

# Understanding and Preparing for the SCSC Renewal Process



# SCSC Mission

The mission of the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia is to improve public education throughout the state by approving high quality charter schools that provide students with *better* educational opportunities than they would otherwise be afforded in traditional schools.

# Overview

In 2016, the SCSC adopted a Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to set forth clear, quantifiable, rigorous, and attainable goals for state charter schools.

The three areas of performance covered by the framework—**academic achievement**, **financial management**, and **operational compliance**—correspond directly with the three components of a strong charter school.

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In each of the three areas, the framework asks a fundamental question:

1. Academic Performance: Is the educational program offering students a **better educational opportunity** than they would otherwise receive in the traditional district schools to which they are zoned?
2. Financial Performance: Is the school **financially viable**?
3. Operational Performance: Is the organization **effective, compliant, and well-run**?

# Overview

The SCSC annually reviews the CPF to ensure that the metrics accurately depict a school's performance and answer the fundamental question for each section. As SCSC staff considers changes to the CPF, we conduct research, solicit feedback from school leaders, and receive input from GaDOE Charter Division.

Specific priorities for the 2019 updates and amendments are:

- 1. Reflecting the SCSC mission and values;*
- 2. Increasing public understanding of school performance; and*
- 3. Capturing regulatory updates while respecting school autonomy.*

# Overview

At the October 30, 2019 SCSC Meeting staff presented proposed updates and amendments to the SCSC CPF.

Proposed changes included:

- the **removal** of some burdensome, unaligned metrics;
- the reworking of certain metrics to ensure **expectations are clear**;
- the addition of new metrics that provide schools **more opportunities** to demonstrate performance; and
- restructuring and language edits to provide **uniformity** across sections.

Following the October meeting, SCSC staff held a webinar to share the proposed changes with school leaders and board members.

The proposed amendments were open for public comment and feedback for 45 days.

SCSC staff have synthesized public feedback, and final recommendations were presented and adopted at the January 29, 2020 SCSC meeting.

# Summary of Adopted Amendments

- Updated designations (i.e. Meets, Approaches, Does Not Meet), scoring criteria and related points to create **uniformity across in each section** (academics, finances and operations) of the CPF.
- **Academics:** Removed unnecessary measures, updated language to reflect the new comparison
- **Finances:** Added a new measure- *Debt to Income Ratio*
- **Operations:** Consolidated measures to more accurately capture school compliance
  - Combined six measures into three
  - Split one measure into two separate measures
  - Added five measures
  - Removed three measures

# All Sections- Scoring Criteria Updates

- Previously:

Scoring Criteria	Academics	Financial	Operational
Meets Standard	70-100	75-100	80-100
Does Not Meet Standard	50-69	50-74	50-79
Falls Far Below Standard	0-49	0-49	0-49

- Updated:

Scoring Criteria	Academics	Financial and Ops
Meets Standard	Outperforming	80-100
Approaches Standard	Performing As Well As	70-79
Does Not Meet Standard	Under Performing	0-69

# All Sections- Scoring Criteria Updates

- The amendment **creates consistency** throughout the CPF. The updated terminology matches the language that is currently used to describe a school's performance on individual measures within each section of the CPF.
- Additionally, providing schools the opportunity to be designated as Approaches standards provides a **more accurate depiction** of performance standings for schools that are very close to meeting standards. This change required that the relative points be updated to more accurately reflect the new category.
- The use of points in the academic section complicated communications with stakeholders. **Academic scores on the CPF are often mistaken for CCRPI scores** (e.g. a score of 0 on the CPF does not mean the school has a CCRPI score of 0). Removing points from the academic section will allow for **clearer, more accurate messaging of school performance**.



