

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Recommendation to Adopt 2020 and 2021 Petition Calendars

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) approve the FY20 Petition Re-Start and FY21 Petition Calendars, as presented by SCSC Staff.

Rationale: SCSC staff recommends resuming the FY20 petition cycle using a tiered approach. SCSC staff further recommends that the SCSC initiate the FY21 start-up petition cycle for 2022-2023 opening. SCSC staff will present the FY21 start-up application for SCSC review during the September SCSC meeting.

Re-Start of the 2020 Petition Cycle

On May 21, 2020, the SCSC made the difficult decision to suspend the 2020 petition cycle based on the state's \$2B revenue shortfall, which led to significant education funding cuts. The SCSC staff has closely monitored state revenues. Based on increased stabilization, SCSC staff recommends resuming the 2020 petition cycle as follows:

- **Tier 1:** SCSC shall begin accepting FY20 replication and expansion petitions seeking a 2021-2022 opening immediately following SCSC approval of this recommendation, if applicable. Petitions will be due September 4, 2020. SCSC staff will make recommendations during the October SCSC meeting.
- **Tier 2:** **FY20 start-up petitioners may elect to participate in the resumed 2020 petition cycle OR join the 2021 petition cohort, referenced below.** If FY20 start-up petitioners opt to resume the FY20 petition cycle, the SCSC will begin accepting updated petitions October 19, 2020, with a due date of November 20, 2020. SCSC Staff will make recommendations to the SCSC during its March 2021 meeting.

Initiation of 2021 Petition Cycle

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC approve the initiation of the 2021 start-up petition cycle beginning October 19, 2020, with petitions due April 9, 2021. SCSC staff will make recommendations to the SCSC during its July and August 2021 meetings. For all 2021 petitions for which deferred action is recommended, SCSC Staff will assist petitioners beyond August 2021. All 2021 petitions for which no action has been taken by December 31, 2021 shall expire.

SCSC staff shall accept replication, expansion, and transfer petitions seeking a 2022-2023 opening on a rolling basis through August 1, 2020. Recommendations will occur on a rolling basis through October 2021.

SCSC Staff Review

Following the petition submission deadlines, SCSC staff will conduct legal compliance reviews. All petitions that meet legal compliance standards will be reviewed substantively. The SCSC will schedule interviews with petitioner representatives for petitions for which substantive review revealed no significant deficiencies.