



STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

JUNE 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 May 25, 2016. The May meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 9:30 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

State charter school petitioner interviews will be held the week of July 18th. Interview invites have been sent via email to petitioners. If you did not receive an interview invitation, please contact Morgan Felts, Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, at morgan.felts@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2837.

GaDOE 2016 Federal Programs Conference

The Georgia Department of Education will host a two-day (June 22-23, 2016) conference at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) and the Atlanta Airport Marriot Gateway Hotel in College Park, Georgia. This year's conference is unique in that ALL federal programs will participate in the conference this year in a collaborative effort to provide our districts across the state with all the technical assistance information required for federal program implementation in one location. Over 170 sessions have been scheduled covering topics presented by program area specialists. **The SCSC strongly encourages all state charter schools to send at least one representative at each segment of the conference.** It is suggested that small districts/SCSCs that have one person in charge of several or all federal programs assign others to attend the conference to assist in gathering the important information provided that one person alone would not be able to obtain.

More Information and Registration: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Ga-Fed-Programs-Conference.aspx>

GaDOE Data Collections Conference

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>

2016 CCRPI Information

The first 2016 CCRPI application - the 2016 Post Data Collection for Innovative Practice and Personalized Climate - will open June 21 and close July 29, 2016. School leaders may have already begun preparing the post data to submit in the application. A user guide will be provided at the time the application opens; the GaDOE accountability team will host a webinar as well.

The next summer applications will be the Assessment Matching and Non-Participation Applications. The two applications will be open simultaneously this year and will function in a new way that should make work for state charter schools easier and more efficient. GaDOE plans to have two separate windows for the applications, with state charter school leader sign-off of specified assessments by the close of each window. State charter schools should continue to keep documentation on file that will support these applications. GaDOE will provide additional guidance and resources when the applications open, which GaDOE anticipates will be mid-to-late July.

You will receive information regarding the Summer Graduate and Cohort Withdrawal Update applications in late summer from GaDOE.

The GaDOE accountability team will host several webinars this summer. The 2016 CCRPI Series webinars and the 2016 Post-Data Collection Application webinar links are listed below. Please note that additional webinars will also be provided at a later date. GaDOE will post the webinar recordings on the GaDOE accountability website after each session is completed. The webinar platform requires you to pre-register in advance using the links below. Your pre-registration will also result in your receiving the recording of the session after its conclusion.

June 23, 1 – 2 PM 2016 CCRPI Series Session 1: Overview

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/733259182280936194>

June 27, 1 – 2 PM 2016 Innovative Practice and School Climate Post-Data Collection Application

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9028554344851280387>

June 30, 1 – 2 PM **2016 CCRPI Series Session 2: Achievement, ETBs, Performance Flags, and ED/EL/SWD Performance**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6014972193512687363>

July 14, 1 – 2 PM **2016 CCRPI Series Session 3: Progress, Achievement Gap, and Scoring**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1140694211070150915>

Please note the following additional details:

- After pre-registering, you will receive a unique link to use in entering the actual webinar session on its scheduled date and time. Your pre-registration will also generate automatic reminders (that will be sent to the email address you provide) prior to the session.
- You may share the invitation link with others in your office/system that may need to attend the session. They too will be required to pre-register – and, upon doing so, will receive their own unique link to enter the session.
- Users will be offered options in terms of audio availability (headphones, computer speakers, phone). It is important to have any microphones/phones on mute to prevent disruptive audio feedback.
- Please check with your local technology team to ensure that your local email service allows for the following email addresses to pass through your local filters: customercare@gotowebinar.com; customercare@gototraining.com; customercare@gotomeeting.com

Please visit and bookmark the newly-designed [accountability webpage](#). There you will find 2016 CCRPI Resources in the [CCRPI Resources for Educators](#) section.

If you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CCRPI [Accountability Specialist](#) assigned to work with your school.

2016 CCRPI Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) Request to the 1% Cap

State charter school leaders are reminded that students' scores on the GAA are used for reporting under ESEA requirements that were not waived by US ED. Federal law places a cap on the percentage of scores based on an alternate assessment that may be included for accountability reports. The number of proficient and advanced scores of these students may not exceed 1% of all students in the grades tested (3-8, 11). *Please be aware that with the passing of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), by 2017-2018 this 1% cap will apply to the number of GAA participants, as opposed to the number of proficient and advanced.*

Assessment Directors should complete and submit the GAA survey regarding students who participate in the alternate assessment. As part of that survey, state charter schools can request the exception to the 1% cap. **The survey must be completed and submitted no later than July 1, 2016.**

The survey is now accessible in the secure MyGaDOE portal for Assessment Directors. All state charter schools must complete questions 2 and 3 of the survey even if the district is not requesting an exception. To answer question 3, ALL state charter schools must provide on system letterhead the names of staff trained to administer the GAA, as well as the 2015-2016 dates of training. If the state charter school has determined that it has exceeded the 1% cap and is requesting the exception, the remainder of the survey must be completed as well.

