



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

## August 2014 Newsletter

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### SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission met on July 30, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#).

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### SCSC 2014 Petition Cycle

The SCSC held panel interviews of charter petitioners July 28-August 1. The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#). Commissioners will vote on petitions that received a staff recommendation for approval or denial at the August meeting. Commissioners will vote on petitions that require supplemental information for staff to make a recommendation at the September meeting.

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### Training Opportunities

The draft 2014-2015 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 [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) if you wish to attend a training opportunity.

### **Resource Development**

**September 16, 2014**

**Atlanta, Georgia (exact location TBD)**

**Invited: Governing Board Members, School Leaders, Grant Managers/Writers, School Staffs and any school/community members who are interested in developing resources on behalf of a state charter school**

The Resource Development Training is for any school or community members who are interested in seeking grants, fundraising or developing community partnerships on behalf of a state charter school. Grant Writing expert Dr. Bruce Sliger will teach attendees how to identify government and philanthropic grant opportunities and write effective grant proposals. Certified fundraising expert Marshall H. Ginn, CFRE will lead a session focused on implementing broad based fundraising strategies and establishing long-lasting community partnerships that will benefit your school. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

## **Federal Grant Management**

**October 2, 2014**

**DECAL Oak Room, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Invited: Administrators, Business Managers, Grant Managers**

The Federal Grant Management training session is for school administrators, school business managers, and/or anyone at the school who participates in the management of federal grants. This session will be led by Brette Kaplan from Brustein and Manasevit, a nationally recognized federal education regulatory and legislative practice, and will focus on federal grants management requirements found in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), including an overview of the three basic grants management systems (procurement, inventory, and financial management). Additionally, the training will cover federal requirements in applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars and a discussion of the upcoming changes required by OMB's recently released Omni Circular. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

## **School Governance - Mandatory**

**October 9-10, 2014 OR February 5-6, 2015 (choose one)**

**Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia**

**Invited: Governing Board Members and Administrators**

State charter school board members and administrators are required by law to attend the SCSC School Governance Training. Topics will include the roles and responsibilities of school board members and administrators, ethics, school funding and budgets, audit requirements, strategic planning and succession planning, among others. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

## **Petitioner Boot Camp**

**December 11, 2014**

**Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

This training session is for those who plan to submit a charter petition to the SCSC or want to learn more about chartering. Attendees will learn what makes a successful charter petition, common mistakes and misconceptions, and hear directly from successful state charter petitioners.

## **Petitioner Boot Camp**

**January 27, 2015**

**Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, Georgia**

**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

This training session is for those who plan to submit a charter petition to the SCSC or want to learn more about chartering. Attendees will learn what makes a successful charter petition, common mistakes and misconceptions, and hear directly from successful state charter petitioners.

*To attend a training session or for more information, contact Lauren Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2822.*

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## Reporting Deadlines

The [FY15 Data Collections Calendar](#) is now available on the SCSC website.

**Summer Graduate Collection** - The 2014 Summer Graduate Collection is now open behind the GaDOE secure portal for district users. The Summer Graduate Collection application will close **August 29, 2014**. Georgia collects summer graduates and will include these graduates, as appropriate, in the 4-year and 5-year cohort graduation rates. Summer graduates are defined as 12<sup>th</sup> graders who remained active at the close of the 2014 Student Record (SR) or received a Certificate of Attendance and now qualify for a General, College Preparatory, College Preparatory/Vocational, or Vocational diploma (i.e. Diploma Type = G, C, B, or V).

For help accessing the portal and with any application functionality issues, please contact the GaDOE Information Systems Customer Support Center at 1-800-869-1011 or [dticket@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us).

*For questions about reporting deadlines, please contact Terence Washington, SCSC Accountability Manager, at [terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.*

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## Georgia Milestones Assessment

As indicated in the GaDOE *2014-2015 Assessment Webinar Schedule (August – December 2014)* posted in early June, there are several upcoming webinar events designed to assist schools in administering the following assessment programs in 2014-2015:

- Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS)
- Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHS GT)
- Georgia High School Writing Test (GHS WT)

Please see the schedule below and contact information for any questions.

**Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) Pre-Administration (Contact – Michael Huneke (404) 232-1208; [mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us)):**

**August 19 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.A4DBD770D829BF72EE7AB2C217E820>

Recording: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.5ADB0131794345DFCEC79E6B430664&sid=2012003>

**August 22 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.7FDAE9E64766872290A9866F3A870A>

Recording: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.137F4061B25EFBCA64D9816B70EB66&sid=2012003>

**Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) Pre-Administration (Contact - Bobbie Bable (404) 657-6168; [bbable@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bbable@doe.k12.ga.us)):**

**August 29 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.C66042F58FBF3CDA781F4511C84228>

Recording: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.F779CE4F89F17DC372C9F379A2EAFD&sid=2012003>

**September 4 1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.A8BF9D1DC2B3C50E9F801EBF5AB921>

Recording: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.93B8B0557402C77F878FA64D8A419C&sid=2012003>

**Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) Pre-Administration (Contact – Michael Huneke (404) 232-1208; [mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mhuneke@doe.k12.ga.us)):**

**September 3 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.7D9ABBC4FAF43EDB95C16234BDB70E>

Recording: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.C2E541A88EF7F779B3F61C819E6771&sid=2012003>

**September 4 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.CF14157D25E80CC2BBD54624EF9713>

Recording: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.79DA4D50A1CE07C05FBA302545BE30&sid=2012003>

Additionally, the first release of [Technology Guidelines](#) to support the new Georgia Milestones online assessments for 2014-2015 is now available.

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## **2014 CRCT Readiness Indicators**

Soon all districts will receive, via the MyGaDOE Portal, a zip file that contains the 2014 CRCT Readiness Indicators for your school(s). The Spring 2014 CRCT measured the College and Career Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) in reading, language arts, and mathematics.

You will recall that in 2013 the GaDOE convened committees of Georgia educators to review the achievement expectations for the Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics CRCT. The committees were charged with recommending a coherent system of readiness indicators **to inform instructional planning and decision making**. The committees considered the content standards, the test items included on the Spring 2013 CRCT in each content area, as well as the performance of Georgia students on other measures such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). These readiness standards have now once again been applied to the Spring 2014 student results.

The resulting CRCT Readiness Indicators have been designed to:

- ✓ send a signal about where students are relative to the higher expectations in the CCGPS; and
- ✓ provide feedback about students' preparedness for the increase in expectations for student achievement that is on the horizon.

Specifically, the zip file contains:

- 1) an Excel spreadsheet that summarizes the performance of students at the state, district, and school levels (all students and different groups of students);
- 2) an interpretative guide (explaining what the Readiness Indicators are and how they can inform instructional planning and decision making); and
- 3) the range readiness performance level descriptors for reading, language arts, and mathematics.

Three readiness levels (*Needs Additional Support*, *On Track*, and *Commendable*) were recommended to broadly describe students' knowledge, skills, and abilities in relationship to the expectations for student achievement inherent in the CCGPS:

- A student at the *Needs Additional Support* level has demonstrated that his or her command of knowledge and skills described in the CCGPS warrants additional instructional support.
- A student at the *On Track* level has demonstrated that his or her command of the knowledge and skills described in the CCGPS is sufficient; the student is on track for success at the next level.
- A student at the *Commendable* level has demonstrated that his or her command of the knowledge and skills described in the CCGPS is exemplary.

The performance data contained in the Excel spreadsheet provides school systems with a view of how their students' performance on the 2014 CRCT would have looked **if** these new readiness levels had been applied as cut scores. In other words, if these readiness cuts had been used instead of the existing cut scores of 800 for *Meets Standard* and 850 for *Exceeds Standard*, what would the school system's and schools' performance profiles look like? These results are based on the threshold (minimum) scale scores that were recommended by the committees of Georgia educators. The results provided are from the Spring 2014 Main Administration and do not reflect any retest results.

