



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

## June 2014 Newsletter

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### SCSC Meetings

The State Charter Schools Commission met on May 28, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2014 Commission meeting calendar is available [here](#).

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### Training Opportunities

The draft 2014-2015 SCSC Training Agenda is now 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 note upcoming training opportunities below.

### Strategic Planning Sessions

*Carl Vinson Institute of Government and Georgia Charter Schools Association  
Summer 2014*

The SCSC will offer two strategic planning opportunities to state charter school boards and staffs in the summer of 2014 to assist schools in preparations for the 2014-15 school year. Through this opportunity, experts from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) and the Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) will work directly with the state charter school to conduct an in-depth analysis of the school's needs. The CVIOG experts will help the school develop an executable strategic plan. The GCSA experts will focus on financial controls and budget review. A full overview of the opportunity is available [here](#). The cost of the services will be fully covered by the SCSC. **State charters that wish to opt into one or both opportunities should contact Lauren Holcomb at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2822 immediately.**

*Please contact Lauren Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, with questions at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2822.*

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### Reporting Deadlines

Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **June and July**:

**Title Programs** - Title Programs Self-Monitoring Checklist

**Other** – Superintendent’s Test Certification - Spring

**Data Collection** – Student Record, Student Course Profile, Special Education - Disproportionality, End-of-Pathway Assessments (EOPA), CPI, Special Education – Preschool Exit Data, Special Education – Post-Secondary Outcomes, Special Education – Timelines, Special Education – Continuation of Services

A full list of FY14 reporting items and associated deadlines can be found [here](#). For questions about reporting deadlines, please contact Terence Washington, SCSC Accountability Manager, at [terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.

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### State Charter Principal Receives Leadership Award

Congratulations to Atlanta Heights Charter School Principal Melissa Jones-Clarke for receiving the Ryan Award for exceptional leadership in closing the achievement gap in urban K-12 schools. The Ryan Awards are distributed through the Accelerate Institute, a Chicago-based non-profit organization dedicated to the development of urban school leaders. Ms. Jones-Clarke received a \$25,000 honorarium and the opportunity to teach her methodologies at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

The full story is available [here](#).

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### Save the Dates – State Charter Collaborative Communities

As promised at the How to be an LEA training a few weeks ago, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has created a schedule of Collaborative Communities for state charter schools in the 2014-15 school year focused on special education. **Participants will have the opportunity to acquire and share information regarding the implementation of compliant special education procedures and practices.** Additional information will be provided in August regarding registration, the number of participants allowed from each school, and another details.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
OCTOBER 1, 2014	10:00 - 2:00	To Be Announced
DECEMBER 10, 2014	10:00 - 2:00	CHICK-FIL-A HOME OFFICE 5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, GA 30349
FEBRUARY 11, 2015	10:00 - 2:00	CHICK-FIL-A HOME OFFICE 5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, GA 30349
MAY 6, 2015	10:00 - 2:00	CHICK-FIL-A HOME OFFICE 5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, GA 30349

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### GaDOE announces new testing system

The GaDOE will implement a new testing system, the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) during the 2014-2015 academic year. The new system will replace both the CRCT and the EOCT.

Georgia Milestones will be aligned with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) and provide one consistent testing program across grades 3-12. Previously, students took a series of individual tests.

The new testing system will include open-ended questions to better gauge students' content mastery. With some exceptions for special education students with specific testing accommodations, Georgia Milestones will be administered entirely online by the fifth year of implementation, compared to 35 percent online administration of the EOCT in 2013-2014.

The full press release is available [here](#).

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### **Student Learning Objectives Guidance**

The GaDOE has published a guidance document for charter schools on the implementation of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). This guidance document can be found on the [Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Guidance](#) page of the SCSC website.

Please contact Michele Purvis at [mpurvis@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mpurvis@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 463-6666 with questions.

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### **Rating Digital Resources in LDS**

GaDOE would like to invite Georgia's teachers, curriculum directors, instructional coaches, and other qualified personnel to attend a one day session focusing on evaluating the content provided in LDS's Teacher Resource Link (TRL). A stipend of \$500, a reimbursement for mileage, and lunch will be provided to participants who actively take part in the rating and reviewing of approximately 50-60 resources. Participants should have a solid understanding of subject and grade level content standards and curriculum. Additionally, teachers should be well versed in using the SLDS system, specifically TRL. Highly qualified teachers from the following subjects and grade levels should attend.

- ELA K-12
- Mathematics K-12
- Science K-12
- Social Studies K-12

The event date is July 18 9:30-4:00 at the Macon Marriott City Center.

Registration Information: <http://tinyurl.com/trlrate>

Please contact Angela Baker for more information at [angela.baker@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:angela.baker@doe.k12.ga.us).

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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 full list of SCSC-identified grant opportunities is available [here](#).

