



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

1356 Twin Towers East, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Atlanta SMART Academy

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Atlanta SMART Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school serving grades K-8.

Rationale

Atlanta SMART is completing its first five-year charter contract. The school met the eligibility requirements for a standard five-year renewal by outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend for a majority of the current charter term and in the most recent year, and by meeting or approaching financial and operational standards for at least 50 percent of the charter term and in the most recent year.

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.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



Atlanta SMART Academy

Attendance Zone	Statewide
Grade Levels Served	5-8
Total Enrollment	202
Year Opened	2021-2022

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	DNM	MEETS	MEETS	EXCEEDS
FIN	90	90	80/60	90/85
OPS	50	68	73	90

Atlanta SMART Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2026.

Renewal Position

School Model: The mission of Atlanta SMART Academy (Atl. SMART) is to use science, math and the arts to build innovative solutionists. Innovation solutionists are students who can apply knowledge in order to propose multiple researched, supported and well thought answer to a problem. The school utilizes project-based learning with a focus on advanced science and math that includes daily arts instruction. Additionally, the school offers an longer school year calendar and four extended days and one shortened day a week.

Academic Performance: Atlanta SMART has shown steady academic growth each year of its charter term, improving from a “Does Not Meet” designation in its first year to a “Meets” in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. In the 2024-2025 school year, the school demonstrated strong academic growth in the elementary grade band, including a 22-point increase in Content Mastery and a 32-point increase in Progress. The school’s elementary grade band outperformed its School Comparison across all measures, including a 10-point outperformance in Grade Band Score. This, paired with a relatively steady performance in the middle grade band, earned the school an Exceeds designation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Financial Performance: Atlanta SMART met financial standards in the first two years of operations but then saw a decline in FY24 due to a reduction in unrestricted days' cash on hand after the one-time \$775,000 ESSER III – APR Grant was no longer available. In FY25, Atlanta SMART returned to meeting financial standards. Atlanta SMART also received a clean audit for FY25, further demonstrating its efforts to improve financial performance.



Operational Performance: Atlanta SMART struggled to meet operational standards but has consistently improved each year, earning a “Meets” designation for the 2024-2025 school year for the first time since opening. In 2024-2025, the school received three findings in operations monitoring, which were remedied to regain compliance. The school’s continued improvement in the school’s operational score suggests Atlanta SMART is on the right track to achieve strong operational performance.



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

1356 Twin Towers East, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Liberty Tech Charter School.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Liberty Tech Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale

Liberty Tech Charter School is completing its second five-year charter contract. The school met the eligibility requirements for a standard five-year renewal by outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend and by meeting financial and operational standards in all years of the charter term.

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.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



Liberty Tech Charter School

Attendance Zone	Statewide
Grade Levels Served	K-8
Total Enrollment	416
Year Opened	2016-2017

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	MEETS	MEETS	EXCEEDS	EXCEEDS
FIN	95	100	100/95	95/80
OPS	98	92	85	92

Liberty Tech Charter School is completing its second five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2026.

Renewal Position

School Model: The mission of Liberty Tech Charter School (Liberty Tech) is "to educate students with a project-based learning environment utilizing STEAM & classical methodologies." The school implements a Classical/STEM hybrid curriculum and utilizes a House System in grades 7 and up to learn about college and career readiness skills, receive mentoring, and establish a sense of belonging.

Academic Performance: Liberty Tech has met academic standards every year since opening, and in the two most recent school years, it exceeded those standards. The school generally outperforms in both grade bands served and across CCRPI measures. In 2024-2025, the school outperformed its Comparisons across all measures and grade bands, including 10+ point outperformances in Content Mastery.

Financial Performance: Liberty Tech has maintained strong financial performance for eight consecutive years, consistently meeting near-term and sustainability fiscal standards. The school received a clean audit in FY25. Over the past three years, SCSC reviews have noted recurring challenges in meeting federal financial requirements, particularly in maintaining accurate inventory records. Despite these challenges, Liberty Tech's overall financial performance remains solid.

Operational Performance: Liberty Tech has met operational standards for the past seven years. In the 2024-2025 school year, the school received two findings during monitoring, which it remedied to regain compliance. Overall, the school has a proven track record of strong operational performance.



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

1356 Twin Towers East, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Northwest Classical Academy.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Northwest Classical Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale

Northwest Classical Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract. The school met the eligibility requirements for a standard five-year renewal by outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend for a majority of the current charter term and in the most recent year, by meeting financial standards in all years, and by meeting or approaching operational standards for at least 50 percent of the charter term and in the most recent year. 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.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



Northwest Classical Academy

Attendance Zone	Statewide
Grade Levels Served	K-11
Total Enrollment	789
Year Opened	2021-2022

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	MEETS	MEETS	APP	MEETS
FIN	100	100	100/80	85/85
OPS	69	74	80	98

Northwest Classical Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2026.

Renewal Position

School Model: The mission of Northwest Classical Academy (NCA) is “to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.” The school implements an educational program focused on a Classical/traditional liberal arts education model, literacy skills built through phonics, grammar, and Latin instruction, a content-rich curriculum that builds critical cultural literacy in all grades, and an emphasis on civic responsibility and virtue as the focus of culture and thematic analysis.