The [GAA Worksheet](#) can be used 1) for determining if an exception is necessary and 2) in preparation for Question # 4 if requesting an exception. You can either complete the attachment and upload it in the survey OR access and complete the electronic worksheet via the hyperlink in Question #4 of the GAA survey. Instructions for completing the worksheet can be found in [GAA Survey Instructions](#). The worksheet will automatically calculate the percentage of GAA participants

that exceed the 1% cap in grades 3-8 and 11. **The kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade numbers are not part of the calculation and are for comparison purposes only.**

The Special Education Director should support the Assessment Director in gathering and compiling the data. The Assessment Director must submit the electronic version of the survey by selecting the button labeled “submit”. Once the Assessment Director has submitted the survey, the state charter school leader must be alerted that the survey is ready for sign off. The state charter school leader must sign off on the completed survey by selecting the “approval” button. This final step ensures GaDOE’s receipt of the district’s survey. Instructions for accessing the survey are included in the [GAA Survey Instructions](#) document.

If you have questions about how to complete the survey, contact your [Accountability Specialist](#).

If you have questions about the Georgia Alternate Assessment, contact Deborah Houston, Assessment Specialist, at dhouston@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 657-0251.

If you have questions about accessing the MyGaDOE web portal, contact the Technology Management Customer Support Center by emailing dticket@doe.k12.ga.us or by calling 1-(800) 869-1011. Please provide a detailed message as well as contact information.

2016-2017 Information Posted to GaDOE Website

Please note that the following items have been posted to the GaDOE website:

- **2016-2017 Assessment Webinar Schedule**
- **2016 Fall Assessment Conference Memorandum**

These items can be located within the *For Educators* link (under *Assessment Resources*) that can be found at: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Once you enter the *For Educators* link, click on **Memoranda & Announcements**.
- These two memos are posted at the top of the list that appears on that webpage.
- Click on the *PDF* link that appears to the right of each memo’s title and the document will open for you to print/save/view.
- Please note that the 2016 Fall Assessment Conference memo contains the **pre-registration links** for those sessions.

The items listed below are also posted under the *For Educators* link (under *Assessment Resources*) that you will find at: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/default.aspx>.

- **Principal’s Certification Form** (Updated 6/3/16)
- **2016-2017 State Testing Calendar** (Updated 6/3/16)
 - The updates to the calendar provide the webinar dates that appear in the memo noted above – along with a few other items.
 - Importantly, there have been *no changes* to the 2016-2017 State Testing Windows that were initially published in Summer 2015.

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.

To attend a training session or for more information, contact [Katie Manthey](#), SCSC Academic Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

Governance Training

Deadline - June 30, 2016

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 had the opportunity to participate in SCSC-provided training at no cost, or to seek alternate training using their own funds. As the opportunity to participate in SCSC provided governance training has now expired, state charter board members must fulfill the obligation through the following method.

- 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.

TKES and LKES Training

July 18-19 (TKES, 2 day training); July 20 (LKES, 1 day training)

OR

July 24-25 (TKES, 2 day training); July 26 (LKES, 1 day training)

8:30-4:30 Daily

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

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 for Charter Schools](#)

July 26, 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. Find more information, including the full course calendar, [here](#).

[Charter Schools Financial Management Certification: Budgeting for Charter Schools](#)

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 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](#).

To attend a training session or for more information, contact [Katie Manthey](#), SCSC Academic Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

[Georgia's Charter School Incubator Seeks Qualified Applicants for Cohort Two](#)

New Schools for Georgia, Georgia's Charter School Incubator, is seeking applications from mission-driven teams to develop and expand rigorous, innovative, and high-quality school options in Georgia.

Through the Incubator, New Schools for Georgia works with five new or replicating charter school teams each year to provide highly-focused, personally-tailored training and support for school leaders and governing boards. New Schools for Georgia works with school founding teams in three distinct phases: Incubation, Year Zero Support, and Ongoing Support.

Teams may prepare to open schools anywhere in the state, but priority is given to those planning to serve families in areas of high need—especially in Atlanta Public Schools (APS). Additional grant funds of up to \$350,000 per applicant for start-up costs is available to those intending to open charter schools that would serve APS students. The Incubator program includes a year-long, paid fellowship for instructional leaders. The school-based fellowship includes: coaching, mentorship, residency opportunities and live instruction.

