

# SCSC Accountability Update: *2016-2017 Academic Year*

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*State Charter School Performance and  
Progress Toward Renewal*

March 28, 2018



## 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.

# SCSC Evaluation Tool: Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF)

- In 2016, the SCSC adopted a Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) to set forth clear, quantifiable, rigorous, and attainable goals in the areas of academic achievement, financial viability, and organizational compliance.
- A school's performance on the CPF informs SCSC decision making over the course of the charter term and at renewal.
- State Charter Schools are expected to meet academic standards during every year of the charter term; however, a school will be considered eligible for renewal if it meets academic, financial, and operational standards at least 75% of the time (in 3 out of the first 4 years of a 5-year charter contract term).

# CPF Standards

The three areas of performance covered by the framework—academic achievement, financial management, and organizational 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 at a traditional public school?
2. Financial Performance: Is the school financially viable?
3. Organizational Performance: Is the organization effective, compliant, and well run?

# Academic Metrics Within the CPF

## The College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI):

The CCRPI is the official state accountability metric for public schools in Georgia. CCRPI Achievement Scores and CCRPI Progress Scores are weighted equally within the CPF.

## The Value-Added Approach (VAA) and the Beating The Odds (BTO) Measure:

The Value-Added Approach (VAA) and the BTO) are predictive measures used to assess state charter schools based on their ability to positively impact the unique student populations they serve.

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Schools may satisfy annual academic requirements by:

Outperforming their comparison district(s) on at least one of the following measures:

- **CCRPI Achievement,**
- **CCRPI Progress (Growth),**
- **Weighted CCRPI Score (“Single Score”),**
- **Value-Added Impact on Student Achievement**

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

# Financial Metrics Within the CPF

## Near Term Measures:

Near term measures assess a school's financial position and viability in the upcoming year. Schools meeting the desired standards demonstrate a low risk of financial distress in the near future.

## Sustainability Measures:

Sustainability measures are designed to depict a school's financial position and viability over time. Schools that meet the desired standards demonstrate a low risk of financial distress throughout the remainder of the charter term.

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Schools may satisfy annual financial requirements by:

Demonstrating adequate performance on the following near term measures:

- **current ratio**
- **unrestricted days cash**
- **enrollment variance**, and
- **default**

AND on the following sustainability measures:

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

# Operational Metrics Within the CPF

Charter Contracts, SBOE Rule, SCSC Rule, and State and Federal Law:

Schools are expected to operate in compliance with their charter contracts, and they may not waive certain portions of rule and law.

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.**

**STATE CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OVER TIME, CPF STANDINGS**

Met Standards

Did Not Meet Standards

ACA = ACADEMIC STANDARDS    FIN = FINANCIAL STANDARDS    OPS = OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

School	2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017		
	ACA	FIN	OPS	ACA	FIN	OPS	ACA	FIN	OPS	ACA	FIN	OPS
Atlanta Heights Charter School	56	85	86	6	55	81	97	75	78	97	75	100
Cherokee Charter Academy	100	75	91	61	80	81	61	90	78	61	80	91
Coweta Charter Academy	100	45	95	61	50	77	97	70	82	97	60	87
Fulton Leadership Charter Aca.	100	85	78	62	80	86	2	90	87	97	50	87
Georgia Connections Academy	6	70	83	60	50	70	0	70	88	61	75	93
Grad. Achiev. Charter HS	1	80	63	0	35	62	0	90	83	0	75	69
Ivy Prep Academy at Gwinnett	97	65	74	97	25	53	97	35	56	1	75	59
Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood	100	80	65	56	35	66	61	40	53	97	30	59
Pataula Charter Academy	100	85	86	100	80	86	98	80	81	97	80	100
Georgia Cyber Academy	*			1	70	74	1	75	92	1	75	100
Odyssey Charter School				51	65	67	97	95	78	61	85	77
Utopian Academy for the Arts	...			81	20	68	1	40	68	1	60	68
DuBois Integrity Academy	...			...			1	65	69	97	50	79
Foothills Education Charter HS	...			...			1	100	86	1	95	97
Int'l Charter School of Atlanta	...			...			97	60	85	97	75	89
GA School for Innov. & the Classics	...			...			1	75	77	97	95	70
Scintilla Charter Academy	...			...			1	55	81	97	50	81
Brookhaven Innovation Academy	...			...			...			1	30	91
Cirrus Charter Academy	...			...			...			1	50	70
Liberty Tech	...			...			...			97	95	68
Southwest GA STEM	...			...			...			1	80	56
Statesboro STEAM (formerly CCAT)	<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			61	80	100
Mountain Ed. Charter HS	71	80	91	80	95	86	97	100	91	97	90	82



# Performance Trends: Academics

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 11 of 23 schools (48%) met academic performance standards in the 2016-2017 school year. That's up from 37% in 2015-16 and 28% in 2014-15.
  - 9 schools (39%) satisfied requirements through their performance on first look indicators: CCRPI Achievement OR CCRPI Progress.
  - 2 schools (9%) satisfied requirements through their performance on second look indicators: CCRPI Single Score, Value-Added Impact OR BTO Status

## GRADE BAND PERFORMANCE

- Schools demonstrated the strongest performance in the elementary school grade band.
  - 10 of 16 schools serving elementary grades (63%) outperformed their comparison districts in the elementary school grade band.
- Schools demonstrated the weakest performance in the high school grade band.
  - 3 of 8 schools serving high school grades (38%) outperformed their comparison district(s) in the high school grade band.

