



# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

## AUGUST 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!*

---

### SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on June 29, 2016. The June meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next monthly Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 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](#).

---

### State Charter School Openings

Congratulations to Brookhaven Innovation Academy, Cirrus Academy, Liberty Tech Charter School, and Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School on welcoming their first students this month!



*Liberty Tech Charter School*



*Brookhaven Innovation Academy*

*As the new academic year begins, all state charter schools should send updated contact information for board chairs, school leaders, and administrative personnel to Sarah Beck at [sarah.beck@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:sarah.beck@scsc.georgia.gov).*

---

## **2016 Petition Cycle Update**

Applications for the 2016 petition cycle were due in May. Petition review panels comprised of SCSC staff, commissioners, and expert third party reviewers in the fields of finance, education, law, and policy reviewed eligible petitions, interviewed petitioners, and will make recommendations for approval or denial to the Commission. The full Commission is tentatively scheduled to vote on recommendations in August. For questions about the 2016 petition cycle, please contact Morgan Felts, Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, at [morgan.felts@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:morgan.felts@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.

---

## **Training Opportunities**

Please find SCSC-provided training opportunities below. The SCSC is finalizing the [2016-17 SCSC Training Calendar](#) but please review the draft list to assist in planning purposes. Finalized dates and locations for all trainings will be announced very soon. Presentations and materials from past SCSC trainings are available on the [Training Presentations and Materials](#) page of the SCSC website.

*To attend a training session or for more information, contact [Lauren Holcomb](#) via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

## CCRPI Interactive Workshop for State Charter Schools

Target Audience: School Instructional Teams

[View Recording](#)

The SCSC coordinated with the GaDOE to provide an in-depth CCRPI training workshop for state charter schools to help schools better understand their CCRPI score and better utilize past scores for future planning. GaDOE specialists from Data Collections, Assessment, and the School Effectiveness Divisions led sessions during the full day of training. The session [was recorded](#) for those who were unable to attend.

## Preparing for Your SCSC Monitoring Visit Webinar

Target Audience: School Leadership Teams

September 6, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

The SCSC will host a webinar to assist schools in preparing for their SCSC monitoring visit in the 2016-17 academic year. Staff will outline SCSC expectations and share a monitoring handbook that will aid schools in preparing pertinent documents and information for the visit.

## Carl Vinson Institute of Government Financial Management Certification Program: Payroll and Purchasing

Target Audience: School Finance Officers

November 15 -16, 2016

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

[Register](#)

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government Charter Schools Financial Management Certification equips participants with the unique skills and knowledge needed to financially operate a charter school. The Payroll course will focus on the following topics of the payroll process: Fair Labor Standards Act, new employee documentation, compensation calculation through the W-2 process, benefits including insurance and pensions, payroll taxes and remittances, payroll deductions, reporting and recording payroll, internal controls related to payroll, and payroll resources. The Purchasing course will focus on topics important to the purchasing process, from determining needs to receipt of purchased goods and services. Also discussed are alternative purchasing methods, required documentation, and ethics. Find more information about the certification program [here](#).

---

## Reporting Deadlines

The following reporting items are due in **August and September**:

- **Finance:** DE046
- **Title Programs:** Flexible Learning Program Plan; Letter of Intent for Schoolwide Plan
- **Data Collections:** Pre-ID Cycles 1 and 2; FTE Data Survey; Student Record – Data Cleanse

The [FY17 Reporting Calendar](#) is now 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.

---

## **FY 2017 Austerity Reduction Survey**

The GaDOE is conducting a survey on behalf of the Governor's Office and the General Assembly related to how funds for the FY 2017 Austerity Reduction will be utilized (an increase of \$300 million in the FY 2017 Appropriations Act). The legislative intent of the additional funding is described as follows:

*"Increase funds to offset the austerity reduction in order to provide local education authorities the flexibility to eliminate teacher furlough days, increase instructional days, and increase teacher salaries."*

GaDOE is asking districts to complete the following survey by **August 26, 2016**. GaDOE will assemble the information and obtain clarifications before submitting the information to the Governor's Office and General Assembly. After completing the report by the first week in September, GaDOE will share the results with all districts who participate in the survey.

The survey is at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY17AusteritySurvey>

Please direct questions toward Amy Rowell, GaDOE Director of Financial Review at [arowell@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:arowell@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 656-6754.

---

## **TKES and LKES Support Webinars**

GaDOE Teacher and Leader Effectiveness is offering a series of TKES webinars to support districts as they implement the changes in TKES and LKES precipitated by SB 364. All webinars are recorded for convenience and housed on the TLE Electronic Platform under the Professional Learning tab in the Webinar section. Viewing as groups may be appropriate and assist with efficient implementation.

Please see below for the list of webinars. Additional webinars will be developed for LKES implementation. Please click on each link below to register for each webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

### **TAPS Webinar**

Aug 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM EDT.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8410666194671366915>

### **Student Growth Webinar**

Sep 08, 2016 at 10:00 AM EDT.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7127451462661466371>

### Professional Growth Webinar

Sep 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM EDT.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8346482203399988739>

---

## Science Georgia Standards of Excellence Support Webinars

The State Board of Education adopted the Science Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) on March 31, 2016. The Science GSE will be implemented beginning in school year 2017-2018. In an effort to support the role that district and school administrators will have in guiding the implementation of the Science GSE, a five webinar series will be provided to share information about the new standards, describe the expected changes in instructional practices, and explain how support will be made available.

The webinar series will be archived and available on-line. See below for the webinar series timeline. All science webinars will start at 10:00 am and will last for approximately one hour.

