

Overview of Current Initiatives

Policy, Research, Services, and Training

State Charter Schools
Commission of Georgia



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Guiding Principles of the SCSC

Mission Statement:

The mission of the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia is to improve public education throughout the state by authorizing charter schools that provide students with **better** educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.

Core Values:

To achieve our mission and to carry out our statutory charges as an independent charter school authorizer, the SCSC conducts all business according to high standards of **transparency, accessibility, objectivity, and innovation.**

Current Initiatives of the SCSC

1. Policy Development
2. Research Program
3. School Services
4. Training Program

Policy Development

■ Recently Implemented Policies:

- Charter School Expansion and Replication
- Improved Petition Review Process
- Institutional Research Policy
- Onboarding for New Schools

■ Policies Being Refined:

- Risk Assessment Indicators

■ Policies Being Developed:

- Comprehensive Performance Framework
- Individual School Performance Profiles
- Comprehensive Internal Policy Manual

Research Program

- **Completed:**

- State Charter School Performance: Value-Add Analysis
 - *Partners: Governor's Office of Student Achievement, Georgia State Univ.*
- Starting Strong: Best Practices in Starting an Independent Charter School
 - *Partner: Vanderbilt University*

- **Underway:**

- Alignment Study: SCSC Value-Add Model and Beating the Odds
 - *Partner: Indiana University*
- Virtual School Impact Study
 - *Partners: Public Impact, NACSA*

- **Upcoming:**

- Economic Impact Study
- Value-Add Analysis (Year 2)

School Services

- **Currently Provided:**

- Independent Financial Audits
- Strategic Planning for Governing Boards
- Review of Financial Controls
- Charter School Accounting Program

- **In Development:**

- State Charter School Leaders' Cohort (for principals)
- Guidance Manuals for Schools

Training Program

- Grant Writing and Resource Development (September 2014)
- Orientation for Newly Approved Petitioners (October 2014)
- Federal Grant Management (October 2014)
- School Governance (October 2014 & February 2015)
- Boot Camp for New Schools (December 2014)
- Petitioner Boot Camp (December 2015 & January 2015)
- How to be an LEA (March 2015)
- Student Learning Objectives (Spring 2015)
- Best Practices in Chartering (June 2015)

CONCLUSION

- Current SCSC Initiatives
 1. Policy Development
 2. Research Program
 3. School Services
 4. Training Program

Policy Development

- **Recently Implemented Policies:**

- Charter School Expansion and Replication
- Improved Petition Review Process
- Institutional Research Policy

- **Policies Being Refined:**

- Risk Assessment Indicators

- **Policies Being Developed:**

- **Comprehensive Performance Framework**
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Policy Development: Comprehensive Performance Framework

■ What is it?

- A set of academic, financial, and operational performance standards that are clear, quantifiable, rigorous, and attainable. In each of the three areas, the framework asks a fundamental question:
 - Academic Performance: *Is the educational program offering students a better educational opportunity?*
 - Financial Performance: *Is the school financially viable?*
 - Organizational Performance: *Is the organization effective and well run?*

■ Why do we need it?

- Establishes expectations, guides practice, assesses progress, and informs decision making over the course of the charter term and during the renewal process.
- Provides an increased level of transparency to schools and stakeholders with regard to state charter school performance.

■ When will it be complete?

- Spring 2015

■ Does the framework impact our current charter contracts?

- No. (Schools may opt into the framework if they choose.)

Policy Development: School Performance Profiles

■ What are they?

- Annual state charter school performance updates
- Highlights a school's progress on contracted performance goals OR performance framework metrics (for participating schools)

■ Why do we need it?

- Transparency
- Convenience
- Accountability

■ When will they be available?

- Summer 2015

Questions?

Contact the SCSC:
404-656-2837

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Reminder:

Be sure to visit the SCSC website regularly and read the SCSC's monthly newsletters!