# Performance Trends: Operations

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 13 of 23 schools (57%) met operational performance standards in the 2016-2017 school year. (In 2015-2016, 10 of 19 schools (53%) met operational performance standards.)

## AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- Generally, schools improved in the following areas:
  - Ensuring due process rights of students in the student disciplinary process
  - Documenting federal expenditures

## CONTINUED CHALLENGES

- As a cohort, state charter schools continue to struggle with compliance as it relates to:
  - Child abuse and neglect training and reporting policies
  - Student promotion and retention policies
  - Ensuring schools are following the provisions in GaDOE's LUA Manual for financial policies

**STATE CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OVER TIME, CPF STANDINGS**

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Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood	100	80	65	56	35	66	61	40	53	97	30	59
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Foothills Education Charter HS	...			...			1	100	86	1	95	97
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GA School for Innov. & the Classics	...			...			1	75	77	97	95	70
Scintilla Charter Academy	...			...			1	55	81	97	50	81
Brookhaven Innovation Academy	...			...			...			1	30	91
Cirrus Charter Academy	...			...			...			1	50	70
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# What's Next?

1. School Performance Review Presentations to Commissioners
2. New Supports and Trainings for 2018-2019
3. Charter Renewal Cycle

# Performance Presentations By Schools

## Structure

- Schools not meeting standards in 2016-2017 will have the opportunity to come before commissioners to present plans for improvement and to respond to questions about performance and governance.

## Purpose

- To engage directly with boards and school leaders on critical issues related to renewal.

## Timeline

- Schools may choose to present at the May 30<sup>st</sup> SCSC Meeting or the June 27<sup>th</sup> SCSC Meeting.
- SCSC staff will be sending additional information to schools in mid-April.

# New Supports and Trainings

- *New Schools*
  - ❑ SCSC schools will work with a consultant to help with implementing the requirements of the SCSC Pre-opening Checklist during their planning year.
- *Academics*
  - ❑ *Academic Support Conference*- A new 1.5 day intensive workshop for school leadership/Instructional teams with a focus on Data Analysis, Curriculum Alignment, Assessment and Instruction.
  - ❑ *LEA Reporting Training*- A full day training for school leadership to familiarize them with the data systems they will be using to report academic data in the upcoming year.
- *Finance*
  - ❑ *Charter Schools Financial Management Program with Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA*- Courses for SCSC school administrators and board members that build charter-specific financial management skills.
- *Human Capital* - The SCSC continues to partner with external organizations to support state charter schools in:
  - Improving board capacity and function
  - Leader development
  - Teacher recruitment and retention

# Charter Renewals

- The SCSC just renewed 8 schools. There are 3 schools up for renewal next year.
- Renewal hearings will take place in late winter/early spring 2019.
- The following factors will be taken into consideration when drafting recommendations to renew/non-renew:
  - Has the school met academic, financial, and operational standards on the CPF 75% of the time (3 out of the last 4 years)?
  - If the school has not consistently met standards in any area throughout the charter term, is it meeting standards in all three areas of the CPF in Year 4?
    - Note: Year 4 status would only be taken into consideration for schools in their first charter term. (This applies to all those schools up for renewal next year.)

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Coweta Charter Academy	100	45	95	61	50	77	97	70	82	97	60	87			
Fulton Leadership Charter Aca.	100	85	78	62	80	86	2	90	87	97	50	87			
Georgia Connections Academy	6	70	83	60	50	70	0	70	88	61	75	93	—Year 1 of New Charter Term—		
Ivy Prep Academy at Gwinnett	97	65	74	97	25	53	97	35	56	1	75	59			
Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood	100	80	65	56	35	66	61	40	53	97	30	59			
Pataula Charter Academy	100	85	86	100	80	86	98	80	81	97	80	100			
Grad. Achiev. Charter HS	1	80	63	0	35	62	0	90	83	0	75	69	<i>Closed</i>		
Georgia Cyber Academy				1	70	74	1	75	92	1	75	100	—Year 4 of Term—		
Odyssey Charter School				51	65	67	97	95	78	61	85	77	<i>Renewal Determination: Spring 2019</i>		
Utopian Academy for the Arts				81	20	68	1	40	68	1	60	68			
DuBois Integrity Academy							1	65	69	97	50	79			
Foothills Education Charter HS							1	100	86	1	95	97	—Year 3 of Term—		
Int'l Charter School of Atlanta							97	60	85	97	75	89	<i>Renewal Determination: Spring 2020</i>		
GA School for Innov. & the Classics							1	75	77	97	95	70			
Scintilla Charter Academy							1	55	81	97	50	81			
Brookhaven Innovation Academy										1	30	91			
Cirrus Charter Academy										1	50	70	—Year 2 of Term—		
Liberty Tech										97	95	68	<i>Renewal Determination: Spring 2021</i>		
Southwest GA STEM										1	80	56			
Statesboro STEAM (formerly CCAT)	<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			61	80	100			
Mountain Ed. Charter HS	71	80	91	80	95	86	97	100	91	97	90	82	Year 5 of 10 Year Term		



# Conclusion

- Schools will be presenting plans for improvement to commissioners in June.
- SCSC staff will continue providing dynamic supports in an effort to increase the capacity of state charter schools.
- 3 renewal hearings will take place in early 2019. Recommendations will be based on each school's ability to meet standards outlined within the CPF.
- SCSC staff will provide commissioners regular updates as new data becomes available.

*Questions?*