREAM Academy
- DuBois Integrity Academy
- Foothills Education Charter High School
- Fulton Leadership Academy
- ... 9 additional choices hidden ...
- Mountain Education Charter School
- Odyssey School
- Pataula Charter Academy
- Resurgence Hall
- SAIL – School for Arts-Infused Learning
- Scintilla Charter Academy
- Southwest Georgia STEM Charter
- Statesboro STEAM
- Utopian Academy for the Arts
- International Academy of Smyrna

Nonprofit

Mailing Address - Address 1

Address 2

City

State

Zip

Physical Address - Address 1

Address 2

City

State

Zip

Contact Person Name

Contact Person Phone

Contact Person Email

Mission

For current mission, please provide the mission stated in the school's current charter contract.

Current Mission

Do you want to change the school's mission?

- Yes
- No

Please state your new proposed mission



Innovative Features

For current innovative features, you may reference the "Essential or Innovative Features" section of the school's current charter contract.

Current Innovative Features

Do you want to change any of your innovative features?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the proposed changes to your innovative features.



School Attendance Zone

The school's attendance zone may be found in the current charter contract. Please ensure that these answers are reflective of the information contained in the charter contract.

Is your current attendance zone defined or statewide?

- Defined
- Statewide

Please describe your defined attendance zone.

Do you want to change your attendance zone if renewed?

- Yes
- No

Describe your proposed new attendance zone.

Provide a rationale for changing your attendance zone.



Student Enrollment

Please note - "student enrollment" refers *only* to the *number* of students enrolled in the school. The current charter contract contains information regarding the school's current minimum and maximum student enrollment.

How many students does the school currently serve?

If renewed, do you want to increase or decrease the number of students served within the existing grades?

- Yes
- No

Describe the increase or decrease in students served. Provide a description of how many students will be served at each grade level.

Requested total student enrollment if fully enrolled. This is the number of students the school would serve in the last year of its new charter.

Provide a rationale for increasing or decreasing your student enrollment.



Grades Served

"Grades Served" refers to the range of grade bands currently served at the school (e.g. K - 8).

What grades does the school currently serve? (from)

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

What grades does the school currently serve? (through)

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

If renewed, do you want to serve additional or fewer grades?

- Yes
- No

Describe the proposed grade expansion or reduction.

Requested band if fully enrolled (from)

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

Requested band if fully enrolled (through)

- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

Provide a rationale for expanding or reducing your grades served

Third-Party Partnerships

Do you currently contract with any third-parties (e.g. ESP, University, local district, etc.) for the provision of academic or operational services?

- Yes
- No

Describe the nature of the current contractual relationship(s).

If renewed, will the contract(s) undergo any substantial changes?

- Yes
- No

Describe the proposed changes and provide a rationale for the changes.

Requested Renewal Length

Are you requesting a 5-year renewal?

- Yes
- No

Describe what length renewal you are requesting.

Provide a rationale for your proposed renewal length.

Additional Information

Describe any other proposed changes that would affect the school's operation, such as new facilities, enrollment priorities, and services provided to students (i.e. transportation, food service).

Comprehensive Performance Framework Results

Complete the tables below using your school's Comprehensive Performance Framework results. A copy of the most recent CPF results is available [here](#).

Academic Score

Academic data is not available for the 2019-2020 school year. Thus, only the previous three years of data will be considered.

CPF Score

Met Standards?

2016-17	_____	• Yes
		• No
2017-18	_____	• Yes
		• No
2018-19	_____	• Yes
		• No

Financial Score

2019-20 results will be provided via email prior to the application deadline. The score will only be considered if it benefits the school.


	CPF Score	Met Standards?
2016-17	_____	• Yes
		• No
2017-18	_____	• Yes
		• No
2018-19	_____	• Yes
		• No
2019-20	_____	• Yes
		• No

Operational Score

2019 -20 results will be provided via email prior to the application deadline. The score will only be considered if it benefits the school.

	CPF Score	Met Standards?
2016-17	_____	• Yes
		• No
2017-18	_____	• Yes
		• No
2018-19	_____	• Yes
		• No
2019-20	_____	• Yes
		• No

Academic Score Determination

 Did the school meet academic standards at least 3 out of 4 years?

- Yes
- No
- TBD

 Congratulations, the school met SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.

 The school did not meet SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.

 **We cannot yet determine whether the school met SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.**

Financial Score Determination


 Did the school meet financial standards at least 3 out of 4 years?

- Yes
- No

 Congratulations, the school met SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.

 The school did not meet SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.


 Operational Score Determination

 Did the school meet operational standards at least 3 out of 4 years?

- Yes
- No

 Congratulations, the school met SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.

 The school did not meet SCSC expectations for renewal in this category.

 The school failed to meet SCSC expectations for renewal. Please explain any mitigating factors and the school's attempts to remediate identified issues. (Optional)

To the extent a school chooses to utilize this opportunity to discuss mitigating factors that may have impacted school performance, the school should discuss only external or dynamic events outside the school's control. Mitigating factors outside of the school's control include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, acts of terror or war, or other acts or interference by third parties in the school's operation.

A school should not utilize this opportunity to discuss issues within the school's control, such as general or specific governance and leadership decisions or the difficulty or complexity of the school's educational program and strategy. Additionally, a school should not utilize this opportunity to discuss the demographics or composition of the school's student population as measures within the academic portion of the SCSC Comprehensive Framework account for unique student populations. Any consequences or impact on student achievement, whether direct or indirect, resulting from factors within the control of the school will not be considered a viable excuse for a school's failure to meet expectations.

Keep in mind we are aware of improvement plans presented at each annual performance presentation before Commissioners. Please limit your answer to actions taken outside these improvement plans. Or, to the extent these answers do not differ from your presented improvement plans, you may leave this question blank.

 Other Information (optional)

Use this space to provide any other information you feel the SCSC needs to know.
