

# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Atlanta Heights Charter School</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Atlanta Public Schools</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition for Atlanta Heights Charter School be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### **Rationale:**

Atlanta Heights Charter School (AHCS) met the expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in the fourth year of its current charter term. Given the improvement AHCS demonstrated during its charter term in meeting academic, financial and operational expectations, the school's performance evidences that the school will likely demonstrate its ability to consistently meet SCSC expectations during a renewed 3-year charter term.

#### **1. Academic Performance**

During the fourth year of the current charter term, AHCS outperformed its comparison district (Atlanta Public Schools) in all grade bands served utilizing progress scores as measured by the CCRPI. Additionally, AHCS received a designation of "Beating the Odds" under GaDOE's Beating the Odds analysis. Further, AHCS' achievement and progress scores as measured by the CCRPI and the school's value-added impact scores as measured by the SCSC Value-Value Added model, display improvement over the course of the current charter term.

#### **2. Financial Performance**

Atlanta Heights Charter School met standards in three out of four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. During the charter term, audits were submitted in a timely manner prior to the deadline and appear to demonstrate the school's ability to adequately manage cash and debt.

#### **3. Operational Compliance**

Atlanta Heights Charter School met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in three out of four years of the charter term for which data is available. On-site monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

**Link to Petition and Related Materials:**

View the petition for Atlanta Heights Charter School [here](#).

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Cherokee Charter Academy</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Cherokee County School District, Bartow County School System, Cartersville City Schools, Pickens County Schools, Marietta City Schools, and Cobb County School District</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition for Cherokee Charter Academy be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### **Rationale:**

Cherokee Charter Academy (CCA) met the expectations established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF). 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**

Cherokee Charter Academy met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) all years of its current charter term for which academic data is available when considering CCA's proposed amended attendance zone. CCA outperformed the comparison district in its proposed amended attendance zone (Cherokee County School District, Bartow County School System, Cartersville City Schools, Pickens County Schools, Marietta City Schools, and Cobb County School District) in all grade bands served utilizing a combination of the CCRPI Achievement, Progress, and Single Score measures.

#### **2. Financial Performance**

Cherokee Charter Academy met standards all years of its current charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. On-site monitoring during the term revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance. Audits were submitted in a timely manner prior to the established deadline and appear to demonstrate the school's ability to adequately manage cash and debt.

#### **3. Operational Compliance**

Cherokee Charter Academy met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in three out of four years for which data is available. On-site monitoring during the charter term revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

### **Link to Petition and Related Materials:**

View the petition for Cherokee Charter Academy [here](#).

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Coweta Charter Academy</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Coweta, Meriwether, and Spalding Counties</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition Coweta Charter Academy be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### **Rationale:**

Coweta Charter Academy (CCAS) substantively met the expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF). 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**

Coweta Charter Academy met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in three out of the four years of its current charter term for which academic data is available. CCAS outperformed its comparison district (Coweta County School System) in all grade bands served utilizing a combination of the CCRPI Achievement, CCRPI Progress, CCRPI Single Score, and Beating the Odds measures.

#### **2. Financial Performance**

Coweta Charter Academy consistently fails to meet SCSC financial expectations as measured by the CPF largely due to the structure of the school's facility agreement that depletes its debt to asset ratio. On-site monitoring during the current term has revealed no additional significant deficiencies relating to financial performance. Audits were submitted in a timely manner prior to the deadline and appear to demonstrate the school's ability to adequately manage cash and debt. While CCAS should continue to improve its debt to asset ratio to ensure financial viability, the school currently presents an overall position of financial health that illustrates the school will be able to meet its financial obligations during an additional 5-year charter term.

#### **3. Operational Compliance**

Coweta Charter Academy met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in three out of four years of the charter term for which data is available. On-site monitoring during the charter term revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

### **Link to Petition and Related Materials:**

[View the petition for Coweta Charter Academy here.](#)

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Fulton Leadership</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Atlanta Public Schools, Clayton County Public Schools and the southern portion of Fulton County Schools</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>6-12</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition for Fulton Leadership Academy be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### **Rationale:**

Fulton Leadership Academy (FLA) met the expectations established by the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF). 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**

Fulton Leadership Academy met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in three out of the four years of its current charter term for which academic data is available when considering FLA's proposed amended attendance zone. FLA outperformed the comparison district in its proposed amended attendance zone (schools located in the southern portion of the Fulton County Schools school district, Atlanta Public Schools, and Clayton County Public Schools) in all grade bands served utilizing CCRPI measures.

#### **2. Financial Performance**

Fulton Leadership Academy met standards in three out of four years for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. On-site monitoring during the charter term revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance. Audits were submitted in a timely manner prior to the established deadline and appear to demonstrate the school's ability to adequately manage cash and debt.

#### **3. Operational Compliance**

Fulton Leadership Academy met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in three out of four years. On-site monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

### **Link to Petition and Related Materials:**

View the petition for Fulton Leadership Academy [here](#).

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Georgia Connections Academy</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>6-12</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition for Georgia Connections Academy be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### Rationale:

Georgia Connections Academy (GACA) met the expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in the fourth year of its current charter term. Given the improvement GACA demonstrated during its charter term in meeting academic, financial and operational expectations, the school's performance evidences that the school will likely demonstrate its ability to consistently meet SCSC expectations during a renewed 3-year charter term.

#### 1. Academic Performance

Georgia Connections Academy met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in the fourth year of its current charter term when considering the school's proposed new grade composition of grades 6-12. In the fourth year of its charter term, GACA outperformed its comparison district (statewide average) in grades 6-8 as measured by the CCRPI Achievement subscore. Additionally, GACA performed statistically similar to its comparison district in grades 9-12 as measured by the CCRPI Progress subscore in the fourth year of its charter contract. Further, GACA's performance in grades 6-12 as measured by the CCRPI Achievement and CCRPI Progress subscores has improved over the course of its current charter term.

