



STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on April 29, 2015. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The SCSC also met for the Annual Policy and Governance Retreat on May 12-13, 2015. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2015 Commission meeting calendar is available [on the SCSC website](#).

2015 Petition Cycle

The application for the 2015 petition cycle is available [here](#). All applicants should ensure they use the 2015 version since it is different than the 2014 version. Please note that a revised budget template was posted on the SCSC website as of March 19th. Any petitioner who completed the budget template prior to March 19th should transfer the information to the new template. Applications are due May 15, 2015.

Training Opportunities

The [2014-2015 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 if you wish to attend a training session.

TKES/LKES Sustainability Training

June 15, 17, 18, 19

The GaDOE West Tower Training Room A (10th Floor)

Atlanta, Georgia

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day

Every Georgia LEA is required to create a sustainability plan for the implementation of the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems and to attend sustainability training. The SCSC, in conjunction with the GaDOE, has developed training specifically focused on best practices for evaluation sustainability in state charter schools. It's imperative that TKES/LKES team leads attend the training for their designated area(s). More information about this training is available [here](#).

June 15 - SLO Sustainability Day 1
June 17 - SLO Sustainability Day 2
June 18 - Electronic Platform Sustainability
June 19 - Data Sustainability

Schools should send the names of the representatives who will attend each session to [Lauren Holcomb](#) and notify [Kathy Reese](#) at the GaDOE of any changes to your sustainability plan as soon as possible.

Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program

Internal Controls and Writing Financial Policies

July 29-July30

Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, Atlanta, Georgia

Invited: School Business Managers and Administrators

The SCSC will offer a full scholarship to state charter business managers and/or administrators who wish to enroll in the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program. Courses must be completed within a three-year period. 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 Writing Financial Policies course will focus on the policies important to charter schools including Accounting and Financial Reporting, Budget, Revenue, Expenditures, Fund Balance, Capital Asset, Cash and Investments, and Purchasing. Visit the SCSC website to see the full [program overview](#).

Financial System Review

Georgia Charter Schools Association

Individualized Sessions with Schools

The SCSC will once again offer Financial System Review services led by the Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) to state charter schools that did not receive the service last year. For schools that take advantage of this opportunity, Elisa Falco from GCSA will work with the school leader and financial management team to conduct an in-depth financial system review. The review will assist schools in establishing or improving effective internal controls, implementing best practices for accounting practices and procedures, and will provide schools with an assessment of fiscal health. The two-part review includes an analysis of the school's internal controls and an analysis of the school's budget. More detailed information is available [here](#).

Strategic Planning with the Governing Board

Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Individualized Sessions with Schools

The SCSC will once again offer individualized strategic planning sessions with facilitators from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) to state charter school boards and staffs that did not receive the service last year. A CVIOG facilitator will work with the governing board chair to conduct a one-day retreat for individual state charter school boards and assist the board in developing an executable strategic plan. The facilitator will work closely with the board chair to customize the process to meet the school's needs. The opportunity will also include two check-in meetings with the facilitator. More detailed information is available [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.

Reporting Deadlines

The following reporting items are due in May and June:

- [SCSC Petition Application \(May 15\)](#)
- [SCSC Student Enrollment Form \(June 12\)](#)
- [Title I, Part A Budget Amendments](#)
- [Title Programs Self-Monitoring Checklist](#)
- **Data Collections:** Student Course Profile, Class-Class Size, Student Record, End-of-Pathway Assessments (EOPA)

The [FY15 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.

Student Enrollment

To assist GaDOE with potential forward funding for schools this fall, the Fiscal Budget Office (FBO) and the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) have requested that state charters provide GTIDs (if available) and names for all students enrolled in **added grade levels** during the 2015-2016 school year. In addition to student information, the SCSC will also be collecting information about your school which may impact the level of funding made available to the school. It is important that you complete the template and submit it to the attention of [Terence Washington](#) by **noon on June 12, 2015**.

Please direct questions to [Terence Washington](#), SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

GaDOE CCRPI Informational Webinars

The GaDOE Accountability Division announced a series of webinars to provide information on the 2015 CCRPI (College and Career Ready Performance Index). The webinars will cover all aspects of the CCRPI, including data sources, data calculations, and scoring. Schools are encouraged to participate in all of the webinars, given each one will cover a different topic. All sessions will be recorded. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Topic	URL Registration Link
June 3, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Resources	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8002236097669165570
June 10, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Scoring	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4089078612460953858

June 17, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Achievement: Content Mastery	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3574849118778039042
June 24, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Achievement: Beyond Content Mastery	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7384250089719613186
July 8, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Progress	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4946862608870438658
July 15, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Achievement Gap	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5760989396587423746
July 22, 2015	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Graduation Rate	https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5118229192640742402

Please note that the webinar platform requires participants to **pre-register in advance**. Pre-registration will also result in the participant receiving the recording of the session after its conclusion. To pre-register, click on the link corresponding to the session.

