



# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

## APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

*The SCSC is on Twitter! Make sure you are following us [@SCSCGa](#)! We share pertinent news, information on trainings, highlights from our schools and other things that you may want to know!*

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### SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on March 30, 2016. The March meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2016 Commission meeting calendar is available [on the SCSC website](#).

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### 2016 Petition Cycle

The application for the 2016 petition cycle was released on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Completed petitions must be received by the SCSC no later than 4:00 p.m. on **May 16, 2016**. Find more information, including the petition application, [here](#).

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### GaDOE Data Collections Conference

The Georgia Department of Education will host a three-day (August 24-26, 2016) conference at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. The conference mission continues to focus on presenting attendees with a better understanding of state and federal reporting requirements, including any reporting changes for fiscal year 2017. The conference will also provide attendees with information related to the importance of internal data collections and reporting procedures. **The SCSC strongly encourages all state charter schools to send appropriate personnel to the GaDOE Data Collections Conference.** Registration for the conference opens on Monday, April 18, 2016, and space is limited.

#### **Target Audience:**

Any individual (SEA, district and school level administrators, and any support staff) accountable for state and federal reporting related to funding, accountability, or education program management is encouraged to attend the conference. The target audience includes any individual with responsibility for collecting, maintaining, reporting, or certifying data at any levels within the school district.

**More Information:** <http://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/Data-Collections/Pages/Data-Conference.aspx>

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## Training Opportunities

The [2015-2016 SCSC Training Agenda](#) is available on the [Training Opportunities](#) page of the SCSC website. This draft list is intended to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. Presentations and materials from SCSC trainings are available on the [Training Presentations and Materials](#) page of the SCSC website.

Please RSVP to [katie.manthey@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:katie.manthey@scsc.georgia.gov) if you wish to attend a training session.

### Petitioner Webinar Series

March 9, 2016 at 2 p.m. - Overview of the 2016 Petition Application - [View Recording/View Presentation](#)

March 23, 2016 at 2 p.m. - Funding and Budget Template Review - [View Recording/View Presentation](#)

April 7, 2016 at 2 p.m. - Creating Sound Financial Policies - [View Recording/View Presentation](#)

The Petitioner Webinar series was designed to prepared potential petitioners for the 2016 charter petition process. Participants learned about the 2016 petition application, the state charter funding formula and petition budget template, and creating sound financial policies. The Petitioner Webinar series has concluded but the webinar recording and presentations are available on the SCSC website.

### Charter School Financial Management Certification: Writing Financial Policies

May 3, 2016

Administrative Office of the Courts, 244 Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Atlanta, Georgia

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government Charter Schools Financial Management Certification is a six-course series that equips participants with the unique skills and knowledge needed to financially operate a charter school. The Writing Financial Policies course will cover development of sound financial policies important to charter schools, including Accounting and Financial Reporting, Budget, Revenue, Expenditures, Fund Balance, Capital Asset, Cash and Investments, and Purchasing. Find more information, including the full course calendar, [here](#).

### Governance Training

Deadline - June 30, 2016

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. For FY16, state charter school governing board members had the opportunity to participate in SCSC-provided training at no cost, or to seek alternate training using their own funds. As the opportunity to participate in SCSC provided governance training has now expired, state charter board members must fulfill the obligation through the following method.

- State charter school governing board members may use their own funds to contract for a minimum of 12 contact hours of training from a provider that is approved by the State Board of Education to deliver governance training to charter schools. Training content must reflect the topics covered at the SCSC Governance Training. Review the [SCSC Guidance on Governance Training](#) for a complete list of requirements and to ensure compliance.

### TKES and LKES Training

July 18-19 (TKES, 2 day training); July 20 (LKES, 1 day training)

OR

July 24-25 (TKES, 2 day training); July 26 (LKES, 1 day training)

8:30-4:30 Daily

Georgia Cyber Academy, 1745 Phoenix Blvd., Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia

All schools are required to implement the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems to evaluate school administrators and teachers (TKES and LKES). To conduct the evaluations, representatives from the school must receive training and credentialing. The SCSC has worked with the GaDOE to schedule an initial training and credentialing session for new state charter schools and newly hired staff at existing state charter schools this summer.