#### 2. Financial Performance

Georgia Connections Academy met standards in the fourth year of the current charter term on the Financial portion of the CPF. Audits were submitted in a timely manner before the deadline and appear to demonstrate the school's ability to adequately manage cash and debt.

#### 3. Operational Compliance

Georgia Connections Academy met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in three out of four years for which data is available. On-site monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

### Link to Petition and Related Materials:

View the petition for Georgia Connections Academy [here](#).

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	Graduation Achievement Charter High School
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	Statewide
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	9-12
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	The school formally <u>withdrew</u> its petition from consideration. Accordingly, the SCSC need not take official action on this petition.

**Link to Petition and Related Materials:**  
[View the petition for Graduation Achievement Charter High School here.](#)

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Gwinnett County Public Schools, DeKalb County School District and Fulton County Schools</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition for Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school to begin on July 1, 2019.

### Rationale:

Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett (Ivy Gwinnett) substantively met the expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) during the current charter term. Given the academic track record and improvement Ivy Gwinnett demonstrated during its charter term in meeting financial and operational expectations, the school's performance evidences that the school will likely demonstrate its ability to consistently meet SCSC expectations during a renewed 3-year charter term.

#### 1. Academic Performance

Ivy Gwinnett met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in three out of the four years of its charter term for which academic data is available. Ivy Gwinnett outperformed its comparison district (Gwinnett County Public Schools, DeKalb County School District and Fulton County Schools) in all grade bands served utilizing achievement and progress scores as measured by the CCRPI.

#### 2. Financial Performance

Ivy Gwinnett met standards in only one year of the current charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the Performance Framework. On-site monitoring revealed significant deficiencies relating to financial compliance with established financial policies and procedures. Although audits were not submitted in a timely manner before the deadline in at least two of four years of the charter term, the school appears to demonstrate the ability to adequately manage cash and debt. Despite these deficiencies, Ivy Gwinnett demonstrated marked improvement in the school's financial systems over the course of the current charter term.

#### 3. Operational Compliance

Ivy Gwinnett did not meet standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in any year of the current charter term for which data is available. Although annual on-site monitoring revealed deficiencies, the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies. Additionally, Ivy Gwinnett demonstrated marked improvement in the school's operational systems over the course of the current charter term.

### Link to Petition and Related Materials:

[View the petition for Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett here.](#)

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>DeKalb County School District and Atlanta Public Schools</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>K-8</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition for Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### Rationale:

Ivy Preparatory Academy substantively met the expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) during the current charter term. Given the improvement Ivy Kirkwood demonstrated during its charter term in meeting academic, financial and operational expectations, the school's performance evidences that the school will likely demonstrate its ability to consistently meet SCSC expectations during a renewed 3-year charter term.

#### 1. Academic Performance

Ivy Kirkwood met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in the fourth year of its current charter term. In the fourth year of its charter term, Ivy Kirkwood outperformed its comparison district (DeKalb County School District and Atlanta Public Schools) in all grade bands served on all academic measures in the SCSC CPF- CCRPI Achievement, Progress, Single Score, Value-Added Impact Scores and was designated Beating the Odds. Additionally, Ivy Kirkwood's CCRPI and value-added impact scores, display improvement over the course of the current charter term.

#### 2. Financial Performance

Ivy Kirkwood met standards in only one year of the current charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the Performance Framework. On-site monitoring revealed significant deficiencies relating to the school's financial manual and its consistency with the Georgia Department of Education's Financial Management for Georgia Local Units of Administration Manual (LUA). Although audits were not submitted in a timely manner before the deadline in at least two of four years of the charter term, the school appears to demonstrate the ability to adequately manage cash and debt. Despite these deficiencies, Ivy Kirkwood demonstrated marked improvement in the school's financial systems over the course of the current charter term.

#### 3. Operational Compliance

Ivy Kirkwood failed to meet standards in any year of the current charter term for which data is available on the Operational portion of the CPF. Although annual on-site monitoring revealed deficiencies, the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies. Additionally, Ivy Kirkwood demonstrated marked improvement in the school's operational systems over the course of the current charter term.

### Link to Petition and Related Materials:

[View the petition for Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood here.](#)

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# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Staff Recommendation for the 2018 Cycle February 28, 2018

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<b>School:</b>	<b>Pataula Charter Academy</b>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	<b>Baker County Schools, Calhoun County Schools, Clay County Schools, Early County Schools, Randolph County Schools and Terrell County Schools</b>
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	<b>K-12</b>
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the renewal petition Pataula Charter Academy be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

### **Rationale:**

Pataula Charter Academy met the expectations established by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF). 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**

Pataula Charter Academy met SCSC academic expectations as measured by the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) in all years of its current charter term for which academic data is available. PCA outperformed its comparison district (Baker County Schools, Calhoun County Schools, Clay County Schools, Early County Schools, and Randolph County Schools) in all grade bands served utilizing a combination of CCRPI Achievement, Progress, Single Score and Beating the Odds measures.

#### **2. Financial Performance**

Pataula Charter Academy met standards in all years of its current charter term for which data is available on the Financial portion of the CPF. On-site monitoring during the charter term revealed no significant deficiencies relating to financial performance. Audits were submitted in a timely manner prior to the established deadline and appear to demonstrate the school's ability to adequately manage cash and debt.

#### **3. Operational Compliance**

Pataula Charter Academy met standards on the Operational portion of the CPF in all years of its current charter term for which data is available. On-site monitoring revealed minimal findings and the school has a history of quickly remedying any identified deficiencies.

### **Link to Petition and Related Materials:**

View the petition for Pataula Charter Academy [here](#).

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