



GOVERNANCE TRAINING AGENDA SESSIONS 2016-17

PRE-SESSION (Not Required)

New Board Member 101 (2 hours)

This pre-session meeting will cover “state charter board member basics,” addressing questions such as: What is the SCSC and how is it related to my school? How does a state charter school differ from a local charter school and a charter system? What is a charter contract? What is my role as a governing board member? What does appropriate oversight look like?

GENERAL SESSIONS (All Sessions Required)

SCSC Expectations of Boards (1 hour)

Staff will outline SCSC expectations of state charter school governing boards related to board engagement and awareness, communication with stakeholders, and school accountability with a review of the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework.

Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) High-Performer Panel (1 hour)

Attendees will hear directly from governing board members and leaders of state charter schools that performed well on portions of the 2015 CPF. SCSC staff will facilitate a discussion among the panel members and attendees, specifically focused on practitioner operationalization of CPF criteria.

Governance Principles (2 hours)

This session will review the fundamentals of effective charter school governance based on national and state best practices, including the role of the governing board in school oversight, proper board and stakeholder communication, and board meeting preparation and management.

Legal Compliance (2 hours)

Operating as a Local Education Agency (LEA) can be a daunting and difficult proposition. Functioning both as a school and LEA, however, is not insurmountable. The first step to being a successful state charter school and LEA is to understand the obligations of an LEA. This session is intended to assist state charter schools in understanding and fulfilling the requirements of law when serving as a school and an LEA.

Financial Policies, Internal Controls and Budgeting (2 hours)

Participants will learn the basics of financial policies, internal controls, and budgeting. The session will define policies and procedures, with an emphasis on the development of sound policies. The session will also examine proper internal controls and budgeting at charter schools, paying specific attention to the roles of board members and staff and monitoring throughout the year.

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (1 hour each, 3 hours required)

- **Student Growth in the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)**

This session will focus on Progress and Gap scores in the CCRPI and highlight the insights that they provide to school leadership and teachers. Key questions can be addressed using these two unique measures. Are our remedial efforts working? Are we headed in the right direction? What is our weakest link? Where are our strengths? Which domains by Milestone should we focus on? Are we challenging our advanced students? How does information in SLDS help us dig deeper in CCRPI? Is there a way to compare scores over the years when the test and format continues to change? How are all the scores related?

- **Charters as Employers**

Hiring, supporting, monitoring, and retaining a highly effective staff is essential to the initial and on-going success of charter schools. Both boards and school leaders play a critical role in these processes and must understand and embrace their function as "employer". This session includes considerations for hiring, interviewing, selection, induction, development and retention of instructional and non-instructional staff. Policy development considerations will also be reviewed along with common mistakes made by charters operators.

- **Mitigating the Enrollment Variance**

The Financial Performance section of the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) asks the question: Is the school fiscally responsible and financially viable? A big part of answering that question involves a school's ability to effectively forecast their enrollment. During this session we will discuss ways that SCSC schools can maximize the reliability of their predictions so they can generate additional points on the CPF, demonstrate fiscal responsibility, and ensure financial viability.

- **Student Discipline**

Student discipline is an integral part of establishing a positive school culture. However, it is critical that state charter schools protect a student's constitutional right to due process when disciplining a student for a violation. Adequate due process ensures that the student receives fair treatment throughout the entire disciplinary process. This session is intended to assist state charter schools in understanding and fulfilling the requirements of law when implementing student discipline.

- **Student Rights**

Parents entrust schools with the education and welfare of their children, and the school must afford those children the appropriate rights and care. This session is intended to assist state charter schools in understanding and fulfilling the requirements of law when protecting student rights.

- **Veteran Board Members**

As charter schools mature and boards refine their practice, more nuanced training is needed to move governance from good to great. This interactive session will focus on case studies and attendees will contemplate, discuss and present solutions to real world governance problems.

- **Newly Approved Schools: Expectations for the Planning Year**

This session is specifically developed for any newly approved state charter school board members in attendance. SCSC staff will review the SCSC Pre-Opening Checklist and discuss expectations and milestones that must be met throughout the planning year.

TOTAL REQUIRED HOURS: 12 (not including pre-session hours)