State charters should send the individuals from their schools who will be charged with conducting TKES/LKES evaluations to this training. The SCSC recommends that at least two individuals become credentialed to conduct TKES evaluations (evaluations of teachers) and that two individuals become credentialed to conduct LKES evaluations (evaluations of school leaders). Generally, school administrators are charged with conducting TKES evaluations, and the principal and a board member are charged with conducting LKES evaluations. The SCSC has created a TKES/LKES guidance document for state charters that may address your questions, available [here](#).

Please email GaDOE Evaluation System Specialist, Kathy Reese, [KReese@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:KReese@doe.k12.ga.us), with the date(s) you plan to attend.

*To attend a training session or for more information, contact [Katie Manthey](#), SCSC Academic Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

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## **Reporting Deadlines**

The following reporting items are due in **May and June**:

- **Title Programs:** Title I Part A Budget Amendments and Title Programs Self-Monitoring Checklist
- **Other:** SLO Post-Assessment Data Submission
- **Data Collections:** Student Class- Class Size; Teacher Class; Student Record; Special Education- Disproportionality, End-of-Pathway Assessments (EOPA)

The [FY16 Reporting Calendar](#) is available on the SCSC website. For help accessing the GaDOE portal and with any application functionality issues, please contact the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Information Systems Customer Support Center at 1-800-869-1011 or [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us).

*Please direct questions about reporting items to [Terence Washington](#), SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

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## **School Calendar Submission**

The Georgia Department of Education is required to collect school calendar information each school year from local school systems and state charter schools, as well as any amendments to the calendar throughout the year. For the 2016-2017 school year, the web-based data reporting tool will be used again. Ga DOE requests each state charter school provide this information in the web-based data system even though it may not be required. State Board Rule [160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees](#) requires local school systems to submit their school calendar information to the Georgia Department of Education by **May 31, 2016**.

Please contact Allan Meyer with questions, at [ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ameyer@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 657- 1065.

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## [Participating in the Tobacco-Free School Initiative](#)

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is seeking the input of state charter schools in the support of the Tobacco-Free School initiative. DPH would like to work with all state charter schools to adopt a 100% Tobacco Free Schools policy and eliminate tobacco from Georgia's elementary and secondary school campuses.

Model policies are available to the governing boards of charters schools that have not yet adopted such a policy. DPH also has created assessment tools to ensure alignment between school policies and the state's initiative.

For questions or support, please contact Anne-Marie L. Coleman at DPH ([Anne-Marie.Coleman@dph.ga.gov](mailto:Anne-Marie.Coleman@dph.ga.gov)).

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## [National Charter School Week](#)

National Charter schools week is May 1-7, 2016.

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## [Funding and Professional Development Opportunities](#)

SCSC staff have identified the following grant and professional development opportunities that may be of benefit to state charters. A list of SCSC-identified ongoing grant opportunities is available [here](#).

### **Student Records Webinars** **Georgia Department of Education**

Data Collections will host a series of new Student Record webinars during the months of April and May. The webinars are designed to help you better understand the data elements collected in Student Record and provide suggestions for verifying the data. Anyone with responsibility for collecting and/or reporting data is encouraged to attend.

The first webinar was held on April 14th and covered SR System and School level data elements. The PowerPoint and recording will be posted on the Data Collection website.

Two webinars are scheduled during the week of April 18th. The SR Enrollment webinar will take place on Tuesday, April 19th and the SR Student webinar will take place on Thursday, April 21st.

To register for the webinars, click on the appropriate links below.

1. SR Basics - Enrollment Level - Join us for a webinar on Apr 19, 2016 at 10:30 AM EDT.  
Register now! - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2679819173386629890>

2. SR Basics - Student Level - Join us for a webinar on Apr 21, 2016 at 2:00 PM EDT.  
Register now! - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/736018955122065924>

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Technology Management Customer Support Team by using the Help-dticket link on the left side of the MyGaDOE portal menu.

To Login to the MyGaDOE portal please follow this link: <https://portal.doe.k12.ga.us/Login.aspx>

You may also request assistance by emailing [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us) or by calling 1-800-869-1011. Please provide a detailed message as well as your contact information.

## **Institute Designed to Educate All Student (IDEA Conference) Georgia Department of Education**

Georgia Department of Education's Division for Special Education Services and Supports is offering the IDEAS conference in partnership with Georgia Tools for Life and Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. The IDEAS Conference will offer a wide range of session topics and presentations that will address technical and functional perspectives for all educators who teach students with disabilities.