# Academics- Remove Measure

- Previously: Measure 1 a. Improvement Targets
  - Meets Standard = the school met 100 percent of school improvement targets.
- Previously: Measure 1 b. State Designations
  - Meets Standard = the school is not designated as “CSI”, “TSI” or Turnaround Eligible.
- Updated: Remove Measures

# Academics- Remove Measure

- Both measures are worth two points. The small point allocation means whether a school meets on the measure or not plays no role in determining if the school will or will not meet standards overall in the academic section.
- The measures do not align with the SCSC's mission of assessing whether the school is providing a better educational opportunity than what is being provided by the traditional school district.

# Feedback- Academics

- Establish a comparison score that is the pro-rated average of the zoned schools which the students would otherwise attend.
  - This comparison already underway. Starting in 2018, GaDOE began collecting student-level address as a component of the Student Record report in data collections. Using student-level address and school attendance boundary data, SCSC staff is able to match students' addresses with the school they are zoned to attend. From there a comparison score is generated based on the proportion of students the state charter school enrolls from each zoned school and each zoned school's CCRPI score and related sub-scores.
  - If the state charter school has a higher CCRPI score or sub-score than the pro-rated zoned school score, in all relevant grade bands or grade bands in which it is not already outperforming on one of the other comparison calculations, it is considered meeting SCSC academic standards.
- The language in the academic measures will be reflected to account for the additional comparison.
  - Previously: The charter school earned a higher CCRPI score than the district(s) it serves.
  - Update: The charter school earned a higher CCRPI score than its attendance zone.

The SCSC uses three methods to calculate comparison attendance zone scores when assessing state charter school performance on the CCRPI:

- **District Average**: The state charter school's score is compared to the score of the district(s) included in its attendance zone. If a school serves a single district, it is compared to that district's score. If it serves multiple districts it is compared to the simple average of those districts. If the school has a statewide attendance zone, then the school is compared to the state average. The SCSC uses GaDOE CCRPI reports to determine the comparison scores.
- **District Weighted**: The state charter school's score is compared to a "District Weighted" score that uses the proportion students the school enrolls from each district served. If a school serves a single district, it is compared to that district's score because 100% of students enrolled in the state charter school are zoned to attend that district. However, if a school serves multiple districts or has a statewide attendance zone, a district weighted comparison score is generated based on the proportion of students the school actually enrolls from each district. For instance, if a school enrolls 80% of its students from District A and 20% from District B, then the comparison score will be comprised of 80% of District A's CCRPI score and 20% of District B's CCRPI score. The SCSC uses the GaDOE Data Collections FTE System of Residency report to determine district enrollment proportions.
- **School Weighted**: The state charter school's score is compared to a "School Weighted" score that uses the proportion of students the school enrolls from each school attendance zone served. The student -level address element in the GaDOE Data Collections Student Record report, is used to determine which school each student enrolled in a state charter school is actually zoned to attend (**the school the student would attend if they were not enrolled in the charter school**). The SCSC weights those schools' CCRPI scores based on the proportion of students enrolled. This is same process that is used to generate the District Weighted comparison scores just at the more granular, school level.

**A school is considered meeting standards if it outperforms any on one or combination of the comparison calculations across academic metrics.**

# Academics Metrics within the CPF

Schools may satisfy annual academic requirements by:

Outperforming its **attendance zone**\* in all relevant grade bands on at least one of the following measures:

- **CCRPI Single Score (weighted by grade band enrollment),**
- **CCRPI Content Mastery,**
- **CCRPI Progress,**
- **CCRPI Grade Band Score,**
- **Value-Added Impact on Student Achievement**

OR by earning a “**Beating The Odds**” designation from GaDOE

\*any one of the three calculations

# Financial - Add New Measure

- Previously: A school could earn up to 60 points across four near-term measures in the CPF. There was no metric that assessed whether a school has enough income to cover short-term debt.
- Updated: A school can earn up to 70 points across five near-terms measures, including a **Debt to Income calculation (DTI)**.

