



STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

JULY 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](#).

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 will review eligible petitions, interview petitioners, and 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 or (404) 656-2837.

Training Opportunities

Please find SCSC-provided training opportunities below. The 2016-17 SCSC Training Calendar will be available in August. 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.

TKES and LKES Training

July 18-19 (TKES); July 20 (LKES)

Georgia Cyber Academy, 1745 Phoenix Blvd., Suite 100, Atlanta, Georgia

OR

July 25-26 (TKES); July 27 (LKES)

Utopian Academy for the Arts, 6630 Camp Street, Riverdale, GA 30274

8:30-4:30 Daily

All schools are required to implement the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems to evaluate school administrators and teachers (TKES and LKES). To conduct the evaluations, representatives from the school must receive training and credentialing. The SCSC has worked with the GaDOE to schedule an initial training and credentialing session for new state charter schools and newly hired staff at existing state charter schools this summer.

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](#).

Please email GaDOE Evaluation System Specialist, Kathy Reese, KReese@doe.k12.ga.us, with the date(s) you plan to attend.

Charter Schools Financial Management Certification: Internal Controls and Budgeting

July 26 – July 27, 2016

Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, Atlanta, Georgia

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 Internal Controls course will introduce the participant to the five components of internal controls: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication and monitoring. Discussion will include the importance of internal controls for charter schools including high risk areas charter schools should consider. The Budgeting course will focus on roles of the board and staff in budgeting, budget preparation process, estimating revenues and expenditures, projection of ending fund balance, and justification of budget to funding authorities and board. Budget administration, long term financial planning, and the Quality Basic Education funding formula will also be discussed. Find more information, including the full course calendar, [here](#).

CCRPI Interactive Workshop for State Charter Schools

July 28, 2016

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Conference Room, Atlanta, Georgia

In order to help schools better understand their CCRPI score and better utilize past scores for future planning, the SCSC coordinated with the GaDOE to provide an **in-depth CCRPI training workshop** for state charter schools. The workshop will provide schools the opportunity to bring their laptops and actually dig into their data. GaDOE specialists from Data Collections, Assessment, and the School Effectiveness Divisions will lead sessions during the full day of training. A draft agenda for this training is available [here](#).

Reporting Deadlines

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

- **Title Programs:** Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Flexible Learning Program Plan Letter of Intent for School wide Plan
- **Other:** Gender Equity Report, Superintendent's Test Certification – Spring, SLO Final Submission Date for State Required Revisions and Window Closes

- **Data Collections:** Student Course Profile; GUIDE; Pre-ID; Cycle 3 CPI; Special Education - Preschool Exist Data, Postsecondary outcomes, Timelines, Continuation of services

The **FY17 Reporting Calendar** will be available on the SCSC website in August. 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](#), SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

GaDOE FY17 Facilities Grants

The GaDOE FY17 Charter School Facilities Grant Application is now available and was emailed by the GaDOE Charter Division directly to operational schools. The Facilities Grant is an opportunity for eligible charter schools to compete for grants of up to \$200,000 in state funds to be used on costs of certain facility and transportation needs.

Deadline to Establish Eligibility: Friday, July 22, 2016

Application Deadline: Friday, August 12, 2016

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to apply for an FY17 Charter School Facilities Grant, a school must have met the following three requirements:

1. Opened in 2013 or before.
2. Beats the Odds in 2014-15.
3. Filed with GaDOE an FY15 audit report for its Georgia nonprofit corporation along with its Annual Report by November 1, 2015, and *must not have* an “Adverse or Disclaimer Opinion” or “No Opinion” in its audit report.

Meeting the Deadline to Establish Eligibility to Apply

To meet the Friday, July 22, 2016, Deadline to Establish Eligibility, please send an email to Kerry Pritchard at KPritchard@doe.k12.ga.us prior to that date requesting your school’s eligibility status.

Legislative Changes

Along with sweltering heat and humidity, July in Georgia brings effective dates of enacted legislation. Two bills are of particular importance to state charter schools and the SCSC:

- **HB 65** creates O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167.1 that requires local education agencies, including state charter schools, to hold at least two public meeting to provide an opportunity for public input on its annual operating budget before the board may approve the operational budget. The new law also requires a summary of the annual operating budget that was proposed and adopted by the governing board to be posted on a publicly available area of the school’s website. The law contains specific details for conducting the public budget meetings for schools that have a statewide attendance zone as well as requirements for advertising the meetings. Note: As the law went into effect on July 1, 2016, if state charter school governing board adopted its FY17 budget prior to July 1, the school did not need to conduct the two public meetings. However, if the governing board did not adopt its budget prior to July 1, the school must comply will all aspects of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167.1 to ensure full compliance with the law.

- [HB 895](#) amends two laws that pertain to SCSC governance trainings. The SCSC governance training requirements must include two to three hours annually regarding sound fiscal management and monitoring the implementation of school budgets. The SCSC will implement these requirements with its FY17 training program requirements and will provide additional detail regarding training program options in the coming weeks. HB 895 also requires the SCSC to establish a charter schools financial management certification program for state charter school leaders and financial officials. The language of HB 895 requires the SCSC to establish this program, and while it is strongly encouraged, the language of the bill does not specifically require schools to utilize the program. The SCSC is implementing this aspect of the law through the financial management certification program offered through the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. More details regarding that program are available on the SCSC website [here](#).