Please note the following additional details:

After pre-registering, participants will receive a unique link to use in entering the actual webinar session on its scheduled date/time.

- Participants may share the invitation link with others in your office/system that may need to attend the session.
- Users will be offered options in terms of audio availability via headphones, computer speakers, or phone. It will be important to have any microphones/phones on mute to prevent disruptive audio feedback.
- Please ensure that the following email addresses are permitted to pass through your local filters:
customercare@gotowebinar.com
customercare@gototraining.com
customercare@gotomeeting.com

*If you have questions regarding the webinars or need assistance with navigating the CCRPI reports, **please contact the Accountability Specialist assigned to work with your district**. The list can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Accountability/Pages/default.aspx>.*

Ensuring Accurate Data for CCRPI

GaDOE Student Record Coordinators are currently working on uploading end-of-year data representing all of Georgia's public K-12 students. The Student Record (SR) data is an annual reporting of student information and many of the reported data elements will be used by the Accountability division to produce the CCRPI report for SY14-15. To ensure that districts are reporting accurate data, the Data Collections and Accountability divisions of the GaDOE will conduct three webinars to discuss SR data elements as it relates to CCRPI.

Dates for the webinars are (please note some dates have passed and webinars are recorded):

- April 29: 10:00 - 11:30 am Click this link to join this webinar:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2680078650411756546>

- May 13: 10:00 - 11:30 am Click this link to join this webinar:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4187215522488124162>
- May 27: 10:00 - 11:30 am Click this link to join this webinar:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1630635483630149121>

The information shared during the webinars will be different. Everyone that has a role in making sure that data are reported accurately should be on this webinar. Please feel free to invite your information specialist and registrars to attend these webinars also. We will discuss in detail each element that is used for CCRPI, the business rules applied to the data element and the specific SR reports that should be viewed to ensure accurate reporting.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Technology Management Customer Support Team by using the Help-dticket link on the left side of the MyGaDOE portal menu.

FY16 Consolidated Application

The GaDOE Title Programs division invites schools to participate in a GoToWebinar session entitled **Navigating the FY16 Consolidated Application** on May 22, 2015. This web-based session will review the process for completing the FY16 Consolidated Application. Please refer to the following information regarding time and access information. **No password** is required for this session.

Session Name: NAVIGATING THE FY16 CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION

Session Starts: May 22, 2015 9:00 AM Eastern (EDT, North America/US)

Session Ends: May 22, 2015 12:00 PM Eastern (EDT, North America/US)

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4301885789435063298>

Webinar ID: 109-160-867

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

[View System Requirements](#)

This webinar will be recorded for future reference. Handouts will be emailed to all at a later date.

For additional information regarding this session, please contact Jennifer Davenport by telephone at (404) 463-1955 or by email at jedavenport@doe.k12.ga.us. Please feel free to forward this email to other LEA personnel who may work in the Consolidated Application.

Georgia Milestones Student Survey for Online Test Takers

The GaDOE is interested in receiving feedback from students who participated in online testing this academic year. Please share this information with your Test Coordinators and/or Principals so that students who tested online may have the opportunity to complete the survey. Student responses are anonymous.

End of Grade Student Survey Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Georgia_Milestones_Student_Survey
(closes May 30th)

End of Course Student Survey Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Georgia_Milestones_EOC_Student_Survey
(closes June 15th)

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](#).

Federal Grant Asset Distribution Opportunity State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

The SCSC on behalf of the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) must redistribute assets purchased by Heritage Preparatory Academy Charter School using federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant funding following the school's closure at the conclusion of the 2014 Fiscal Year. Charter schools that are operating in Georgia in the 2014-2015 school year or have a charter approved by the State Board of Education to operate in the 2015-2016 school year by the application deadline may apply to receive, at no cost, furniture and equipment previously used by Heritage Preparatory Academy Charter School. The application and equipment inventory is attached to this email and is also available on the SCSC website under the Grant Opportunities and Resources tab [here](#). **The deadline to submit applications is May 15, 2015.**

Charter School Program State Educational Agency Grant Competition - Call for Peer Reviewers U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII), is seeking individuals to serve as peer reviewers for the FY 2015 Charter Schools Program (CSP) State educational agency (SEA) grant competition. The purpose of the CSP is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand the number of high quality charter schools available to students across the nation. The CSP SEA program is a competitive grant program that enables SEAs to provide financial assistance, through subgrants to eligible applicants, for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools and for the dissemination of information about successful charter schools. For FY15, Congress appropriated \$253 million to support the continued development of high quality charter schools and dissemination of charter school best practices throughout the nation. Approximately \$100 million of these funds are dedicated to this grant competition. U.S. Ed invites qualified individuals to apply to serve as grant application peer reviewers by completing the [Peer Reviewer Application Form](#).