Importantly, these readiness indicators have been designed to send a clearer signal about how well our students have mastered the more rigorous knowledge and skills within the CCGPS. It is important for our state's educators as well as our students to prepare for the increase in rigor (in both the content and achievement expectations) that is on the horizon as we seek to establish a coherent college and career ready assessment system. Please note that because the achievement expectations for the Georgia Milestones Assessment System have not been determined, we cannot guarantee that students who achieve the *On Track* readiness level ultimately will be proficient once we transition Georgia Milestones. We are confident, however, that these students will be better prepared.

Please contact Melissa Fincher, Ph.D., GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, at 404-651-9405 or [mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us) with questions.

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## **Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Methodology and Timeline**

The Teacher Effectiveness Measure (TEM) and Leader Effectiveness Measure (LEM) methodologies and a document outlining the timelines for the TEM and LEM are now available on the [GaDOE Teacher and Leader Effectiveness website](#) (links below).

[TEM Methodology](#)

[LEM Methodology](#)

[TEM and LEM Implementation Timeline](#)

For questions, please contact Bethany LeMoyne, GaDOE Evaluation System Specialist, at (585) 749-5780 or [blemoyne@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:blemoyne@doe.k12.ga.us)

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## Registration Open: State Charter Collaborative Communities

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has created a schedule of Collaborative Communities for state charter schools in the 2014-15 school year focused on special education. The information presented will assist schools in the five focus areas for implementation of IDEA: the Identification Process, Services and Supports, Student Progress, Parent Engagement, and College and Career Readiness. **Two attendees** may participate from each school. The registration deadline is **September 20, 2014**. Register at [www.mresa.org](http://www.mresa.org) or contact Raylicia Davis at [raylicia.davis@mresa.org](mailto:raylicia.davis@mresa.org) with questions.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION		PARKING
10/1/14	11:30 – 3:00	Discovery Center Junior Achievement Of Georgia	Georgia World Congress Center Building C 280 Northside Drive, NW Atlanta, Georgia	An electronic Parking Voucher will be emailed once participants are registered. The <b>Parking Voucher must be printed &amp; presented at the gate.</b>
12/10/14	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia	No Parking Fee
2/11/15	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia	No Parking Fee
5/6/15	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia	No Parking Fee

**Chick-fil-A will provide a complimentary Continental Breakfast and Lunch each day except on 10/1/14 when only lunch will be provided.**

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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](#).

### **Connections for Classrooms Grant Program Georgia's Digital Learning Task Force**

Connections for Classrooms is a \$39M grant program joining multiple state agencies around the common goal of ensuring Georgia schools and classrooms have the high-speed broadband access required for digital and blended learning. The program is part of a broader statewide effort to expand classroom high-speed broadband access in response to Governor Deal's [Digital Learning Task Force](#) recommendations as well as the [GaDOE's efforts](#) to enable personalized learning for Georgia students.

The grant application is available [here](#) with applications due on **August 29**. Awards will be made in October.

More information is available on the [Governor's Office of Student Achievement website](#). Please direct questions to Steve Korwan, [skorwan@georgia.gov](mailto:skorwan@georgia.gov).

**Innovation Fund**  
**Governor’s Office of Student Achievement**

The Innovation Fund has received \$5 million in FY15 state funding to provide grants to local education agencies (LEAs), schools, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations focused on planning, implementing or scaling innovative education programs.

Priority Areas

- Applied Learning with a Focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education,
- Development and Replication of Blended Learning School Models,
- Development and Replication of Innovative Resource Management Models, and
- Teacher and Leader Induction and Development

Award Timeline

August 1, 2014	Grant Guidelines Release <a href="#">Planning Grant Guidelines</a> <a href="#">Implementation Grant Guidelines</a> <a href="#">Scaling Grant Guidelines</a>
August 13, 2014*	Grant Technical Assistance Day: Central Georgia Convention Center in Forsyth, GA
August 14, 2014*	Grant Technical Assistance Day: GTRI Center in Atlanta, GA
August 22, 2014	Intent to Apply and Grant Application Release
September 12, 2014	Intent to Apply Due
October 3, 2014	Planning Grant Proposals Due
October 27, 2014	Implementation and Scaling Grant Proposals Due
December 15, 2014	Awards Announced

