



STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER

SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on July 29, 2015. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2015 Commission meeting calendar is available [on the SCSC website](#).

SCSC Performance Framework

The SCSC has developed a **comprehensive performance framework** to serve as the **primary accountability tool** for assessing **academic, financial, and operational performance of state charter schools**. The performance framework was the chief recommendation of a National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) evaluation of SCSC policies and practices, undertaken to assist the SCSC in continually improving and refining its authorizing practices. The goal of the performance framework is to increase transparency and objectivity by clarifying SCSC accountability expectations and by providing schools with an annual assessment of where they stand in terms of charter renewal. Specifically, the performance framework clearly defines and establishes the SCSC's expectations for:

- **Academic Performance** on both achievement and growth,
- **Financial Performance** in terms of near-term viability and long-term sustainability, and
- **Organizational Performance** in critical areas such as governance and legal compliance.

The performance framework is posted for review on the [Comprehensive Performance Framework page](#) of the SCSC website. More information, including steps for providing feedback, frequently asked questions, and the adoption timeline, are all available, as well.

SCSC Financial Best Practices Meeting

The SCSC will host a virtual meeting to discuss financial best practices for schools on August 24, 2015. SCSC school leaders, Chief Financial Officers, and business managers are invited and encouraged to participate.

Guest speakers will share helpful guidance and school representatives will have an opportunity to ask questions and network information among peers. SCSC staff will also discuss financial expectations of state charter schools and highlight important due dates for items that will impact school accountability.

Additional details and access information will be sent directly to the school leaders of each SCSC charter school. Please make sure to update your contact information with SCSC staff to ensure that you receive this and other important information in a timely manner.

Please contact Terence Washington at terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov if you have any questions.

Training Opportunities

The [2015-2016 SCSC Training Agenda](#) is now 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 if you wish to attend a training session.

TKES/LKES Credentialing Training

August 25 -28

Utopian Academy for the Arts

6630 Camp Street, Riverdale, Georgia 30327

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

This training session will provide initial training and credentialing for new personnel at new and existing state charter schools. 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](#).

August 25, 26, 27 - TKES Training for individuals who will evaluate teachers

August 28 - LKES Training for individuals who will evaluate school leaders

Governance Training

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 may fulfill this obligation by one of two methods.

1. State charter school governing board members may attend one of the two governing board training opportunities provided to state charters by the SCSC *at no charge*; or
2. 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.

The SCSC strongly encourages state charter school governing board members to attend one of the governance trainings conducted by the SCSC as these trainings provide board members the unique opportunity to discuss issues and concerns

directly with their authorizer. Further, the SCSC staff's unique understanding of the compliance issues facing state charter schools ensures that SCSC training sessions are always topical, relevant, and timely.

The 2015-2016 SCSC Governance Training dates and locations are below. Please RSVP to lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov to attend.

November 4-5, 2015*
The Lodge at Little Ocmulgee State Park
Helena, Georgia
<http://www.littleocmulgeelodge.com/>

February 10-11, 2016
Atlanta Evergreen Marriott
Stone Mountain, Georgia
www.marriott.com/atlantaevergreen

**Space is limited. Attendees who wish to attend this session are encouraged to RSVP early.*

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

Reporting Deadlines

The following reporting items are due in August and September:

- **Finance:** DE046 Initial Transmission; DE046 Final Transmission
- **Title Programs:** Letter of Intent for School wide plan; Neglected and Delinquent Annual Report; End of Federal Fiscal Year – Associated Title Reports due
- **Other:** SLO Final Submission Date for State Required Revisions and Window Closes; SLO Submission Window Reopens for Target Adjustments Based on Pre-Assessment Data
- **Data Collections:** Pre-ID; FTE Data Survey; Student Record – Data Cleanse

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.

Please direct questions about reporting items to [Terence Washington](mailto:Terence.Washington@scsc.georgia.gov), SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

SCSC Guidance

State charter schools contemplating a charter amendment should review the guidance on the SCSC website [here](#). The guidance includes the procedure and expectations for the amendment process.

2015 CCRPI Summer Graduate Collection

The 2015 Summer Graduate Collection is now open (*earlier than expected*) behind the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) secure portal for district users. The window for the Summer Graduate Collection will close **August 28, 2015**.