Successful Incubator team members will be:

- Mission-driven
- Strong communicators
- Strong collaborators
- Patient and committed (willing to serve for a minimum of three years)
- Strong believers in public service and social justice
- Able to attend all trainings during incubation period and monthly board meetings during Incubation Year, Year Zero and after school opening
- Free from ethical and legal conflicts
- Able to pass all legal requirements for working with children, serving on a nonprofit board and fiduciary responsibility for handling public funds
- Individuals with skills in the following areas: finance, legal, instruction, fundraising/grants, nonprofit operations, governance, community activism, policy, facilities, state/federal/local government and/or entrepreneurship

Applicant teams do not have to include an instructional leader, but one must be identified by January 2017 before the charter petition is submitted to the authorizer. Instructional leaders must be willing to commit to the full one-year paid fellowship starting in August of 2017.

Applicants should visit the [New Schools for Georgia link](#) on Georgia Charter Schools Association’s website to view requested materials and learn more about the New Schools for Georgia program. **Please submit all requested materials by midnight, June 24, to incubatorapp@gacharters.org.**

Reporting Deadlines

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

- **Other:** Superintendent’s Test Certification-Spring,
- **Data Collections:** Student Course Profile; GUIDE; Cycle 3 CPI; End of Year Student Class-Class Size; Special Education – Disproportionality, Preschool Exist Data, Postsecondary outcomes, Timelines, Continuation of services; and End-of-Pathway Assessments (EOPA)

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](#), SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

GaDOE Superintendent Woods issues guidance regarding the Obama administration's "Dear Colleague Letter"

[Click here](#) to read Superintendent Woods' statement and guidance from GaDOE regarding the rights of transgender students in the K-12 education setting.

Participating in the Tobacco-Free School Initiative

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is seeking the input of state charter schools in the support of the Tobacco-Free School initiative. DPH would like to work with all state charter schools to adopt a 100% Tobacco Free Schools policy and eliminate tobacco from Georgia's elementary and secondary school campuses.

Model policies are available to the governing boards of charters schools that have not yet adopted such a policy. DPH also has created assessment tools to ensure alignment between school policies and the state's initiative.

For questions or support, please contact Anne-Marie L. Coleman at DPH (Anne-Marie.Coleman@dph.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>.

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.

National Public Charter Schools Association

National Charter Schools Conference

National Charter Schools Conference will be in Nashville, Tennessee from June 26-29 and delivers professional development, learning, and networking opportunities for every participant. Conference attendees generally include charter school and education leaders, board members, policymakers, and back office staff. Click [here](#) to view a draft list of sessions.

To register and for more information: <http://www.publiccharters.org/involved/conference-2016/>

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.

Mazda Foundation

Mazda has opened their grant program with a focus on programs supporting education. To be eligible you must be a nonprofit organization and request funding for a specific project. To learn more or to apply, please visit the [Mazda Foundation](#). Applications are due by July 1.

The Drucker Institute

The Drucker Institute is accepting applications from a nonprofit organization that is deemed to best meet Drucker's definition of innovation: "change that creates a new dimension of performance." The winning organization will receive \$100,000. To apply or learn more about the Drucker Prize, please visit [The Drucker Institute](#). Applications are due by July 1.

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.

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund Grant Opportunity

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is accepting proposals from nonprofit organizations involved in the operation of baseball and softball programs and facilities. Grants are intended to help provide funding and are not for operating expenses or as a substitute for existing funding. There is not a specific maximum grant award. However, the average grant amount is \$40,000. For more information, program guidelines and eligibility, please visit the [Baseball Tomorrow Fund](#). Applications are due by July 1.

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.

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.

Best Buy Grant Opportunity

Best Buy is offering community grants for nonprofit organizations and schools that are helping teens to build technology skills. Your school or nonprofit organization must be located within a 50-mile radius from a Best Buy store and must show the community need to be eligible for the grants. The average grant amount for this project is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. To learn more or to apply, please visit the [Best Buy website](#). Applications are due by July 1.

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.

AntiBullying Summit

Auburn University

Auburn University will host its sixth national AntiBullying Summit in Peachtree City, Georgia, on June 23-24. Bullying affects academic performance, school safety, student mental health (suicide, self harm, drug abuse), and school drop out rates/absenteeism.

The Summit has received endorsement from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and has been approved for CEU and PLU credit. Approximately one-fourth of today's students report that they have been the victims of bullying, with the highest rate in the middle school grades. The issue, particularly cyberbullying, is of great concern to all schools and communities.

Keynote speakers will include Dr. Sameer Hinduja, co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center; and Trish Prabhu, a teen-ager who developed ReThink, bullying intervention software. Other speakers include the [Honorable Steven Teske](#), who serves on the judicial advisory council of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Marilyn Watson from the Georgia Department of Education who will speak on School Climate Star Rating, and [Darrell Green](#), NFL Hall of Famer who has established a national Strong Youth, Strong Community Foundation that works with at-risk youth.

The registration form is available [here](#). Please contact Linda Dean, Auburn University College of Education Special Projects Coordinator at lhd0001@auburn.edu or 334-844-4488 with questions.

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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