*\* All agencies interested in applying must have attended one of the technical assistance days in order for your application to be considered.*

Contact: Rebecca Ellis, Innovation Fund Program Manager at [rellis@georgia.gov](mailto:rellis@georgia.gov) or (404) 596-3651

**2014 Charter School Program Grants for National Leadership Activities**  
**The U.S. Department of Education**

The U.S. Ed Charter Schools Program has just announced the Fiscal Year 2015 CSP Grants for National Leadership Activities Competition. This program is designed to provide funding for projects of national significance that will improve charter school quality by providing technical assistance and other types of support.

The notice inviting applications can be found [here](#). Descriptions of the previous grantees from 2003 - 2010 can be found [here](#).

Applications are due by **September 12, 2014, at 4:30:00 p.m.** Washington DC time, and must be submitted through Grants.gov. Applicants must register at Grants.gov prior to submitting an application. The registration process can take up to seven business days, or up to several weeks if all steps are not completed accurately or in a timely manner, so please register early. More information is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter-nationalleadership/applicant.html>.

Contact: Erin Pfeltz, U.S. Ed Charter Schools Program, (202) 205-3525 or [Erin.Pfeltz@ed.gov](mailto:Erin.Pfeltz@ed.gov)

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Data Collections Conference Georgia Department of Education**

The Georgia Department of Education will host a three-day 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 2015. The conference will also provide attendees with information related to the importance of internal data collections and reporting procedures.

#### **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.

#### **Conference Dates:**

August 27-29, 2014 (**Registration Ends August 8, 2014 or when registration reaches 1,000 participants**)

Register [here](#).

### **Keeping RTI on Track: How to Identify, Repair, and Prevent Mistakes that Derail Implementation Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educators (SSTAGE) and the the Georgia Department of Education**

Data-driven instruction can produce compelling results for districts, schools, and for children. Experienced leaders on the front line of building and sustaining systems of data-driven instruction will detail the most common pitfalls that systems experience when implementing response to intervention or multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). Specifically, the presenters will provide details on how to detect common errors that can interfere with learning success; how to repair such errors; and how to prevent those errors from ever occurring in the first place.

Pitfalls addressed will include: a model that is too loosely defined, overemphasis on intervention selection and underemphasis on intervention management, being overwhelmed by interventions, not getting results or not knowing if you are getting results, loss of momentum, paralysis by analysis, and implementation outpacing capacity. In each case, presenters will give a clear data-based way to identify the barrier that is interfering with your implementation success then detail specific strategies to get your implementation back on track and improving student learning outcomes!

DuBose Porter Center  
Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Dublin, GA  
September 11, 2014  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration fees:

2014-15 SSTAGE Member: \$140.00



Non-SSTAGE Member: \$190.00 (includes SSTAGE membership for 2014-15)

Register [here](#).

Contact - [lynnpennington@sstage.org](mailto:lynnpennington@sstage.org) or visit [www.sstage.org](http://www.sstage.org)

## **Educator Summits Georgia Charter Schools Association**

### **Special Populations Summit**

The Special Populations Summit is geared toward learning how to best meet the academic needs of students with disabilities and remain compliant and fiscally solvent. Join GCSA for a day devoted to topics such as: best practices with compliance, balancing grade level standards with IEP mandates, accommodations versus modifications, and in-depth, co-teaching methodologies. This summit is ideal for regular education teachers with topics geared towards K-8 and 6-12 grade spans, as well as special education teachers in both bricks and mortar buildings, as well as the virtual/blended schools.

This summit is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30 from 8am-4:00pm at Kennesaw Charter Science & Math Academy. To register or view the schedule and confirmed presenters, click [here](#).