# Financial- Add New Measure

- The **Debt to Income (DTI) ratio** is used to measure the proportion of a school's income that goes towards debt payments.
- When breaking school expenditures into three general parts (Instruction, Operations, and Debt Service) the SCSC is able to gain a better understanding of the **school's ability to optimize the availability of funds for instruction and operations**. A high DTI is an indicator of relative high risk when compared to similar schools with lower DTI percentages.
- After running impact scenarios using 2017-18 data, the addition of the DTI measure (even with moving the “Meets Standard” threshold to 80, as mentioned earlier), results in **more schools meeting financial expectations**. Thus, it provides another opportunity for schools to demonstrate financial viability.

# Financial - Remove Exceeds Standard

- Previously: For measures in the Financial section of the CPF, a school could be designated as Exceeds, Meets, Approaches or Does Not Meet standards.
- Updated: For measures in the Financial section of the CPF, a school can be designated as Meets, Approaches or Does Not Meet standards.



# Financial- Remove Exceeds Standard

- The update is meant to **create uniformity** across all sections of the CPF. The Financial section was the only section that included an Exceeds standard.
- This change **does not penalize schools** that were previously exceeding on measures. We treat schools that “meet” and “exceed” in the same manner.
- To accommodate adding the DTI measure, the overall point distribution in the Financial section had to be adjusted. Removing the Exceeds standard option allowed for those points to be **reallocated to the DTI measure**.

# Financial Metrics within the CPF

Schools may satisfy annual financial requirements by:

Demonstrating adequate performance on the following near-term measures:

- **current ratio**
- **unrestricted days cash**
- **enrollment variance**
- **debt to income ratio**, and
- **default on debt**

AND on the following sustainability measures:

- **efficiency margin**, and
- **debt to asset ratio.**

# Operations Overview

SCSC staff is proposing additional measures in the Operations section to more accurately capture school compliance, and the removal or consolidation of other measures.

These amendments balance the importance of **school compliance** with **charter school autonomy**.

- Combine six measures into three
- Split one measure into two separate measures
- Add five measures
- Remove three measures

# Operational- Measures Combined

Six measures are combined into three measures:

- *Essential and Innovative Features and Mission Specific Goals*
- *Data Reporting and Financial Reporting*
- *Employee Qualifications and Criminal Records Checks*

These measures are combined to more appropriately group topics and reduce the chance that schools will lose points in two sections for a similar function.

# Operational- Measure Split

One measure is split into two measures:

- *Education Requirements- removed*
- *State Education Requirements- added*
- *Federal Education Requirements- added*

State and federal education requirements and the requisite monitoring that is attached to these requirements are drastically different. Separating out this measure will **allow the SCSC to better measure school compliance** and **clarify to schools how they are held accountable** for these requirements.

# Operational- Measures Added

Four measures are added to the Financial Oversight section:

- *Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements*
- *Adherence to the Local Units of Administration Manual*
- *Adherence to the School's Own Financial Policies and Procedures*
- *Budget Approved in Accordance with State Law*

The addition of these measures are meant to **clarify expectations** for schools. Previously, the loss of points on these elements was captured in the Additional Obligations category. By separating these requirements, schools can more adequately take steps to ensure compliance.

# Operational- Measures Added

One measure is added to the Governance section:

- *Transparent Governance and Communication with Stakeholders*

This measure is meant to emphasize compliance with SCSC rule regarding information on **school websites and transparent communications**. The new measure encourages governing boards to be as communicative as possible with stakeholders.

# Operational- Measures Removed

Three measures are being removed from the Ops section:

- *Holding Management Accountable*
- *Student Retention*
- *Support Services*

Components of these measures are already captured in other areas of the CPF. Thus, in an effort to **remove unnecessary and duplicative regulations**, staff proposes to eliminate these three measures. SCSC staff is mindful to not overly burden schools with new measures without taking away unneeded measures.



