



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the continued operation of a state charter school.

#### Rationale

Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys (GIA Boys) is completing its first 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. GIA Boys met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by academically outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend and meeting financial and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework for a majority of the current charter term.

All evidence indicates the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Expand high-quality middle and high charter school choice.



## GENESIS INNOVATION ACADEMY FOR BOYS

<b>Attendance Zone</b>	<b>STATEWIDE</b>
<b>Grade Levels Served</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>

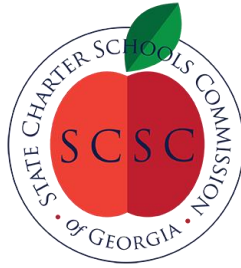
### HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Academics	App	Meets	NA	Meets	Meets	-Year 6 of Term-
Finances	DNM	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Operations	DNM	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	

Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys is completing a 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Thus, their current contract term is from July 2017- June 2023. The school met standards in the academic, financial and operational sections of the CPF for a majority of the charter term earning the school a standard 5-year charter renewal.

### RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY STANDINGS

Standard 5-Year Renewal				
Option	Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
A	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
	Operations	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
B	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	
	Operations	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	



## GENESIS INNOVATION ACADEMY FOR BOYS

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### RENEWAL POSITION

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**School Model:** Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys (GIA Boys)'s mission is to "create the next generation of path-breaking innovators who lead and serve with committed purpose, passion, discipline, and integrity". GIA Boys is a single-gender academy that seeks to provide a rigorous college preparatory program that addresses the unique needs of boys. The instructional approach focuses on engaging students in the relevant and innovative application of core content in project-based, real-world contexts with interdisciplinary fields of Engineering (STEM), Ethics, Economics, and Entrepreneurship integrated into curricular frameworks.

**Academic Performance:** GIA Boys met academic standards for a majority of the charter term, meaning it provides a better educational option than the schools its students would otherwise attend. In the 2018-2019 school year, GIA Boys outperformed on CCRPI Grade Band and Progress scores in both grade bands. In 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, the school outperformed on Achievement and Content Mastery measures (growth measures are not currently available), thus demonstrating the ability to grow students and increase academic proficiency.

**Financial Performance:** Although it failed to meet standards in its first year of operations, GIA Boys has since consistently met financial standards, demonstrating financial viability. The school typically meets standards across both short-term and sustainability measures and consistently submits its annual independent financial audit before the required deadline.

**Operational Performance:** Although it failed to meet standards in its first year of operations, GIA Boys has since consistently met operational standards. The school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required trainings, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.

**Additional Information:** GIA Boys is seeking to slightly modify the wording of its mission, essential and innovative features, and mission specific goals; however, still focusing on cultivating students to be innovators who maximize their gifts, pursue their passion, and lead with uncompromising discipline and integrity. The school is currently approved to serve grades K-12; however, due to facility limitations it currently only serves K-8. The school is actively engaging a real-estate project management team to secure a facility and it expects to re-launch high school in the 2024-2025 school year.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the continued operation of a state charter school.

#### Rationale

Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls (GIA Girls) is completing its first 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. GIA Girls met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by academically outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend and meeting financial and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework for a majority of the current charter term.

All evidence indicates the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Expand high-quality middle and high charter school choice.



## GENESIS INNOVATION ACADEMY FOR GIRLS

<b>Attendance Zone</b>	<b>STATEWIDE</b>
<b>Grade Levels Served</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>306</b>
<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>

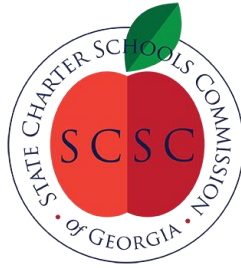
### HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Academics	DNM	Meets	NA	Meets	Meets	-Year 6 of Term-
Finances	DNM	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Operations	DNM	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	

Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls is completing a 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Thus, their current contract term is from July 2017- June 2023. The school met standards in the academic, financial and operational sections of the CPF for a majority of the charter term earning the school a standard 5-year charter renewal.

### RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY STANDINGS

Standard 5-Year Renewal				
Option	Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
A	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
	Operations	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
B	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	
	Operations	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	



## GENESIS INNOVATION ACADEMY FOR GIRLS

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### RENEWAL POSITION

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**School Model:** Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls (GIA Girls)'s mission is to “create the next generation of path-breaking innovators who lead and serve with committed purpose, passion, discipline, and integrity”. GIA Girls is a single-gender academy that seeks to provide a rigorous college preparatory program that addresses the unique needs of girls. The instructional approach focuses on engaging students in the relevant and innovative application of core content in project-based, real-world contexts with interdisciplinary fields of Engineering (STEM), Ethics, Economics, and Entrepreneurship integrated into curricular frameworks.

**Academic Performance:** GIA Girls met academic standards for a majority of the charter term, meaning it provides a better educational option than the schools its students would otherwise attend. In the 2018-2019 school year, GIA Boys outperformed on CCRPI Grade Band and Progress scores in both grade bands. In 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, the school outperformed on Achievement and Content Mastery measures (growth measures are not currently available), thus demonstrating the ability to grow students and increase academic proficiency.

**Financial Performance:** Although it failed to meet standards in its first year of operations, GIA Girls has since consistently met financial standards, demonstrating financial viability. The school typically meets standards across both short-term and sustainability measures and consistently submits its annual independent financial audit before the required deadline.

**Operational Performance:** Although it failed to meet standards in its first year of operations, GIA Girls has since consistently met operational standards. The school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required trainings, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.

**Additional Information:** GIA Girls is seeking to slightly modify the wording of its mission, essential and innovative features, and mission specific goals; however, still focusing on cultivating students to be innovators who maximize their gifts, pursue their passion, and lead with uncompromising discipline and integrity. The school is currently approved to serve grades K-12; however, due to facility limitations it currently only serves K-8. The school is actively engaging a real-estate project management team to secure a facility and it expects to re-launch high school in the 2024-2025 school year.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Resurgence Hall Charter School

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Resurgence Hall Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the continued operation of a state charter school.

#### Rationale

Resurgence Hall Charter School (Resurgence Hall) is completing its first 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Resurgence Hall met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by academically outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend every year of the charter term and meeting financial and operational standards for a majority of the charter term as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework. All evidence indicates the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Empower all state charter schools to leverage autonomy, flexibility, and resources to meet the needs of their community.



## RESURGENCE HALL CHARTER SCHOOL

<b>Attendance Zone</b>	<b>ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FULTON COUNTY</b>
<b>Grade Levels Served</b>	<b>K-4</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>

### HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Academics	Meets	Meets	NA	Meets	Meets	-Year 6 of Term-
Finances	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Operations	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets	App	

Resurgence Hall Charter School is completing a 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Thus, their current contract term is from July 2017- June 2023. The school met standards in the academic, financial and operational sections of the CPF for a majority of the charter term earning the school a standard 5-year charter renewal.

### RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY STANDINGS

Standard 5-Year Renewal				
Option	Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
A	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
	Operations	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
B	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	
	Operations	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	





## RESURGENCE HALL CHARTER SCHOOL

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### RENEWAL POSITION

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**School Model:** The school’s mission is to “educate every K-8 student for success in high school, college and life.” Resurgence Hall offers an educational program emphasizing computer science, design thinking, and literacy. Further, it provides extended daily literacy instruction using a two-teacher push-in literacy model. The school’s charter reflects blended learning, an extended day, and an extended year as additional innovations.

**Academic Performance:** Resurgence Hall consistently outperforms its comparison zone across all accountability metrics (CCRPI Content Mastery, Progress, Grade Band Score, VAM and BTO), meaning it provides a better educational option for students in both achievement and growth measures. In 2018-19, the most recent year for which all CCRPI data is available, Resurgence Hall’s overall performance was higher than 95% of schools in the state. The school outperformed the schools from which its students are zoned to attend by about 40 points, according to GaDOE Achievement data for the 2020-21 school year and CCRPI Content Mastery data for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Financial Performance:** Resurgence Hall consistently meets financial expectations and demonstrates a financially viable track record. The school typically meets standards across most financial metrics, both short-term and sustainability, and consistently submits its annual independent financial audit before the required deadline.

**Operational Performance:** Resurgence Hall met operational standards in the first four years of the charter term. In the 2021-2022 school year, the school’s federal program monitoring revealed numerous noncompliance issues resulting in a loss of points across several measures. Additionally, Resurgence Hall often struggles to meet the Georgia Dept. of Education data collections deadlines. However, the school willingly works to correct identified issues.

