

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	DuBois Integrity Academy
Attendance Zone:	Clayton County
Grade Levels:	K-5
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for DuBois Integrity Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

DuBois Integrity Academy (DuBois) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. DuBois met expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to earn a charter renewal for a standard term of five years.¹ . All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

1. Academic Performance

DuBois met academic standard in three of four years for which data is available. The school consistently outperforms its attendance zone on state academic accountability metrics, thus illustrating a strong and stable education program.

2. Financial Performance

DuBois met standards on the Finance portion of the CPF in Year 4 of its charter term. Although the school failed to meet financial standards in the first three years, the school has continually improved its financial performance over time. Onsite monitoring has revealed no significant deficiencies related to financial performance and audits were submitted in a timely manner.

3. Operational Compliance

DuBois met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in the two most recent years for which data is available. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remediating any identified deficiencies.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for DuBois Integrity Academy](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

¹ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	Foothills Education Charter High School
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	9-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Foothills Education Charter High School be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Foothills Education Charter High School (Foothills) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. Foothills met expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to earn a charter renewal for an abbreviated term of three years.² All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

1. Academic Performance

Foothills met academic standards two of four years for which data is available. The school demonstrates academic success by outperforming the state on student growth measures. Thus, the SCSC recommends granting the charter an abbreviated term of three years to assess whether the school can sustain the requisite level of performance.

2. Financial Performance

Foothills met standards in all four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Onsite monitoring revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance and audits were submitted in a timely manner.

3. Operational Compliance

Foothills also met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in all years for which data is available. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for Foothills Education Charter High School](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

² Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	Georgia Cyber Academy
Attendance Zone:	Statewide- virtual
Grade Levels:	K-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Georgia Cyber Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. GCA met financial and operational expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF)³. The school met academic performance standards in the middle grade band in the most recent school year and demonstrated significant academic growth in the other grade bands served. As a statewide virtual school, GCA is often the only school of choice for students in areas of the state that have no brick-and-mortar charter schools. The school implemented a plan to improve educational outcomes and evidence indicates it is on track to increase performance to a level consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia to provide a better educational option for students. An abbreviated charter term of 3-years will allow the school time to demonstrate that the implemented changes result in the requisite academic gains.

1. Academic Performance

GCA did not meet the academic standard of all grade bands outperforming its attendance zone in any of the four years for which data is available. However, the school earned the Approaches Standards designation in the most recent school year by outperforming the state in the middle school grade band. Additionally, the school demonstrated significant growth across all grade bands served. The school underwent substantial changes within the last couple of years, including changes to school leadership, curriculum and management.

2. Financial Performance

GCA met standards in all four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Onsite monitoring revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance and audits were submitted in a timely manner.

3. Operational Compliance

GCA also met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in all four years for which data is available. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

³ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for Georgia Cyber Academy](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	K-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics (GSIC) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. GSIC met expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to earn a charter renewal for a standard term of five years.⁴ All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

1. Academic Performance

Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics met academic standards three out of four years for which data is available. The school consistently outperforms its attendance zone on state accountability metrics in all grade bands served (elementary, middle, and high), thus illustrating a strong and stable education program.

2. Financial Performance

Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics met standards in all four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Onsite monitoring revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance and audits were submitted in a timely manner.

3. Operational Compliance

Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in Year 4 of its charter term. Although the school failed to meet operational standards in the first three years, the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies. As evidenced by Year 4 results, GSIC has demonstrated capacity for continuous improvement of operational performance and will likely meet requirements in future years.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

⁴ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	International Academy of Smyrna
Attendance Zone:	Cobb County and Marietta City
Grade Levels:	K-5
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for International Academy of Smyrna be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

International Academy of Smyrna (IAS) is a new state charter school completing its first three-year charter term. IAS met the academic and operational expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).⁵ Although the school is not currently meeting financial expectations, IAS developed a plan to become financially viable. Evidence indicates that the school will continue to perform academically and operationally as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia. An abbreviated charter term of three years will provide the school time to demonstrate that implemented financial changes will result in the requisite financial gains.

1. Academic Performance

IAS met academic standards in the two most recent years of a three-year charter term. The school consistently outperforms the local schools from which it enrolls students on state academic accountability metrics, thus illustrating a strong and stable education program.

2. Financial Performance

IAS did not meet standards in any year of the charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Most of the school's financial issues stem from having a large amount of debt associated with its facility. However, audits were submitted in a timely manner and the school developed a student recruitment plan to increase enrollment, thus increasing revenue to offset costs. Additionally, the school worked with its bond holder to establish a plan to become financially viable while also paying down its debt.

3. Operational Compliance

IAS met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in the two most recent years of a three-year charter term. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for International Academy of Smyrna](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

⁵ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a three-year term is based on three years of available academic, financial and operational data – the last year of the previous term and Years 1 and 2 of the current term. Data for the third (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	International Charter School of Atlanta
Attendance Zone:	Statewide
Grade Levels:	K-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for International Charter School of Atlanta be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

International Charter School of Atlanta (ICSA) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. ICSA met expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to earn a charter renewal for a standard term of five years.⁶ All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

1. Academic Performance

ICSA met academic standards in all four years of the charter term for which data is available. The school consistently outperforms the attendance zone it serves on multiple state academic accountability metrics, including both student proficiency and student growth metrics, across all grade bands served (i.e. elementary and middle).

