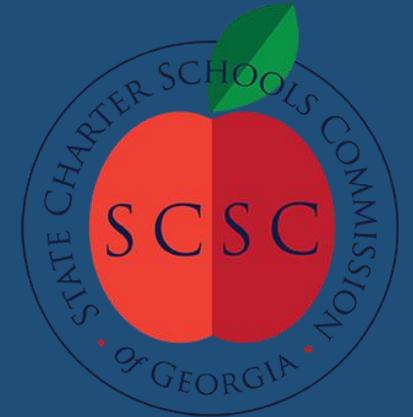


# SCSC Accountability Update: *2017-2018 Academic Year*

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*State Charter School Performance and  
Progress Toward Renewal*

February 27, 2019



# 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 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.

## The Value-Added Model (VAM) and the Beating The Odds (BTO) Measure:

The VAM 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 Content Mastery,**
- **CCRPI Progress,**
- **CCRPI Grade Band Score,**
- **CCRPI 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 on debt**

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.**

	2013-2014			2014-2015			2015-2016			2016-2017			2017-2018		
School	ACA	FIN	OPS	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	2	75	100
Cherokee Charter Academy	100	75	91	61	80	81	61	90	78	61	80	91	62	80	91
Coweta Charter Academy	100	45	95	61	50	77	97	70	82	97	60	81	98	55	90
Fulton Leadership Charter Aca.	100	85	78	62	80	86	2	90	87	97	50	87	62	20	99
Georgia Connections Academy	6	70	83	60	50	70	0	70	88	61	75	93	96	70	88
Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood	100	80	65	56	35	66	61	40	53	97	30	59	98	45	87
Pataula Charter Academy	100	85	86	100	80	86	98	80	81	97	80	100	98	85	98
Georgia Cyber Academy				1	70	74	1	75	92	1	75	100	0	75	100
Odyssey Charter School				51	65	67	97	95	78	61	85	77	62	90	100
Utopian Academy for the Arts				81	20	68	1	40	68	1	60	68	98	50	87
DuBois Integrity Academy							1	65	69	97	50	79	98	70	80
Foothills Education Charter HS							1	100	86	1	95	97	96	95	99
Int'l Charter School of Atlanta							97	60	85	97	75	89	98	65	80
GA School for Innov. & the Classics							1	75	77	97	95	70	98	TBD	74
Scintilla Charter Academy							1	55	81	97	50	81	0	60	100
Brookhaven Innovation Academy										1	30	91	98	60	91
Cirrus Charter Academy										1	50	70	0	40	85
Liberty Tech										97	95	68	98	95	88
Southwest GA STEM										1	80	56	2	TBD	66
Statesboro STEAM (formerly CCAT)	<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			<i>Previous Charter Term</i>			61	80	100	62	65	88
Coastal Plains													0	85	95
Genesis Academy for Boys													62	70	76
Genesis Academy for Girls													2	60	78
International Academy of Smyrna													62	30	89
Resurgence Hall													98	85	84
SAIL – School for Arts-Infused Learning													98	15	93
Mountain Ed. Charter HS	71	80	91	80	95	86	97	100	91	97	90	82	96	90	96

# Performance Trends: Academics

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 14 of 27 schools (52%) met academic performance standards in the 2017-2018 school year. That's up from 48% in 2016-17. Of the schools meeting standards:
  - 12 schools (86%) satisfied requirements through their performance on first look indicators: CCRPI Achievement OR CCRPI Progress OR CCRPI Grade Band Score.
  - 2 schools (14%) 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 middle and high school grade bands.
  - 13 of 21 schools serving middle grades (62%) outperformed their comparison districts in the middle school grade band.
  - 5 of 8 schools serving high grades (63%) outperformed their comparison districts in the high school grade band.
- Schools demonstrated the weakest performance in the elementary school grade band.
  - 10 of 21 schools serving elementary school grades (48%) outperformed their comparison district(s) in the elementary school grade band.

# Performance Trends: Finance

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 10 of 26 schools (38%) met financial performance standards in the 2017-2018 school year. (In 2016-2017, only 14 of 22 schools (64%) met financial performance standards.)

## AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- The largest areas of improvement were seen in:
  - 5 schools increased their Enrollment Variance score
  - 4 schools increased their Aggregated Efficiency Margin score
- 6 schools increased their total score from the previous year

## CONTINUED CHALLENGES

- As a cohort, state charter schools continue to struggle with performance in almost all measures:
  - Managing short term debt (Current Ratio)- 7% average performance decline
  - Projecting enrollment (Enrollment Variance)-2% average score decline
  - Managing cash flow (Unrestricted Days Cash)-13% average performance decline
  - Managing long term debt levels (Debt to Asset Ratio)-2% average score decline
  - Managing expenses over time (Aggregated Efficiency Margin)-3% average performance decline

# Performance Trends: Operations

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

- 23 of 27 schools (85%) met operational performance standards in the 2017-2018 school year. That's up from 57% in 2016-17.

## AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- Generally, schools improved in the all areas. The option to remedy initial findings for partial points improved schools' scores in two main areas:
  - Complying with health and safety requirements (adequate policies and training related to child abuse and neglect and suicide prevention)
  - Providing all legal notices required by federal law (i.e. Pupil Protection Rights Amendment (PPRA))

## CONTINUED CHALLENGES

- As a cohort, state charter schools continue to struggle with compliance as it relates to:
  - Adhering to GaDOE data reporting deadlines
  - Ensuring schools are following the provisions in GaDOE's LUA Manual for financial policies

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# What's Next?

1. School Performance Review Presentations to Commissioners
2. Supports and Trainings

# Performance Presentations By Schools

## Structure

- Schools not meeting standards in 2017-2018 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 April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 29<sup>th</sup> or the June 26<sup>th</sup> SCSC Meeting.
- SCSC staff will be sending additional information to schools in late-March.

# 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 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

# Conclusion

- Schools will be presenting plans for improvement to commissioners in April, May and June.
- SCSC staff will continue providing dynamic supports in an effort to increase the capacity of state charter schools.
- SCSC staff will provide commissioners regular updates as new data becomes available.

*Questions?*