



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

November Newsletter

School Approvals

The State Charter Commission approved a five-year charter for the Utopian Academy for the Arts, a start-up charter in Clayton County serving grades 6-8. The school will enroll students for the 2014-15 school year. Congratulations to Utopian Academy for the Arts!

SCSC Meetings

The October Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 10 a.m. in the DECAL board room. Meeting minutes are available [here](#). The November Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 10 a.m. in the DECAL Board Room.

Training Opportunities

The following training sessions have been scheduled for state charters. To attend a training opportunity, please RSVP to lauren.wright@scsc.georgia.gov.

SCSC Governance Board Training

Emory Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia

December 9-10, 2013

This 1.5 day **mandatory** training session for **governing board members and school administrators** will focus on the roles and responsibilities of the governing board and the school administrator and practices of highly effective boards. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f), the members of the governing board of each state charter school must participate in this training. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with state guidelines. Additional information about this training session is available [here](#).

Governmental Accounting Training

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Atlanta, Georgia

January 14-16, 2014

This three day training session for **school business managers** will be led by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and will focus on the basics of governmental accounting as well as funding/reporting guidelines for state charters. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with state guidelines.

Charter Petitioner Boot Camp

Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia

January 27, 2014

This single day training session is for **interested charter petitioners**. SCSC staff will discuss ways in which stakeholders can develop a strong charter petition, focusing on school budget, curriculum and accountability, and community engagement.

Please find additional information and a list of 2013-2014 SCSC training opportunities [here](#). Please note this is a draft list to assist schools in planning and dates/topics are subject to change. For questions about training opportunities, please contact Lauren Wright, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at lauren.wright@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2822.

Reporting Deadlines

Please note the upcoming reporting items due in **November** and **December**:

Data Collection - Free & Reduced Meal, Teacher Class, Private School, Student Record- Data Cleanse, Special Education - Transition Planning

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 or (404) 656-2837.

Resources

Georgia Formative Item Bank

The Georgia Department of Education has added over 900 items to the Georgia Formative Item Bank already housed within the Georgia Online Assessment System (OAS). **The Assessment Research and Development Division will conduct two important webinar sessions November 20 and 22 about the Formative Item Bank** that now has over 1,600 items available for use by Georgia educators. The webinars will provide information about the Formative Item Bank and how it can be used as a classroom resource for implementing the state-mandated standards and improving student achievement. Topics covered will include: results of pilots, the various formats of the items, how to locate them in the OAS, and how to use them to enhance instruction.

Webinar Information:

November 20 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Live session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.8F1CFC0DA645AD26A0902EC4281AED>

Recording link: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.E57FD45C56EB8FD3933749F903E4B1&sid=2012003>

November 22 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Live Session: <https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2012003&password=M.54C5D701669D405D7DBD35A049BF96>

Recording link: <https://sas.illuminate.com/mr.jnlp?suid=M.644F347943AA744B69B84A9133A20D&sid=2012003>

Contact: **Dr. Dawn Souter**, RT3 Project Manager, at 404-463-6667 or dsouter@doe.k12.ga.us

Funding and Networking Opportunities

SCSC staff have identified the following new grant opportunities that may be of benefit to state charters. A full list of SCSC-identified grant opportunities is available [here](#).

Coca Cola Georgia Charter School of the Year Award

Coca Cola Foundation via The Georgia Charter Schools Association

The Georgia Charter School of the Year Award is awarded to a single Georgia charter school that exemplifies excellence in student achievement and educational outcomes. Applicants must be a member of the Georgia Charter Schools Association in good standing, be operational for five years, and demonstrate operational sustainability and sound fiscal practices, among other requirements. Applications are due November 22, 2013.

Contact:

Rena Youngblood, Georgia Charter Schools Association Director of Member Services
ryoungblood@gacharters.org

2014 Youth Garden Grant

National Gardening Association

The 2014 Youth Garden Grant is an award designed to support school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. Any non-profit, school, or youth program may apply. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and education related to the environment, health and nutrition issues, character development, and entrepreneurship in the United States. 20 total programs will be awarded \$500 gift certificates to the Gardening with Kids online store, a tool package from Ames, plant starts from Bonnie Plants, and a generous seed donation from High Mowing Organic Seeds. Applications are due December 6th, 2013. Winners will be announced and notified on February 7th, 2014.

Additional Information:

<https://survey.garden.org/index.php?sid=67623&lang=en>

7MM Technology Grant – APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Georgia Department of Education

This competitive grant award will allow districts to build infrastructure and acquire computing platforms. The grant awards will be based on the average cost to supply Firewall and CIPA filtering for the three single connection speed handoffs to Peachnet. These connections and average costs are 1Gbps (\$19,000), 10Gbps (\$82,000) and 40Gbps (\$197,000). All applications must be submitted to Chris Shealy in the Georgia Department of Education. Submissions must be sent by email to techgrant@doe.k12.ga.us

Contact:

Chris Shealy, Georgia Department of Education Director of Technology Services
cshealy@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 657-3533