**Additional Information:** The school’s excellent performance has been recognized by its community and charter growth funders. As such, Resurgence Hall replicated its school model and opened a middle grades academy this year (2022-2023 school year). The school is requesting to amend its grades served from K-8 to K-4. The original school plans to operate as a lower grades academy that feeds into the new middle grades academy that serves grades 5-8. Thus, Resurgence Hall would like to update the contract to reflect the correct grades served. The replication middle school is located in the same general area (southwest Atlanta, Fulton County) and has a statewide attendance zone, offering students throughout the state the opportunity to attend.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Scintilla Charter Academy

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Scintilla Charter Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school serving grades K-12.

#### Rationale

Scintilla Charter Academy (SCA) is completing an abbreviated 2- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. SCA met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by academically outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend and meeting financial and operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework for a majority of the current charter term. All evidence indicates the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Expand high-quality middle and high charter school choice.



## SCINTILLA CHARTER ACADEMY

<b>Attendance Zone</b>	<b>Brooks, Lowndes and Valdosta City</b>
<b>Grade Levels Served</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>721</b>
<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>

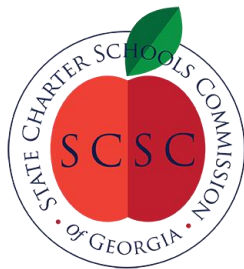
### HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Academics	NA	Meets	Meets	-Year 3 of Term-
Finances	Meets	Meets	Meets	
Operations	Meets	Meets	Meets	

Scintilla Charter Academy is completing a 2- year abbreviated charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. Thus, their current contract term is from July 2020- June 2023. However, we include the last year of their previous charter contract in order to have three years of data to review. The school met standards in the academic, financial and operational sections of the CPF for a majority of the charter term earning the school a standard 5-year charter renewal.

### RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY STANDINGS

Standard 5-Year Renewal				
Option	Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
A	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
	Operations	Met at least 50% of the term	Y	
B	Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	
	Operations	Met in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	



## SCINTILLA CHARTER ACADEMY

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### RENEWAL POSITION

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**School Model:** The school’s mission is to “nurture a diverse group of students to become lifelong, active participants in their own education, develop a sense of self and community, and become responsible and compassionate members of society”. SCA offers an educational program focused on problem-solving, critical thinking, written and oral communication, research and collaboration. Further, it emphasizes collaborative teaching across subjects and grade levels to allow educators to develop deeper relationships with students and families. The school plans to adjust some elements of its mission, essential and innovative features, and mission-specific goals upon renewal; however, it will still provide an innovative and engaging environment with a focus on problem-solving, critical thinking, written and oral communication, research, and collaboration.

**Academic Performance:** SCA struggled to meet SCSC academic standards in its first charter term. However, in the last few years, student performance has drastically improved. The school made efforts to ensure its teachers had appropriate professional development and implemented a new benchmark assessment system ensuring alignment with the Georgia Standards of Excellence. The school outperformed the schools from which its students are zoned to attend by 30 points in the elementary grades and 20 points in the middle grades, according to GaDOE Achievement data for the 2020-21 school year and CCRPI Content Mastery data for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Financial Performance:** SCA struggled to meet financial expectations in its first charter term primarily due to its facility debt. However, it consistently worked to improve its score and has met financial standards in the most recent years of the current charter term, demonstrating a financially viable track record.

**Operational Performance:** SCA has consistently meets operational expectations. The school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required trainings, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees’ rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations.

**Additional Information:** SCA has expanded into serving 6-8th grades in the last three years. The school is requesting to serve high school grades upon renewal. They plan to start serving 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2023-2024 school year and add one grade each year until they are fully enrolled. This would allow the current 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students to matriculate in SCA through to graduation. SCA leadership and board members presented a comprehensive expansion plan that included a financially viable budget. The school’s current track record of performance, expansion plan, and related documents suggest it will provide a stable and successful high school program.



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for SAIL- School for Arts Infused Learning

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for SAIL- School for Arts Infused Learning by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5- year charter contract for the continued operation of a state charter school with an increased enrollment limit.

#### Rationale

SAIL- School for Arts Infused Learning (SAIL) is completing its first 5- year charter contract with a 1- year COVID extension. SAIL met the eligibility requirements for a standard 5- year renewal by meeting financial standards in the last year of the initial charter term and by academically outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend and meeting operational standards as established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework for a majority of the current charter term.