**Connections for Classrooms Grant Program**  
**Georgia's Digital Learning Task Force**

Connections for Classrooms is a \$39M grant program joining multiple state agencies around the common goal of ensuring Georgia schools and classrooms have the high-speed broadband access required for digital and blended learning. The program is part of a broader statewide effort to expand classroom high-speed broadband access in response to Governor Deal's [Digital Learning Task Force](#) recommendations as well as the [GaDOE's efforts](#) to enable personalized learning for Georgia students.

The grant application will be released on June 16 with applications due on August 29. Awards will be made in October.

More information is available on the [Governor's Office of Student Achievement website](#). Please direct questions to Steve Korwan, [skorwan@georgia.gov](mailto:skorwan@georgia.gov).

### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference** **Georgia Department of Education**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference will be held June 17-20, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Atlanta Airport Gateway located at 2020 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta, GA 30337 (800) 228-9290. The Spring Hill Suites adjacent to the property will be the conference's overflow hotel.

The schedule for the 2014 conference is different than previous years. The Homeless Liaisons and/or Title I Directors that serve as their district's liaison should plan to attend the Homeless Liaison Workshop portion of the conference which will take place on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, for the entire day. Beginning on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, the conference will have a half-day training for the New Title I Directors Workshop in the morning, and in the afternoon, GaDOE will begin the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Title Programs Conference. On Thursday morning June 19, 2014, right after the continental breakfast, GaDOE will present the awards to the Title I Reward Districts followed by breakout sessions. On Friday, June 20, 2014, breakout sessions and the conference will end at noon. In addition, Title III, Part A— Language Instruction for LEP and Immigrant Coordinator Programs will be providing several sessions at the conference that are normally presented to districts in the fall by Title III.

This year will be focus primarily on federal programs compliance and technical assistance. A suggestion from districts was not to schedule the Meet Your Title I Education Program Specialist session at the end of the day. GaDOE will schedule these Specialist sessions for each district during the regular conference presentation time.

Contact: Margo DeLaune, GaDOE Title Programs Director, (404) 657-1796 or [mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us)

### **Safety in our Schools Conference** **Georgia Department of Education**

The Safety in our Schools Conference will be held on July 8-10 at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center in Athens, Georgia. It is presented by the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Georgia. Topics will include, Managing Tragedy on Campus, Threat Assessment in K-12 Schools, Severe Weather Preparation, Addressing Bullying in Schools, among many others.

Find complete information, [here](#). To attend, register at [www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/uga-hotel/conferences-events/register/safety-in-our-schools](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/uga-hotel/conferences-events/register/safety-in-our-schools).

### **Georgia Race to the Top Summit** **Georgia Department of Education**

Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3) 2014 Summit is being held in collaboration with the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) Summer Conference in Jekyll Island, GA (July 13 – 16). The RT3 specific sessions will begin Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm and conclude by Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

### **Who Should Attend?**

Since the Summer GAEL Conference includes important sessions on RT3 work, the Georgia Department of Education will cover the registration cost for ONE district member to attend GAEL AND the Summit OR just for the Summit. We recommend the “key” person to be someone connected to the educational initiatives being implemented through Georgia's Race to the Top efforts. For example, we suggest a district leader overseeing the RT3 budget or specific reform initiatives. As a reminder, districts will be responsible for all other travel related expenses (lodging, mileage, meals, etc.).

### **Directions for Registration:**

Click on GAEL's Registration link: [GAEL RT3 Summit Registration for designated school/system leaders](#)

- Scroll down and click on the “Register for this Event” link
- If you do NOT have an account with GAEL, then complete the information under “New to This Site?”
- If you have an account, then enter your login ID and password under “Already Have an Account?” section.
- Click “Continue”. The Edit My Personal Information page will appear. You can make changes if needed.
- Click “Save Changes” You must click “Save Changes” even if you did not make changes.
- You are now at the Welcome page. Under “Events” in the column on the right side of the page, click “Browse Events”
- Scroll down the page and click “2014 Summer GAEL DOE Special”. You are now at the “private” registration page for RT3 at no cost.
- Scroll to bottom of page click “Register for this Event.”
- Select Registration fee and click “continue”
- Follow directions to complete the registration.
- During the billing process, please complete the “Bill Me Later” process

### **Hotel Accommodations**

GAEL has provided a link

(<http://www.gael.org/app/webroot/media/useruploads/files/2014%20GAEL%20Lodging%20Rates2.pdf>) with area hotel/motel contact information and room rates. Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations.

If you have additional questions about registration for the RT3 Summit, please contact Jon Rogers at [jonrogers@gadoe.org](mailto:jonrogers@gadoe.org).

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Data Collections Conference Georgia Department of Education**

The Georgia Department of Education will host a three-day 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 2015. The conference will also provide attendees with information related to the importance of internal data collections and reporting procedures.

### **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.

**Conference Dates:**

August 27-29, 2014 (**Registration Ends August 8, 2014 or when registration reaches 1,000 participants**)

Register [here](#).

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