



# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

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## JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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### SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on November 18, 2015. The SCSC did not hold a December meeting. The November meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 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](#).

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### 2016 Petition Cycle

The application for the 2016 petition cycle is tentatively scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>, pending Commission approval at the January SCSC meeting.

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### Training Opportunities

The [2015-2016 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 session.

### Petitioner Boot Camp

**January 20, 2016, Macon Marriott Conference Center, Macon, Georgia**  
**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

The Petitioner Boot Camp prepares potential petitioners for the SCSC charter petition process. On the first day, attendees will learn what goes into a successful charter petition, with a specific focus on timeline, legal requirements, and proper board governance. Attendees will also hear directly from existing state charter schools and have the opportunity to ask questions of existing schools and SCSC staff. The SCSC will also offer a series of webinars for petitioners in early 2016 focused on budget preparation and school finance.

### Governance Training

**Invited: Board Members and Administrators of Operational State Charter Schools**  
**February 10-11, 2016**  
**Atlanta Evergreen Marriott, Stone Mountain, Georgia**

[www.marriott.com/atlantaevergreen](http://www.marriott.com/atlantaevergreen)

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 last 2015-2016 SCSC Governance Training date and location is detailed below. Please RSVP to [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) to attend.

**[Charter School Financial Management Certification:  
Introductory Government Accounting for Charter Schools](#)**

**February 23-25, 2016**

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

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government Charter Schools Financial Management Certification is a six-course series that equips participants with the unique skills and knowledge needed to financially operate a charter school. The Introductory Accounting course will introduce the participant to basic accounting concepts for governmental funds. Topics covered will include the accounting equation, chart of accounts, double entry accounting, accounting systems and records, fund accounting, basis of accounting, and payroll and benefit accounting. Find more information, including the full course calendar, [here](#).

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

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## **Reporting Deadlines**

The following reporting items are due in January and February:

- **SCSC:** Tentative release for 2016 SCSC petition application – End of February
- **Other:** Superintendent's Test Certification; Second Semester SLO Window Reopens for Target Adjustment Based on Pre-Assessment Data; Second Semester SLO Submission Window Closes; SLO Statements Visible in the Platform
- **Data Collections:** Pre-ID; Student Record; Special Education Transition Planning

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](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.

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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](#).

### Education Georgia Summit

Educate Georgia is a two day education summit on January 25-26 where state officials, educators, parents, business and community leaders converge on Capitol Hill to build the future of education in Georgia. Speakers will include Governor Nathan Deal and State Superintendent Richard Wood. Find more information and register [here](#).

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Charter Schools Conference Georgia Charter Schools Association

The Georgia Charter Schools Conference is the only statewide gathering of the entire Georgia charter schools community. The 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center from February 3-5, 2016. GCSA welcomes charter school leaders, governing board members, authorizers, business partners, petitioners, teachers, and business managers to gather and learn about new programs, products, and techniques as well as share best practices and network.

GCSA is currently accepting Presentation Proposals. In addition to useful breakout sessions and inspiring keynote addresses, GCSA will celebrate a Charter School Teacher and Leader of the Year. More information is available [here](#).

### Job Fair Georgia Charter Schools Association

The annual GCSA job fair will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Drew Charter School, 301 East Lake Blvd SE, Atlanta, GA 30317. The job fair is intended to fill charter school vacancies in the 2016-17 school year. Register [here](#) and contact Jhanelle Adams with questions at 404-835-8915 or [jadams@gacharters.org](mailto:jadams@gacharters.org).

### 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](http://www.donorschoose.org).

### 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](#).