NOTE: Even if you applied to be a peer reviewer in the past, please complete the [Peer Reviewer Application Form](#) as directed below by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2015 to be considered for this new competition in 2015.

For more information about the Charter Schools Program State Educational Agency Grant Program, click [here](#).

13th Annual Title Program Conference Georgia Department of Education

Registration for the 13th Annual Title Programs Conference 2015 - **Implementing FY2016 ESEA Changes and Federal Programs Guidance for Better Success** is now open. Register [here](#). Please note that the Homeless Liaison Workshop, Special Education Directors Workshop, Title III Directors Workshop, and the Title I New Directors Workshop are all limited to **one participant** per district.

Homeless Liaison Workshop - June 15, 2015

Special Education Directors Workshop - June 15, 2015 (beginning at 1 p.m.)

Title III, Part A Directors' Meeting – June 16, 2015

Title I New Directors Workshop - June 16, 2015 (beginning at 1 p.m.)

Title I Programs Conference - June 17-18, 2015 (ending at noon on the 18th)

Title II, Part A Directors Meeting - June 18-19, 2015 (beginning at 1 p.m. on the 18th and ending at noon the 19th)

The conference hotel site is the **Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway**, 2020 Convention Center Concourse, College Park, GA 30337 [\(404\) 761-6140](tel:4047616140). New Title I Directors should register for both the New Directors Workshop and the 13th Annual Title Programs Conference. A new director is defined as a director with **two or less years** of experience as a Title I Director. **If the Title III Director for a system must also attend the Title I New Directors Workshop they may register a second person for the Title III Meeting once they receive clearance from Dr. Randy Phillips** at rphillips@doe.k12.ga.us or [\(770\) 334-8390](tel:7703348390). Please contact Dr. Phillips with questions.

CharterLeader Summer Bootcamp **Georgia Charter Schools Association**

The Georgia Charter Schools Association's (GCSA) CharterLeader program is pleased to announce the CharterLeader "boot camp" which will run from Monday, June 15-Thursday, June 18, 2015. This intensive training will equip current and aspiring leaders in charter schools to develop the skills and core competencies to launch, lead, convert, replicate, and/or expand high quality schools. This is the perfect opportunity for any school administrator or teacher leader to earn 10 Professional Learning Units (PLUs) which will be needed for certification renewal.

This CharterLeader program is unique in the nation, offering charter-specific training to help build a leadership pipeline for Georgia. Modules covered in CharterLeader include: Leadership Assessment, Overview, and Best Practices; Establishing School Culture; Teacher Retention and Induction; School Funding & Budgeting; Professional Standards Commission Requirements; Effective Hiring Practices; Leader Keys and Teacher Keys Effectiveness System; Code of Ethics; School Improvement; Professional Development Planning; Governance, Risk Management, and Strategic Planning; Waivers; Legislative Rule update.

Candidates are expected to attend and participate in all cohort meetings and trainings. Candidates are also expected to work collaboratively with their mentors to build capacity in leadership and decision-making. The total program cost is \$1,700 per person. Final payment will be due on or before May 29, 2015.

Applications for the 2015 cohort are due by Friday, May 15, 2015. For further information contact [WaynicaStaples](#), Director of Leadership Development & Training, 404-835-8914. All applicants must also [complete this survey](#).

Race to the Top (RT3)/Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) Summer Conference **Georgia Department of Education and GAEL**

The educational initiatives funded by Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3) grant affect every school district in Georgia. The RT3 Implementation Office is again partnering with GAEL to provide important information to school district leaders throughout the state on this important work. To ensure that every district has the opportunity to hear the updates and engage in meaningful discussion about how Georgia can sustain the successful initiatives, RT3 grant funds were included in the scope of work to pay the registration fees for individuals from each district to attend the 2015 Summer GAEL Conference, July 12-July 14, 2015 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center. RT3 will pay the registration fees for up to **five members** from each school district. The recommended designees include the Superintendent, Associate/Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Personnel Director, and two other district or building level leaders. Please complete the [registration form](#) and return to Pat Myers pmyers@gael.org at the GAEL organization. You must email your form no later than **April 3, 2015**.

In addition to a number of outstanding professional learning sessions, GAEL will offer sessions on Teacher and Leader Keys, Changes in Assessments, Merit Pay, Technology for improving instruction, and much more. Please direct questions toward Deborah White, GACIS Executive Director at 706-250-4804 or by email at dwhite@gael.org.

GaDOE Data Collections Conference

Georgia Department of Education

The Georgia Department of Education will host the fifth annual Data Collections Conference on August 26-28, 2015 at the Georgia Department of Education 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 2016. 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.

More Information: <http://dcconference.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

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.

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