# Operational- Approaches Standard Added

- Previously: A school could earn all possible points (Meets standards) for Data Reporting if it did not miss any reporting deadlines and would receive zero points (Does Not Meet standards) if it missed any reporting deadlines.
- Updated: A school can earn all possible points (Meeting standards) for Data Reporting if it did not miss any reporting deadlines, **partial points (Approaches standards)** if it missed just one deadline, and zero points (Does Not Meet standards) if it missed more than one deadline.

# Operational Metrics within the CPF

Schools may satisfy annual operational requirements by adhering to the requirements of their charter contracts and all applicable rules and laws as measured by:

- the school's **educational program** (adherence to its essential or innovative features and implementation of required programs);
- **financial oversight** (adherence to GAAP standards);
- **governance capacity and transparency**;
- **protecting students and employees** through the appropriate use of compensatory programs and employee qualifications;
- **maintaining a positive school environment** by promoting student retention and support services;

AND any additional obligations including:

- **the timely remediation of previous noncompliance.**

# 2018-19 CPF Scores

2018-19 CPF results will be generated using both the previous version of the CPF and the new version that includes the adopted amendments. **The higher score will be used.**

# SCSC Charter Renewal Terms

- State Charter Schools are expected to meet academic, financial, and operational standards as outlined with the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) during every year of the charter term. However, schools that demonstrate a **consistent track record of strong performance** over multiple years may earn a standard five-year renewal.
- Additionally, schools that **finish their first charter term strong** (despite early struggles), and schools that **consistently perform on par** with the attendance zone they serve may earn an abbreviated three-year charter renewal. The intent of an abbreviated charter term is to assess the school's ability to sustain the requisite performance level.
- SCSC renewal eligibility criteria are meant to serve as a guideline to inform renewal decisions. However, the SCSC may exercise discretion in approving renewal terms outside of these guidelines.

# Updated Renewal Criteria

## A New School (i.e. a school concluding its first/initial charter term):

- **To be eligible for a standard five-year renewal, a school must:**
  - A. meet financial and operational standards at least 50% of the time (2 of 4 years), OR
  - B. meet financial and operational standards in Year 4 of the charter term, AND
    - meet academic standards at least 75% of the time (3 of the first 4 years of a 5-year charter contract term).
- **To be eligible for an abbreviated three-year renewal, a school must:**
  - must meet financial and operational standards in Year 4 of the charter term, AND
    - A. perform at least as well as (no more than 3% below) the attendance on any one or combination of the CCRPI indicators in all relevant grade bands in Year 4 of the charter term, OR
    - B. outperform on the VAM or be designated BTO in Year 4 of the charter term, OR
    - C. perform at least as well as the attendance zone on any one or combination of the CCRPI indicators outlined within the CPF, 75% of the time.

“as well as” equates to having a score that is no more than 3% below the comparison attendance zone score

# Renewal Eligibility Criteria

## A Tenured School (i.e. a school concluding a second or subsequent charter term):

- **To be eligible for a standard five-year renewal, a school must:**
  - meet academic, financial, and operational standards for a majority of the contract term (3 of the first 4 years of a 5-year charter contract term and 2 out of 3 years of an abbreviated charter contract term).
- **To be eligible for an abbreviated three-year renewal, a school must:**
  - meet financial and operations standards 75% of the time AND
  - meet academic standards or perform at least as well as the attendance zone on any one or combination of the CCRPI indicators outlined within the CPF 75% of the time.

\*Consecutive abbreviated terms will not be awarded

## HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Academics	97	61	98	98
Finances	95	85	90	95
Operations	78	77	100	100

## HISTORICAL TRACK RECORD OF PERFORMANCE- Future Version

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Academics	Meets	Approaches	Meets	Meets
Finances	95	85	90	95
Operations	78	77	100	100