Webinars for District and School Administrators	
Webinar Title	Date
<a href="#">Highlights of Changes and Professional Learning Plan</a>	August 18, 2016
<a href="#">Understanding Instruction Under the New Science GSE</a>	October 13, 2016
<a href="#">Making Thinking Visible, A Way to Assess Science Learning</a>	November 15, 2016
<a href="#">Addressing Differentiation In The Science Classroom</a>	December 12, 2016
<a href="#">Universal Design for Learning Supporting Science Instruction</a>	January 18, 2017

---

## US Ed Guidance on Serving All Students

The US Department of Education has released new guidance on serving students with disabilities and homeless students.

August 11, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services issued guidance to clarify some of the specific requirements in Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that apply to public virtual schools. The guidance addresses states' general supervision responsibilities regarding virtual schools and the applicability of IDEA's child find provisions to children attending such schools. It further outlines the responsibility for the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities attending such schools (press release and blog post). issued [guidance](#) to clarify some of the specific requirements in Part B of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) that apply to public virtual schools.

US Ed also released [guidance](#) to states and districts on new provisions in the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) for supporting students experiencing homelessness. The guidance aims to assist state and local partners in understanding and implementing the new law in order to better protect and serve children and youth affected by homelessness and help schools in providing these students with much needed stability, safety, and support. It was informed by input from diverse stakeholders consulted during the development of the resource ([letter](#) on guidance and [press call audio](#)).

---

## **Zika Virus Response Planning Webinar**

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and the **United States Department of Education** will host “Zika Virus Response Planning: What School Administrators Need to Know” on Friday, August 19 from 1:30-2:30 PM EST. This webinar will address questions regarding the CDC’s guidance *Zika Virus Response Planning: Interim Guidance for District and School Administrators in the Continental United States and Hawaii*, and how schools can prepare for potential cases of Zika. The webinar will cover the basics of Zika, roles and responsibilities of school officials and public health authorities, planning for possible Zika transmission in K-12 schools, school preparations for mosquito-borne transmission of Zika in local areas, and considerations for child care, camp, and higher education settings.

### **Webinar Access:**

To activate and use your device’s digital signals for audio, video, and the presentation - join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device by clicking <https://cdc.zoom.us/j/494704100> ([link is external](#)).

Or join audio only by phone (to see the presentation, you will still need to click the link above):

- +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)
  - Webinar ID: 494 704 100 <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/events/webinar/zika-virus-response-planning-what-school-administrators-need-know>
- 

## **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](#).

### **Data Collection NEW Coordinator Workshop**

#### **Georgia Department of Education**

**Workshop Description:** Join the GaDOE for a day of training for new data collection coordinators. If you have been in a data collection coordinator role for **three years or less**, and are responsible for state reporting, then this session is designed just for you. You will learn relevant background information necessary to build a foundation for a successful data reporting year. Topics will include how to get started, how the collections work, practices for working with education records, and where to find information.

**Workshop Date:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016

**Time:** 09:00 AM - 04:00 PM EST

**Location:** The Classic Center (Grand Halls 3 & 4)

Street Address: 300 N Thomas Street  
City/State/Zip: Athens, GA, 30601  
(Directly across from the Hilton Garden Inn)

**This event is separate from the Data Conference and requires separate registration.** Click [here](#) to register for the New Coordinators Workshop on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Data Collections Conference

### Georgia Department of Education

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>

## Georgia Education Leadership Institute

### Georgia Department of Education

The [4th annual Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#) will be held at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta from September 7-9. The Institute is one of Georgia's leading annual forums to discuss and highlight education efforts in our great state.

This year the institute will feature free Pre-Institute sessions on Wednesday afternoon highlighting topics important to every school district in the state, a networking reception, ESSA discussion panel, 50 breakout sessions, and speakers Governor Deal and Dr. John Hodge. To learn more, and to register, please visit the Institute's webpage at: [2016 GELI](#)

## The Three C's of Charter Facilities

### Georgia Charter Schools Association

The Georgia Charter Schools Association, in partnership with True-North Companies, Colliers International, and Dentons invites you to attend a one-day free workshop with charter school authorizer and charter school facility experts to learn the Three C's of Charter Facilities: Concept, Cost, Construction. General sessions will include the SCSC and GADOE facilities petition requirements and process descriptions. Break-out sessions will focus on site selection, programming, financing options, and temporary to permanent buildings.

The session will take place on September 13, 2016 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Promenade, Suite 800, 1230 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309. **Limited space is available and RSVP is required.** To attend, please RSVP by providing your name, school, and contact information to Andrew Lewis at [alewis@gacharters.org](mailto:alewis@gacharters.org).

## **2016 RTI/MTSS Fall Conference**

### **Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educations (SSTAGE) and the Georgia Department of Education**

The 2016 RTI/MTSS Fall Conference will be held on September 14 at the DuBose Porter Center, Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin, Georgia. Workshops will focus on developing a culture of collaboration and facilitating ELL achievement through prevention, early Intervention, and problem solving models. Register [here](#).

### **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](#).

### **OneSight Vision Grant**

OneSight provides funding for school-based vision center (SBVC) programs in the United States and U.S. territories that provide access to vision care for students in communities with need. Grantees are selected based on their history of managing a school-based health center, their focus on sustainability, and the need within the community they are serving. Applications will be available September 1, 2016 and letters of intent are due by September 15, 2016. For further information and details - please go to the OneSight grant webpage - [click here](#).

### **The Captain Planet Foundation Grant Opportunity**

The Captain Planet Foundation is offering grants for hands-on environmental education activities. The mission of the foundation is to promote and support high-quality programs that help children understand and appreciate the natural world through learning experiences that engage them in active projects. Those receiving the grants must have an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million, and priority will be given to requests that include a 50% matching component. Funding will be considered for up to \$2,500. For more information and to apply visit [The Captain Planet Foundation](#). Applications are due by September 30.

##