### **Innovation and Creativity...in Math Summit**

Math has continued to be one of the lagging disciplines in Georgia's charter sector for a number of years. This summit is geared toward supporting teachers in raising achievement in mathematics through innovation and creativity applied via technology, instructional practices, and integration with other disciplines or partnerships.

This summit is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2014 from 8:00am-4:00pm at The Museum School at Avondale Estates. There will be 3, 90-minute presentations selected but we're also looking for 12, 10-15 minute 'Ted Talk' type presentations to share best practices, encourage, motivate, and inspire. To submit a proposal, please click [here](#).

## **2014 AP Regional Workshop Georgia Department of Education**

To maintain Georgia's strong Advanced Placement program throughout the state, the GaDOE has planned four **Advanced Placement AP Regional Workshops for the fall of 2014:**

September 25, 2014, Savannah Arts Academy, Savannah Chatham Schools, Savannah, GA

September 29, 2014, The Carlos Museum at Emory University, Atlanta, GA

October 10, 2014, Rockdale Career Academy, Rockdale County, Conyers, GA

October 17, 2014, Lambert High School, Forsyth County, Suwanne, GA

October 23, 2014, Lowndes County High School, Lowndes County, Valdosta, GA

There is no registration fee to attend. Specific courses offered at each workshop site are listed below. **Each workshop is designed primarily for teachers with 0-3 years of AP teaching experience; however, any AP teacher who feels a need for a refresher course is welcome to register.** Each course will be led by at least two highly successful Georgia high school AP teachers. There will be 30 seats available in each course area. Workshops will begin at 8:30am and conclude by 3:00 pm. Lunch is not provided on site but there will be ample time scheduled to buy lunch off campus.

To register, please email Bonnie Marshall at GaDOE, [bmarshall@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bmarshall@doe.k12.ga.us).

**AP Course sessions offered on Thursday, September 25, 2014, Savannah Arts Academy, Savannah, GA**

AP English Language	AP Biology	AP Calculus AB	AP US History	AP Macro Economics
AP English Literature	AP Chemistry	AP Statistics	AP US Government	AP Micro Economics
AP Studio Art	AP Env Science		AP Human Geography	AP Psychology

\*AP Coordinators/Administrator Session (see note below about this session)

**AP Course session offered on Monday, September 29, 2014, The Carlos Museum, Emory U, Atlanta, GA**

AP Art History (this will be the only course offered at this site)

**AP Course sessions offered on Friday, October 10, 2014, at Rockdale Career Academy, Conyers, GA**

AP English Language	AP Biology	AP Calculus AB	AP US History	AP Macro Economics
AP English Literature	AP Chemistry	AP Calculus BC	AP US Government	AP Micro Economics
AP Spanish Language	AP Env Science	AP Statistics	AP European History	AP Psychology
AP Music Theory	AP Physics I		AP Human Geography	AP World History
	AP Physics C			

\*AP Coordinators/Administrator Session (see note below about this session)

**AP Course sessions offered on Friday, October 17, 2014, at Lambert High School, Suwanne, GA**

AP English Language	AP Biology	AP Calculus AB	AP US History	AP Macro Economics
AP English Literature	AP Chemistry	AP Calculus BC	AP US Government	AP Micro Economics
AP Spanish Language	AP Env Science	AP Statistics	AP Human Geography	AP Psychology
AP French Language	AP Physics I	AP Computer Sci		AP World History
AP Studio Art	AP Physics C			

\*AP Coordinators/Administrator Session (see note below about this session)

**AP Course sessions offered on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at Lowndes Co HS, Valdosta, GA**

AP English Language	AP Biology	AP Calculus AB	AP US History	AP Macro Economics
AP English Literature	AP Env Science	AP Statistics	AP US Government	AP Micro Economics
			AP Human Geography	AP Psychology
				AP World History

\*AP Coordinators/Administrator Session (see note below about this session)

*\*The AP Coordinator/Administrator session will be conducted by The College Board and includes a morning information session with a Q&A session to help new coordinators and administrators better understand their role in supporting AP; it also includes ample time to visit some of the subject area sessions going in the afternoon.*

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