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 12th graders who remained active at the close of the 2015 Student Record (SR) or received a Certificate of Attendance and now qualify for a General diploma (i.e. Diploma Type = G).

District personnel designated to complete this activity are asked to refer to the guidelines for the collection of the summer graduates outlined below.

1. Data collected in this application will be used for the 2014 five-year extended cohort graduation rate and for the 2015 four-year cohort graduation rate.
2. Summer graduates must be reported in the Summer Graduate data collection in the GaDOE portal **and** in the FY2016 FTE Collection Cycle 1.
3. The withdrawal date of summer graduates must fall between May 13, 2015 and August 21, 2015.
4. The 2015 Summer Graduate Collection Application User Guide is attached to this email.
5. Superintendents must sign off to complete the process.

The application can be accessed by district level users by logging into the MyGaDOE portal, hovering over the CCRPI link, and clicking on Summer Graduates.

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

*If you have questions regarding the webinars or need assistance with navigating the CCRPI reports, **please contact the Accountability Specialist assigned to work with your district.** The list can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Accountability/Pages/default.aspx>.*

Suicide Prevention Training and Model Policy

On May 5, 2015, Governor Deal signed House Bill 198 (Jason Flatt Act--Georgia) into law. The new law requires teachers, counselors, and other certified public school personnel to have annual suicide prevention training. The law also requires each school district to adopt a policy on suicide prevention.

Training opportunities will be provided by representatives from the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide during ***Suicide Prevention Week*** in September 2015. **Each school system has the opportunity to register a team of up to five people to receive suicide prevention training.** The team members will be expected to return to their school system and redeliver the information. Please use the registration link provided below to select the training session date and time that works best for your team. The teams should include counselors, social workers, nurses and/or other personnel that will be responsible for redelivering the information to your school system personnel. **School systems that already have a suicide prevention program in place are not required to attend the training.**

Registration is at the following web address: <https://DBHDD.cvent.com/HB198>

The training sessions will be provided at no cost to school systems. Training will be held at the **Anderson Conference Center at 5171 Eisenhower Parkway in Macon, Georgia 31206**. There will be five identical sessions. Registration will be on a first come basis. The facility can accommodate 360 people at each of the sessions listed below:

- Monday, September 14 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sign in begins at 8:00 AM
- Monday, September 14 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sign in begins at 12:30 PM
- Tuesday, September 15 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sign in begins at 8:00 AM
- Wednesday, September 16 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Sign in begins at 8:00 AM
- Wednesday, September 16 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sign in begins at 12:30 PM

*School systems may register a team of up to five people. Please select only one session.

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Watson at 404-651-7179 or via e-mail at mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us or Jeff Hodges at 404-463-7891 or via e-mail at jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us.

Fire Safety

Georgia's Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner Ralph Hudgens encourages schools to review fire safety information in the beginning weeks of school. More information about fire safety, including fire safety tips for home and school, and information about Fire Safety Week, October 4-10, 2015, is available [here](#).

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](#).

GaDOE Data Collections Conference Georgia Department of Education

The Georgia Department of Education will host the fifth annual Data Collections Conference on August 26-28, 2015 at the Georgia Department of Education 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 2016. 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.

More Information: <http://dcconference.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Georgia Education Leadership Institute
Georgia Department of Education & Georgia Foundation for Public Education**

The GaDOE and the Georgia Foundation for Public Education will host the Georgia Education Leadership Institute at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta from September 9-11. The conference agenda includes keynote, pre-conference and breakout speakers, as well as a Plenary Session scheduled on Thursday afternoon featuring leaders from various state and university organizations.

Follow this link to the Institute webpage to learn more, and register today: www.ncyi.org/gaedc

**2015 RTI Fall Conference: Leadership/Coaching and Math
Student Support Team Association for Georgia Educations (SSTAGE) and the Georgia Department of Education**

SSTAGE, in partnership with the GaDOE, will host its fall conference on September 16 at the DuBose Porter Center at Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin, Georgia. Workshops will focus on the Response to Intervention Approach and Improving Instructional Systems and Supports in Math. Registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch and SSTAGE membership for 2015-16. More information is available [here](#).

**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.

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