**Table 1. Renewal Eligibility Options- School is in its First Charter Term**

Standard 5-Year Renewal				
Option	Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
A	Academics	Outperformed 75% of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met 50% of the term	Y	
	Operations	Met 50% of the term	Y	
B	Academics	Outperformed 75% of the term	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met in year 4	Y	
	Operations	Met in year 4	Y	
Abbreviated 3-Year Renewal				
Option	Section	Description	Met Standard?	Recommendation
A	Academics	Performed as well as the attendance zone on CCRPI measures in year 4	Y	RENEW
	Finances	Met in year 4	Y	
	Operations	Met in year 4	Y	
B	Academics	Outperformed on VAM or was designated as BTO in year 4	N	NON-RENEW
	Finances	Met in year 4	Y	
	Operations	Met in year 4	Y	
C	Academics	Performed as well as the attendance zone on CCRPI 75% of the term	Y	NON-RENEW
	Finances	Met in year 4	Y	
	Operations	Met in year 4	Y	

# COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE TRACK RECORD – ACADEMICS

**Table 1. CCRPI Single Score Performance 2016-2019**

School:	Attendance Zone:		Comparison Scores			% Difference			
Metric	School Year	Grades Served	School Score	District Average	District Weighted	School Weighted	District Average	District Weighted	School Weighted
CCRPI Single Score	2018-19	E, M	88.5	77.1	81.1	83.7	13.8%	8.7%	5.6%
	2017-18	E	75.5	77.8	81.1		-3.0%	-7.2%	
	2016-17	E	79.3	77.8	77.5		1.9%	2.3%	
	2015-16	E	70.1	77.8	74.9		-10.4%	-6.7%	

**Table 2. CCRPI Grade Band, Content Mastery and Progress Scores Performance 2016-2019**

School:	Attendance Zone:		Comparison Scores			% Difference			
School Year	Metric	Grade Cluster	School Score	District Average	District Weighted	School Weighted	District Average	District Weighted	School Weighted
2018-19	Grade Band	E	88.2	77.1	84.7	83.7	13.4%	4.1%	5.2%
	Content Mastery		87.2	67.6	78.2	82.1	25.3%	10.9%	6.1%
	Progress		90	84.4	89.0	88.3	6.4%	1.1%	2.0%
2017-18	Grade Band	E	75.2	77.8	81.1		-3.4%	-7.6%	
	Content Mastery		82.4	65.7	74.1		22.6%	10.7%	
	Progress		70.2	84.4	85.9		-18.4%	-20.1%	
2016-17	Grade Band	E	79.3	72.9	77.5		8.4%	2.3%	
	Content Mastery		37.8	31.3	34.2		18.8%	10.1%	
	Progress		31.4	34.3	34.9		-8.8%	-10.5%	
2015-16	Grade Band	E	70.1	71.7	74.9		-2.3%	-6.7%	
	Content Mastery		32.2	30.0	33.0		7.1%	-2.4%	
	Progress		30.9	33.8	33.8		-9.0%	-8.9%	



# Proposed Attendance Zone

Although schools are ultimately held accountable based on comparison results from districts the school serves during the current charter term, the SCSC may consider comparison data from districts that the school proposes to serve if the charter is renewed.

- In general, state **charter schools will not be granted an amendment to the charter contract in the last couple years of the charter term**. This includes requests to amend the school's attendance zone. However, a school may request a different attendance during the renewal process.
- If requesting a change in attendance zone at renewal, the school should be prepared to provide a **rationale for the change request** and **evidence of enrollment interest** from the additional areas.
- Additionally, the SCSC will pull CCRPI data and compare the school's past scores to those of the proposed attendance zone. If the school **consistently outperforms the districts included in the proposed attendance zone**, it may help inform the terms of renewal. However, renewal without showing performance as compared to the attendance zone currently served is not likely.

# Grade Band Performance

Measure	Grade Band	Charter School Score	Comparison District Score	Outperform?
CCRPI Content Mastery	E	64	70	No
CCRPI Content Mastery	M	72	73	No
CCRPI Progress	E	80	84	No
CCRPI Progress	M	100	84	Yes
CCRPI Grade Band Score	E	75	82	No
CCRPI Grade Band Score	M	96	90	Yes
Value-Added Impact Score	E	0.0283	-0.05	Yes
Value-Added Impact Score	M	0.0345	0.0345	No

Does the Charter School, Meet SCSC Academic Standards?

