



# 2015-2016 State Charter Schools Commission Governance Training Program

Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f), requires every member of a governing board of a state charter school to participate in annual governing board training. In 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, the state charter school governing board training was provided directly by the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) at no cost to the schools or governing board members. While the SCSC received overwhelmingly positive reviews regarding the quality and content of these trainings, several schools requested additional training opportunities to better accommodate their busy schedules. As a result, the SCSC will pilot a program in Fiscal Year 2016 whereby state charter school governing board members are granted additional flexibility with regard to how they fulfill the statutory annual training requirements.

There are two ways state charter school governing board members may fulfill the statutory training requirements for the 2016 Fiscal Year:

1. State charter school governing board members may attend one of the two governing board training opportunities provided to state charters by the SCSC at no charge;
- OR**
2. State charter school governing board members may use their own funds to contract with one of the training providers approved by the State Board of Education to provide governance training to charter schools<sup>1</sup> if the training:
    - a. Includes at least 12 contact hours of instruction in topics reflecting those discussed at the SCSC-provided governance training, including, at a minimum, best practices in charter school governance, constitutional and statutory requirements relating to public records and meetings, and the requirements of applicable statutes, rules, and regulations; and
    - b. The SCSC receives certification directly from the training provider that identifies the date the training was provided, the governing board members in attendance, the course sessions and topics covered, and the contact hours of instruction provided to each governing board member by course and topic.

While additional flexibility is being provided to state charter school governing boards with regard to governance training requirements, the SCSC strongly encourages state charter school governing board members to attend one of the governance trainings conducted by the SCSC if at all possible. SCSC training opportunities provide state charter schools the unique opportunity to hear and discuss issues and concerns directly with their authorizer. Further, the SCSC staff's unique understanding of the compliance issues facing state charter schools ensures that SCSC training sessions are always topical, relevant, and timely. Lastly, SCSC governance board trainings are conducted at no cost to the school or

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<sup>1</sup> The State Board of Education approves governance training providers for charter schools and local boards of education. Only training provided by a training provider approved to provide training to charter schools with courses specific to charter schools will fulfill SCSC training requirements. Trainings or courses geared designed for local boards of education will not fulfill SCSC training requirements.

and/or governing board member, and the SCSC will reimburse lodging and mileage expenses for board members for which location is more than 50 miles from both their residence and school location.

The SCSC will conduct two governance training opportunities during Fiscal Year 2016. The first opportunity will be held in the fall and will occur in the southern portion of the state. The second opportunity will be held in February at a venue in or around Atlanta. Additional details regarding the training opportunities conducted by the SCSC will be released at a later date.

State charter schools must demonstrate that every governing board member holding office during the 2016 Fiscal Year fulfilled his or her governance training requirements by June 30, 2016. The failure of even one governing board member to receive required governance training will negatively affect the school's operational compliance assessment. Accordingly, it is incumbent on all governing board members to hold their colleagues accountable for fulfilling the annual training requirements as the failure to do so will negatively impact the school as a whole.