2. Financial Performance

ICSA met standards in two out of four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Onsite monitoring revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance and audits were submitted in a timely manner.

3. Operational Compliance

ICSA met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in all four years of the charter term for which data is available. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for International Charter School of Atlanta](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

⁶ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	Odyssey Charter School
Attendance Zone:	Coweta County and Meriwether County
Grade Levels:	K-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Odyssey Charter School be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Odyssey Charter School (Odyssey) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. Odyssey met expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to earn a charter renewal for a standard term of five years.⁷ All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

1. Academic Performance

Odyssey met academic standards in three out of the last four years for which data is available. The school demonstrates strong academic performance by outperforming the attendance zone it serves on state academic accountability metrics across all grade bands served (i.e. elementary and middle).

2. Financial Performance

Odyssey met financial standards in all four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Onsite monitoring revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance and audits were submitted in a timely manner.

3. Operational Compliance

Odyssey met standards in two out of the last four years for which data is available on the Operational portion of the CPF. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remediating any identified deficiencies.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for Odyssey Charter School](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

⁷ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	Scintilla Charter Academy
Attendance Zone:	Brooks County, Lowndes County and Valdosta City
Grade Levels:	K-6
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Scintilla Charter Academy be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 2-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Scintilla Charter Academy (Scintilla) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. Scintilla met operational expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF)⁸. Although the school is not currently meeting financial expectations, Scintilla developed a plan to become financially viable. Although the school did not meet academic expectations outright, Scintilla outperformed Valdosta City School District, the district from which a majority of the school's students are zoned to attend, during the 2018-19 school year. Additionally, the school implemented targeted interventions to improve educational outcomes. Interim evidence indicates Scintilla is likely to increase performance to a level consistent with the SCSC's mission to provide a better educational option for students relative to the schools they would otherwise attend. An abbreviated charter term of two years will allow the school time to demonstrate that the implemented changes result in the requisite academic and financial gains.

1. Academic Performance

Scintilla met academic standards in Year 2 and approached standards in Year 4 of its charter term. In the most recent school year for which data is available (2018-19), the school earned a higher CCRPI content mastery score than Valdosta City School District, the district from which a majority of the school's students are zoned to attend. Additionally, the school proposes to open enrollment to neighboring Brooks County. Scintilla consistently earns higher CCRPI scores than Brooks County, evidencing that it could provide a higher quality option for those students. The school implemented additional academic supports including a new interim assessment program.

2. Financial Performance

Scintilla did not meet standards in any year of the charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. Importantly, however, the school's performance demonstrated improvement for the past three years. Most of the school's financial issues stem from having a large amount of debt associated with its facility. Audits were submitted in a timely manner and the school established a plan to become financially sustainable. Specifically, the school developed plans to increase student enrollment, thereby increasing revenue to offset costs.

⁸ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

3. Operational Compliance

Scintilla met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in the three most recent years for which data is available. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for Scintilla Charter Academy](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2020 Cycle February 26, 2020

School:	Utopian Academy for the Arts
Attendance Zone:	Clayton County
Grade Levels:	6-8
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Utopian Academy for the Arts be APPROVED by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale:

Utopian Academy for the Arts (Utopian) is a new state charter school completing its first five-year charter term. Utopian met academic and operational expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).⁹ Although the school is not currently meeting financial expectations, Utopian developed a plan to become financially viable. Evidence indicates that the school will continue to perform academically and operationally as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia. An abbreviated charter term of three years will allow the school time to demonstrate that implemented financial changes will result in the requisite financial gains.

1. Academic Performance

Utopian met academic standards in three out of five years for which data is available, including the two most recent school years. The school consistently outperforms the attendance zone it serves on both student proficiency and student growth measures, thus illustrating a strong educational program.

2. Financial Performance

Utopian did not meet standards in any year of the charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. The school faced external, uncontrollable events during the first year of the charter term that greatly affected student enrollment, resulting in a loss of revenue. Utopian worked diligently to recoup the financial losses experienced in year one. Audits were submitted in a timely manner and the school established a plan to become financially sustainable. Specifically, the school developed plans to increase student enrollment thereby increasing revenue to offset costs. Additionally, the school built a strong relationship with its local school district. The in-kind services and supports provided by the local district contribute to the future financial viability of the school.

3. Operational Compliance

Utopian met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in the two most recent years for which data is available. Onsite monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

⁹ Renewal analysis for state charter schools completing a five-year term is based on four years of available academic, financial and operational data. Data for the fifth (i.e. current) school year is not available until late 2020 and is thus not considered for the purposes of renewal.

Link to Petition and

Related Materials: [Click here to view the renewal petition for Utopian Academy for the Arts](#)

Link to SCSC CPF and Renewal Standards: [Click here to view the SCSC CPF](#)