**YES!**

# Grade Band Performance

To be meeting SCSC academic standards a school must outperform the district(s) included in its attendance zone in all relevant grade bands.

If a school serves across grade bands (i.e. K-8, 6-12, or K-12) and consistently outperforms in one grade band but not the other, the school should consider requesting a charter renewal for only the grade bands in which the school meets standards.

School	GRD	CCRPI Achievement				CCRPI Progress				CCRPI Grade-band Score				CCRPI Single School Score			
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
District	E	42.8	31.9	33.4	35	23.8	33.5	36.4	33.4	73.9	74.2	77.9	78.2	77.2	75.8	79.7	79.7
School	E	41.2	32.4	33.9	33.5	22.1	31.8	35.9	36.9	72.9	74.4	78.4	78.3	80.3	75.5	77.6	73.7
District	M	44.5	33.2	35	35.1	26.9	35.9	38.1	37.5	82.7	77.6	81.3	79	77.2	75.8	79.7	79.7
School	M	45.8	31.1	32.6	28.6	26.8	35.5	33	37.2	83.4	77.6	75.1	77.5	80.3	75.5	77.6	73.7

# Updated Renewal Criteria

## A New School (i.e. a school concluding its first/initial charter term):

- **To be eligible for a standard five-year renewal, a school must:**
  - A. meet financial and operational standards at least 50% of the time (2 of 4 years), OR
  - B. meet financial and operational standards in Year 4 of the charter term, AND
    - meet academic standards at least 75% of the time (3 of the first 4 years of a 5-year charter contract term).
- **To be eligible for an abbreviated three-year renewal, a school must:**
  - must meet financial and operational standards in Year 4 of the charter term, AND
    - A. perform at least as well as (no more than 3% below) the attendance on any one or combination of the CCRPI indicators in all relevant grade bands in Year 4 of the charter term, OR
    - B. outperform on the VAM or be designated BTO in Year 4 of the charter term, OR
    - C. perform at least as well as the attendance zone on any one or combination of the CCRPI indicators outlined within the CPF, 75% of the time.

“as well as” equates to having a score that is no more than 3% below the comparison attendance zone score

## COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE TRACK RECORD -- ACADEMICS

School	G R D	CCRPI Achievement/Content Mastery				CCRPI Progress				CCRPI Grade-band Score				CCRPI Single School Score			
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
District	E	35.8	24.4	24.9	25.7	25.4	34.4	31.6	33.5	65.8	64.5	61.5	62.5	62.6	67.0	65.2	68.3
School	E	31.5	18.9	22.4	23.6	26.1	33.8	34.2	34.6	60.0	64.3	63.6	65.2	58.2	58.8	59.9	66.3
<b>% Difference</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>	<b>-22.5%</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>-8.8%</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>
District	M	35.4	26.7	27.2	28	24.6	34.2	32.6	33.9	62.4	67.9	65.6	68.6	62.6	67.0	65.2	68.3
School	M	29.5	20.1	20.2	23.1	21.6	30.9	30.2	36.5	56.8	58.7	58.7	66.6	58.2	58.8	59.9	66.3
<b>% Difference</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>-16.7%</b>	<b>-24.7%</b>	<b>-25.7%</b>	<b>-17.5%</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>	<b>-9.6%</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>	<b>-10.5%</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>	<b>-8.1%</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>

### Color Codes:

Green = Outperformed Comparison District, Blue = Same As District (Within 3%), Red= More than 3% below the district