Registration is now open and free for all attendees. A registration fee of \$35.00 is required to reserve your seat in a pre-conference session. Everyone must register in advance to attend the conference and/or pre-conference sessions.

5th Annual IDEAS Conference – June 7-10, 2016

Pre-Conference Sessions – June 6-7, 2016

**To register and for more information:** <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IDEAS-2016.aspx>

## **Charter Leader Summer Bootcamp Georgia Charter Schools Association**

The Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) is hosting a Charter Leader Summer Bootcamp from Monday, June 13-Thursday June 16. The boot camp is meant for new, aspiring, and current charter school leaders who are looking to improve their leadership skills.

The intensive training will help leaders develop the skills and core competencies to launch, lead, convert, replicate, and/or expand high-quality public charter schools. Some of the topics participants will learn about include: Title programs, school governance, culturally responsive teaching, funding and financial management, how to hire and retain staff, performance management, Response to Intervention (RTI) and school improvement planning. This is also the perfect opportunity for school administrators or teacher leaders to earn three Professional Learning Units (PLUs).

Applications for attendance are due by **Friday, May 13**. For more information contact, [Waynica Staples](#), Director of Leadership Development & Training at [404-835-8914](tel:404-835-8914). All applicants must also [complete this survey](#).

## **USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program**

The USDA Rural Development Community Facility Program is offering to provide an essential service to rural communities in Georgia. The USDA has selected Georgia to receive one of the nation's highest allocations for this program and eligible SCSC schools can apply for a direct loan or grant to meet their facility needs if they are in a qualified area.

Eligible rural areas include: cities, towns, and census designated places (CDP's) with populations of 20,000 or less. Much of Metro Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah are excluded. The funds can be used for purchasing real estate/buildings; construction, expansion, or renovations, to essential community facilities; and purchasing vehicles and major equipment. The loan terms are up to 40 years, dependent upon the useful life of the security and repayment ability. Plus, the principal can be deferred for up to 3 years to allow facility to become operational. The maximum loan amount is up to 100% of eligible project costs.

Eligible SCSC schools can apply in their first year of operation but the school must successfully demonstrate the ability to fulfill the terms of the program which would often include paying back the principal and interest associated with a direct loan.

For further information contact Jack Stanek, Community Programs Director, at his email [jack.stanek@ga.usda.gov](mailto:jack.stanek@ga.usda.gov) or his telephone number (706) 546-2471. Also, the program's website is <http://www.rd.usda.gov/ga>.

## **AntiBullying Summit Auburn University**

Auburn University will host its sixth national AntiBullying Summit in Peachtree City, Georgia, on June 23-24. Bullying affects academic performance, school safety, student mental health (suicide, self harm, drug abuse), and school drop out rates/absenteeism.

The Summit has received endorsement from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and has been approved for CEU and PLU credit. Approximately one-fourth of today's students report that they have been the victims of bullying, with the highest rate in the middle school grades. The issue, particularly cyberbullying, is of great concern to all schools and communities.

Keynote speakers will include Dr. Sameer Hinduja, co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center; and Trish Prabhu, a teen-ager who developed ReThink, bullying intervention software. Other speakers include the Honorable Steven Teske, who serves on the judicial advisory council of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Marilyn Watson from the Georgia Department of Education who will speak on School Climate Star Rating, and Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Famer who has established a national Strong Youth, Strong Community Foundation that works with at-risk youth.

The registration form is available [here](#). Please contact Linda Dean, Auburn University College of Education Special Projects Coordinator at [lhd0001@auburn.edu](mailto:lhd0001@auburn.edu) or 334-844-4488 with questions.

## **DonorsChoose.org Online Fundraising Drive**

DonorsChoose.org is an online charity that makes it easy for donors to find meaningful projects to support. Public school teachers from every corner of America post classroom project requests on the website site, and donors can give any amount to the project that most inspires them. Schools can register their own projects at [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org).

## **Get Georgia Reading Campaign**

This campaign is geared toward getting all of Georgia's children on a path to third grade reading proficiency by 2020. The campaign unites public and private partners to pursue language, literacy, development, and sustainability to reach this goal. Get involved or read more about the initiative [here](#).

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