Academic Performance: NCA met academic standards in the first two years of the charter term by outperforming the District Comparison score in the elementary grade band and outperforming both the District and School Comparison scores in the middle grade band. NCA approached standards in the 2023-2024 school year, performing on par with its Comparisons. The school also began serving High School in the 2023-2024 school year, for which it performed close to its Comparisons across measures, including a 2-point outperformance of its District Comparison in Content Mastery.

In the 2024-2025 school year, NCA met academic standards by outperforming its Comparison scores in Content Mastery, Progress, and Grade Band Score in both elementary and middle grades. In High School, NCA outperformed the District Comparison in Content Mastery.

Financial Performance: NCA has consistently met financial standards since its opening by meeting near-term and sustainability fiscal measures and demonstrating appropriate oversight and management. The school’s scores declined slightly in FY25. NCA lost points on Indicator 1 due to an elevated debt-to-asset ratio. The higher ratio was driven by a significantly higher lease liability due within one year. However,



NCA received a clean audit for FY25, reflecting solid internal controls, and the school continues to maintain strong financial performance.

Operational Performance: NCA has consistently improved its operational CPF score every year. While the school struggled to meet operational standards in its first two years, it received a “Meets” designation for the 2023–2024 school year. This is largely due to the school's continued improvement in SCSC operations monitoring. In 2024-2025, the school only received one finding in SCSC monitoring and remedied it to regain compliance. The continued improvement in the school’s operational score suggests it is on the right track to maintain strong operational performance.



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

1356 Twin Towers East, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for SLAM Academy of Atlanta.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for SLAM Academy of Atlanta by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated three-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale

SLAM Academy of Atlanta is completing a probationary two-year charter contract. The school met the financial and operational standards for renewal by earning a “Meets” designation in both sections for the two most recent years of the charter term.

In those same years, SLAM Academy of Atlanta earned a “Varied” designation in academics. The “Varied” designation indicates that a school met standards in one grade band but not the other. In the most recent year for which data are available, it outperformed the comparison score in the elementary grade band but not in the middle grade band. Seventy-five percent of student enrollment is in grades K-5, indicating that the majority of students are receiving a better educational option.

All evidence indicates that, with an additional three years, the school will continue to improve its middle grades performance, operating as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC’s mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



SLAM Academy of Atlanta

Attendance Zone	Atlanta Public Schools and South Fulton County
Grade Levels Served	K-8
Total Enrollment	317
Year Opened	2018-2019

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	APP	Varied	Varied
FIN	60	90/85	90/90
OPS	77	82	86

SLAM Academy of Atlanta is completing its second charter term, which runs from July 2024 to June 2026. The school was previously renewed in the 2023-2024 cycle for a two-year probationary charter term.

Renewal Position

School Model: SLAM Academy of Atlanta’s (SLAM) mission is to provide an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning environment that motivates all students to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom and prepares them for future success. The school offers standards-driven core content instruction using sports-themed scope and sequence derived through a partnership with the SLAM Foundation, Inc. The elementary (K-5) program will incorporate STEM, project-based learning, and a computer science course. The secondary (6-8) program focus will offer a career-oriented model to generate student interest and preparation for sports-related fields.

Academic Performance: SLAM did not meet Academic standards in the final year of its first charter contract and thus earned a probationary two-year contract at renewal. During this time, the school has been required to submit benchmark academic data to SCSC staff. For most of its current charter term, the school’s middle-grade band has comfortably outperformed its comparison group, led by strong CCRPI Progress scores. Roughly 75% of students served, however, are in the elementary grade band. In this grade band, SLAM did not outperform its Comparison in either 2022-2023 or in 2023-2024, though its Content Mastery score has trended upwards.

CCRPI results for 2024-2025 reflect the ongoing academic improvement in the elementary grade band, in which the school outperformed its Comparison in both Content Mastery and Progress. This year’s improvement earned the school recognition as a “CSI Growth School” by GaDOE. However, the middle



school slightly underperformed relative to its Comparison, due to a slight dip in Content Mastery and a significant dip in Progress, as well as a slight uptick in the School Comparison's performance. This earns the school a "Varied" designation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Financial Performance: SLAM has met financial standards for FY24 and FY25. Previously, the school struggled in various areas, including the annual ratios of debt to income and debt to assets under indicator 1. SLAM also struggled with its enrollment variance, meeting the LUA manual, and managing the inventory list under indicator 2. However, by the 2024–2025 monitoring period, SLAM has successfully addressed most of these concerns and received a clean audit for FY25. The October 2025 FTE data collection shows that SLAM's enrollment exceeded its projection, so the school will receive additional state funding when the amended FY26 budget is passed, which should increase its cash reserves. Overall, the financial improvements SLAM has made in FY24 and FY25 reflect the school's commitment to improving its stability and stronger financial management.

Operational Performance: After struggling for a couple of years, SLAM met operational standards again in the 2023-2024 school year. Starting in 2022-2023, the school has consistently improved in SCSC monitoring. The school received three findings during SCSC monitoring in 2024-2025; however, it remedied two of them to regain compliance. The continued improvement in the school's operational score suggests SLAM is on the right track to achieve a strong operational performance.