School Names	GRD	Value Added Impact Score				Beating the Odds Designation			
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019
District	E	-0.0446	0.0129	-0.0165	0.0517	Did Not BTO	Did Not BTO	Did Not BTO	BTO
School	E	-0.1152	-0.0201	-0.0489	0.0980				
District	M	-0.0331	0.0041	0.0257	0.0380				
School	M	-0.0143	-0.0053	0.0145	0.0898				

### For VAM Comparisons:

Green = Demonstrated positive value-added impact relative to comparison district (at a level that is statistically significant)

Red: Did not demonstrate positive value-added impact relative to comparison district at a level that is statistically significant

# Renewal Timeline

<b>Task</b>	<b>Projected Timeline</b>
<b>Renewal Application Approved</b>	<b>October 30, 2019</b>
<b>Renewal Application Release</b>	<b>November 1, 2019</b>
<b>Interview Scheduling</b>	<b>December 2019</b>
<b>VAM/BTO Released</b>	<b>January 2020</b>
<b>Applications Due</b>	<b>January 6, 2020</b>
<b>Renewal Interviews</b>	<b>January 27-31, 2020</b>
<b>Recommendation Letters Mailed</b>	<b>February 12, 2020</b>
<b>Recommendations Posted</b>	<b>February 19, 2020</b>
<b>Commission Votes on Recommendations</b>	<b>February 26, 2020</b>

# SCSC Renewal Application

The application is more streamlined than a school's original petition because its primary objective is to **evaluate a school's track record of performance** as measured by the CPF.

- Consists of three sections:
  - **Applicant Information** – provides contact information, identifies key components of the school and gives the applicant the opportunity to request changes if renewed
  - **CPF Performance** – completion of a matrix that identifies a school's academic, financial and operational performance on the CPF during the first four years of the charter contract
  - **Optional Narratives** – provides the school the optional opportunity to identify any dynamic external events, mitigating factors and efforts to remediate previously identified performance issues.
- The application is submitted online via the SCSC Administrative Portal.
  - Schools will receive notice that the application is awaiting completion and submission during their renewal cycle.

# SCSC Renewal Interviews

SCSC Renewal Interviews will take place in late January of the renewal year.

- Interviews will last one hour.
- Each interview panel will consist of SCSC staff and two to four Commissioners.

School contingencies should include:

- a school leader (not necessarily the school principal but someone who has leadership duties at the school and can respond to academic questions);
- a business manager or financial director (not necessarily the CFO but someone—other than an ESP representative—who can speak to the school's financial operations);
- a board member who can speak to governance and operations;
- a board member who can speak to finance; and
- a board member who can speak to academics.



# SCSC Renewal Interviews

Be prepared to discuss any dynamic, external events which the school alleges impacted performance.

- Be specific, correlation does not equal causation.
- Do not point to events that are within the school's control (e.g. leadership changes; governance issues; curriculum/programmatic challenges).
- Do not cite your student population as an excuse for poor performance.

Be prepared to discuss any requested changes and how they align with the school's mission and CPF track record.

- For example, if CPF financial data demonstrates a poor track record, the school will need to explain how a request to move into a bigger facility will positively impact this track record.

Be prepared to discuss any *additional* data the school feels the SCSC should consider.

- Don't argue CPF results or state accountability metrics.
- Don't blame existing data on your student population.
- Don't use anecdotes, anecdotal data, and excuses.

Face issues (academic, operational or financial) head on.

- Commissioners need to understand that your school is able to recognize problems if/when they exist.

# SCSC Staff Recommendations

SCSC staff anticipate bringing renewal recommendations to the Commissioners for a vote at the February SCSC meeting of the renewal year.

Recommendations will primary be based on the school's historical track record of performance and are likely to take one of three forms\*:

- SCSC staff is recommending that the school be awarded a full 5-year renewal term.
- SCSC staff is recommending that the school be awarded an abbreviated 3-year renewal term.
- SCSC staff is recommending that the school not be renewed.

Schools that are not renewed will work with SCSC staff to ensure an orderly transition of students and subsequent closure by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the renewal year.

# Questions

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