Please note that other legislative changes will likely affect the operations of state charter schools, including, but not limited to, [SB 364](#) that amended the several provisions of law relating to teacher and leader evaluations as well as the federal [transition to the Every Student Succeeds Act](#). The SCSC will provide key guidance as quickly as it is able, but schools are strongly encouraged to consult their school board attorneys for specific requirements of applicable law.

2015-2016 Citizen and Immigration Status Report

State charter schools must comply with statutory hiring preferences outlined in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(d)(1). In short, state charter schools must provide a hiring preference to individuals, other than foreign exchange teachers, who are citizens or nationals of the United States over other individuals who are not citizens or nationals of the United States if two individuals are equally qualified. State charter schools must also seek prior approval from the SCSC when seeking to hire an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States or a protected individual as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b, unless the teacher is a foreign exchange teacher.

The SCSC is charged by law to review the citizen and immigration statuses of individuals employed by state charter schools to monitor compliance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(d)(1). **Accordingly, if your state charter school employed individuals in the 2015-2016 school year who are not citizens, U.S. nationals, or protected individuals as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b, please return the required form to [Gregg Stevens](#) by August 15, 2016.**

If your state charter school only employed individuals in the 2015-2016 school year who are citizens, U.S. nationals, or protected individuals, as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b, please email [Gregg Stevens](#) by August 15, 2016, stating, “[Name of State Charter School] only employed individuals in the 2015-2016 school year who are citizens, U.S. nationals, or protected individuals, as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b.”

Changes to Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program

Beginning in FY17, school systems that provide before and after school programs to students whose families receive federal child care subsidies must comply with new federal requirements in order to continue receiving payment for those before and after school services.

The new federal requirements are 1) Health and Safety Orientation Training, and 2) Annual Monitoring/Posting of Inspections. As the state agency that administers the CAPS program in Georgia, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is responsible for monitoring programs in which students receiving subsidized before/after school care are enrolled. Beginning October 1, 2016, DECAL consultants will visit these programs annually to confirm compliance with requirements.

For questions about the new requirements or assistance determining if/how these requirements impact your before/after school programs, email ChildCareServices@dec.al.ga.gov.

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](#).

FY17 Innovation Fund Grant Opportunities

Governor's Office of Student Achievement

The Innovation Fund supports local education agencies (LEAs), regional education service agencies (RESAs) (on behalf of a group of schools or LEAs), traditional public schools and charter schools in planning, implementing, and scaling innovative education programs that advance student achievement throughout Georgia. Recently, Governor Deal appropriated state funding for Fiscal Year 2017 to provide new grant opportunities. The funding priorities for these grants include the following:

- Applied Learning with a Focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Education,
- Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development,
- Development and Replication of Blended Learning School Models, and
- Teacher and Leader Development for High-Need Schools.

The application is available [here](#) and is due August 15, 2016. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rebecca Ellis, Innovation Fund Program Manager, or Dr. Cayanna Good, Deputy Director of Innovations and Academic Strategy, at rellis@georgia.gov or cgood@georgia.gov. To read more about these grant opportunities, visit the Governor's Office of Student Achievement's (GOSA) website at <http://gosa.georgia.gov/innovation-fund-grant-opportunities-0>.

Data Collection Coordinator Workshop

Georgia Department of Education

Workshop Description: Join us 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 23rd.

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>

Kars4Kids Grant Opportunity

A small grant program has been launched by Kars4Kids in support of education and youth development. Grants will range from \$500-\$2000, depending on your mission and the availability of funds. To apply or to recommend a 501(c)(3) organization, please visit the [Kars4Kids](#) website.

Atlanta Braves Foundation Grant Opportunity

The Atlanta Braves Foundation is accepting applications for projects that are supposed to have a significant impact upon the community. To learn more or to apply, please visit the [Atlanta Braves Foundation](#) website.

NFL Foundation Grassroots Program Grant Opportunity

The NFL Foundation Grassroots Program wants to provide financial assistance to the football programs of nonprofit organizations. Recipients could receive up to \$250,000 grants solely for capital improvement projects. To read more about eligibility, guidelines and to apply, please visit the [Local Initiative Supports Corporation](#). Applications are due by August 15.

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.

Good Supports Grant Opportunity

Good Sports is currently accepting applications for Sports Equipment Grants. If your school is in need of donated equipment for athletics teams, physical education classes and recess activities, please check the organization's website. Your school must apply as a whole and not as individual programs. For more information, please visit the [Good Sports website](#). There is a rolling application deadline for this grant.

Toshiba Grant Opportunity

Toshiba is accepting grant applications for Innovative technology projects (particularly using math and science skills). Applications are available for all K-12 grades, but Toshiba will not accept requests for project based learning or solely for computers. For more information or to apply online, please visit the [Toshiba](#) website.

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.

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](#).

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