All evidence indicates the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.



## SAIL- SCHOOL FOR ARTS-INFUSED LEARNING

<b>Attendance Zone</b>	<b>STATEWIDE</b>
<b>Grade Levels Served</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>568</b>
<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>

### HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Academics	Meets	Meets	NA	Meets	DNM	-Year 6 of Term-
Finances	DNM	DNM	App	Meets	DNM	
Operations	Meets	Meets	Meets	App	App	

SAIL- School for Arts-Infused Learning (SAIL) is completing its first charter term, which includes a one-year COVID extension. The school met standards for a majority of the charter term in the academics and operations section of the performance framework. Although the school did not meet financial standards in 2021-2022, the one-year COVID extension was only meant to benefit schools. If the school had gone through the renewal process last year, within the terms of its original contract, it would have met the requisite financial standards for a 5-year renewal.

### RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY STANDINGS

**Table 1. Renewal Eligibility Options**

Standard 5-Year Renewal			
Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
Academics	Outperformed a majority of the term	Y	RENEW
Finances	Met at least 50% of the term or in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	
Operations	Met at least 50% of the term or in the most recent year for which data are available	Y	



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## SAIL- SCHOOL FOR ARTS-INFUSED LEARNING

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### RENEWAL POSITION

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#### **School Model**

SAIL- School for Arts-Infused Learning (SAIL)'s mission is to "provide an engaging and rigorous educational experience through the infusion of the arts and the academic core." SAIL offers a robust fine arts program with music, art, drama, and dance to all students in every grade. Specialists in each field utilize the arts to draw connections with real-world experiences. Further, the school offers foreign language instruction to all students daily, physical education for students multiple times a week, multiple-year looping, and problem-solving lessons using technology. The school has a statewide attendance zone; however, a majority (about 78%) of SAIL's students are zoned to attend Columbia County Schools, the county in which the school is located.

#### **Academic Performance**

SAIL met academic standards for the first three years of the charter term for which data are available. The school met standards via the Single Score measure, which combines CCRPI grade band scores based on grade band enrollment. The school typically outperforms in the elementary-grade band but, in comparison, struggles in the middle-grade band. Based on 2021-2022 GaDOE CCRPI Content Mastery data, SAIL did not outperform the schools and districts it serves in either grade band. The school fell three points below the comparison score in the elementary-grade band and about ten points below in the middle-grade band. In the school's renewal application, SAIL noted it has engaged in professional development for upper grades teachers and hired an instructional coach to support them as well.

#### **Financial Performance**

SAIL struggled to meet financial expectations in the first few years of its charter term primarily due to its facility debt. It has failed to meet the financial sustainability measures, specifically the Debt to Asset Ratio. However, in 2020-2021 the school had a 99% Debt to Asset Ratio, earning it partial points on that measure and resulting in a Meeting standards designation. However, in 2021-2022 the school earned zero (0) points on the Debt to Income and Debt to Asset Ratio measures. According to the independent financial audit, SAIL refinanced its debt through a bond deal. Although the transaction result should decrease *future* debt service payments, the fees associated with the deal increased the school's FY22 debt as measured by its FY22 audit. This resulted in the loss of points on both debt measures and, ultimately, a Does Not Meet standards designation.

#### **Operational Performance**

SAIL consistently met operational expectations in the first three years of the charter term. The school employs appropriate governance policies, attends required trainings, creates a safe and healthy learning environment, protects student and employees' rights, and executes an educational program that aligns with state requirements and charter contract expectations. However, in the two most recent years, SAIL has lost points related to financial oversight.



### **Enrollment Limit Expansion**

SAIL serves students in grades K-8 and requests to increase its enrollment limit from 594 to 804 upon renewal. The school has a robust waitlist in each grade level, 746 students total, demonstrating the high demand for the school in a geographic area that lacks other choice options. Growth would begin in FY24 by adding 1-2 additional classrooms in each grade. SAIL presented a plan to hire and onboard new teachers and related support staff in accordance with the increased enrollment. SAIL plans to purchase new modular units to accommodate more students and classrooms and is working with its bondholder to ensure the growth results in long-term financial sustainability. The school acknowledges the need to be strategic with a continued focus on improving academic performance and financial viability while increasing enrollment.