

**STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA
CHARTER SCHOOL REPLICATION POLICY**

**Article I
Purpose**

This charter school replication policy aims to encourage access to high-quality charter school options by establishing eligibility criteria for petitioning to replicate an existing charter school.

**Article II
Definitions**

1. **Existing local charter school.** For purposes of this policy, an existing local charter school shall mean a public school that meets the definition of “charter school” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2062(3) and the definition of “local charter school” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2062(7).
2. **Existing state charter school.** For purposes of this policy, an existing state charter school shall mean a public school that meets the definition of “charter school” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2061(3) and the definition of “state charter school” in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2081(5).
3. **Replication.** For purposes of this policy, replication shall mean the creation of a second (or subsequent) charter school that utilizes the instructional program and/or academic model of an existing charter school but operates under a separate and independent charter contract.
4. **Eligibility/Eligible.** For purposes of this policy, eligibility and eligible shall mean an opportunity to submit a replication petition to the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) upon meeting identified criteria. Eligibility does not guarantee approval by the SCSC Board of Commissioners.

**Article III
Eligibility Criteria**

1. SCSC staff will assess an existing local charter school or existing state charter school’s eligibility to submit a replication petition based on the three most recent years of complete academic, financial, and operational performance data.
2. The governing board of an existing state charter school is eligible to submit a replication petition to the SCSC if the performance data for the existing state charter school demonstrates that:
 - a. the existing state charter school has met the academic performance standards on the SCSC’s Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) for the three most recent years; and,
 - b. the existing state charter school has met the financial and operational performance standards on the CPF in two of the three most recent years, including the most recent year.

3. The governing board of an existing local charter school must make a written request to the SCSC Executive Director or designee for a written determination that the performance data for the existing local charter school demonstrates that:
 - a. the existing local charter school would have met the academic performance standards on the CPF for the three most recent years; and,
 - b. the existing local charter school would have met the financial and operational performance standards on the CPF in two of the three most recent years, including the most recent year.

The existing local charter school may submit a replication petition if the governing board receives a written determination from the SCSC confirming that the school meets the eligibility criteria in this policy.

Article IV **Petition Review**

1. Replication petitions must meet the submission requirements in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084, including O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(c), which requires charter schools petitioning for authorization from the SCSC to submit petitions concurrently to local boards of education.
2. The SCSC will conduct accelerated petition reviews for charter replication based on the existing charter school's record of performance in academics, financial management, governance, and operational compliance. The SCSC's petition review will comply with the procedural and review standards in SCSC Rule 691-2-.02.
3. For governing boards that operate more than one existing state or local charter school, the SCSC will consider the performance data of all existing charter schools when evaluating the replication petition.

Article V **Designees**

The SCSC General Counsel shall be the Executive Director's designee for purposes of notices or requests made pursuant to the provisions of this policy.

Adopted: September 27, 2023