



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

## November 2014 Newsletter

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### SCSC Meetings

The October State Charter Schools Commission was held on October 29, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, November 19, 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 [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](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) if you wish to attend a training session.

#### **New School Boot Camp**

**December 2, 2014**

**The Classic Center, Athens, Georgia**

**Invited: Newly Approved School Leadership Teams**

The New School Boot Camp is available to the leadership teams of schools that were approved by the SCSC in the 2014 petition cycle. The training will assist school leaders in opening schools on schedule and in an orderly fashion. Presentations will focus on the facilities, Title Programs, special education, TKES and LKES, budgets, and student recruitment.

#### **Petitioner Boot Camp**

**December 11, 2014**

**Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia**

**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

This training session is for those who plan to submit a charter petition to the SCSC or want to learn more about chartering. Attendees will learn what makes a successful charter petition, common mistakes and misconceptions, and hear directly from successful state charter petitioners.

#### **Petitioner Boot Camp**

**January 27, 2015**

**Marriott Macon City Center, Macon, Georgia**

**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

This training session is for those who plan to submit a charter petition to the SCSC or want to learn more about chartering. Attendees will learn what makes a successful charter petition, common mistakes and misconceptions, and hear directly from successful state charter petitioners.

### School Governance - Mandatory

February 5-6, 2015

Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia

Invited: Governing Board Members and Administrators

State charter school board members and administrators are required by law to attend the SCSC School Governance Training. Topics will include the roles and responsibilities of school board members and administrators, ethics, school funding and budgets, audit requirements, strategic planning and succession planning, among others. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

### Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program

Introductory Accounting

February 25-27, 2014

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 Introductory Accounting course will introduce participants to basic accounting concepts for governmental funds. Topics covered include – accounting equation, chart of accounts, double entry accounting, accounting systems and records, fund accounting, basis of accounting, payroll and benefit accounting, and case study. Visit the SCSC website to see the full [program overview](#).

To attend a training session or for more information, contact Lauren Holcomb, SCSC Director of Organizational and Resource Development, at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2822.

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## Guidance: Training Requirements for State Charter Schools

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) recently sent an email to charter schools that explains new training requirements for charter school governing boards as outlined in the newly amended State Board of Education Rule 160-4-9-.06 *Charter Authorizers, Financing, Management, and Governance Training* that will be adopted by the State Board at its November meeting. **Please be aware that those training requirements do not apply to state charter schools.** Georgia law requires the State Board of Education to develop and require annual training for locally-approved charter schools. **However, the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) is required by law to provide annual training for governing boards of state charter schools and the governing board members are required to attend the annual training provided by the SCSC.** The SBOE rule expressly excludes state charter schools from the governance training requirements of the rule.

The SCSC holds two governance training opportunities per year that fulfill the training requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2083 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084. The next and final governing board training opportunity for state charter schools this school year will be February 5-6, 2015. Information about the training is available on the SCSC website here: <https://scsc.georgia.gov/training-opportunities>. Again, this training is mandatory and required by law. The SCSC will notify each school of its noncompliance with state law if the school has one or more board members who fail to attend

one of the SCSC governance trainings. The SCSC will review and consider noncompliance with state law as part of its charter renewal process.

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## Guidance: Georgia Milestones Assessment

Current state charter school charter contracts require schools to meet academic performance goals measured by the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCTs) or End of Course Tests (EOCTs). However, the State Board of Education adopted a new assessment program, the Georgia Milestones, to replace the CRCTs and EOCTs. While the State Board of Education granted some initial flexibility in using the Georgia Milestones for student and teacher accountability, the Georgia Milestone assessments will be used to measure school-level accountability beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. As a result, the specific academic goals in all state charter contracts remain valid even though the name of the measure has changed.

State charter school contracts provide the SCSC the authority to issue administrative clarifications to nonmaterial terms of the contract. As all material aspects of state charter school contracts remain valid, the SCSC will issue an administrative clarification for each school that clarifies the change in the name of the state assessments. The clarification will state that the reference to the CRCT or EOCT should be interpreted as a reference to the state assessment adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-181, such as the Georgia Milestones.

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## Reporting Deadlines

The following reporting items are due in November and December:

- **Second Semester SLO Submissions**
- **Data Collections:** Free & Reduced Meal, Private School, Student Record- Data Cleanse

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](mailto:dticket@doe.k12.ga.us).

*Please direct questions about reporting items to Terence Washington, SCSC Finance and Operational Accountability Manager, at [terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.*

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## CCRPI Timeline

To assist schools in planning, the GaDOE has provided the following CCRPI timeline. When each of the activities opens, GaDOE will send details and user guides. Please note that the applications will be open for a short period of time and plan accordingly. Important updates regarding the 2014 and 2015 CCRPI reports are also provided below.

CCRPI Report	Date(s)	GaDOE CCRPI Activity
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2015	November 10-21, 2014	2015 CCRPI Data Collection Activity ✓ Innovative Practice – NEW pre-collection ✓ Personalized Climate – NEW pre-collection
2014	November 10-14, 2014	CRCT-M Reassignment Application
2014	November 10-14, 2014	Non – Participation Activity
2014	Early December 2014	Portal Release of 2014 CCRPI Reports
2014	Mid-December 2014	Public Release of 2014 CCRPI Reports

*Innovative Practice and Personalized School Climate – NEW pre-collection*

The Innovative Practice and Personalized School Climate data for the **2015 CCRPI** will be collected in **two phases**. During the November 2014 window, principals will provide descriptions of the innovative practice and/or personalized school climate practice that will be implemented during the 2014-2015 school year, as well as information regarding pre-data. At the end of the 2014-2015 school year, we will collect post-data by re-opening the application. For each opening of the application, a user guide will be provided.

**CRCT - M Reassignment Application**

Some districts exceeded the 2% proficiency cap on the CRCT-M and therefore must reassign performance codes from proficient to non-proficient for accountability purposes. Superintendents of those districts that will need to participate in the CRCT-M Reassignment Application will receive notification via email.

**Non-Participation Activity**

The 2014 CCRPI Non-Participation Activity will allow districts to account for those students who were test enrolled but were not test participants. Schools should continue to maintain lists of students who were not assessed and include the appropriate corresponding non-participation reasons. This information will be needed to complete the Non-Participation activity.

**2015 Data Reminder**

Schools and districts are reminded to check all data for the 2014-2015 school year for accuracy. The Student Record data that the superintendent certifies on June 17, 2015 are the data that will be used for the 2015 CCRPI.

**Star Ratings**

Star Ratings will not be included in the December 2014 CCRPI release. They will be provided at a later date.

The GaDOE Accountability Team will continue to support schools and districts regarding CCRPI reports, applications, data, and calculations. The contact information for the Accountability Specialists can be found at the following link: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Accountability/Pages/default.aspx>

**GaDOE School Climate Survey**

School climate surveys for the 2014-2015 school year are now available. Data from the **Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0**, the **Georgia School Personnel Survey** and the **Georgia Parent Survey**, along with other sources, will be used in the calculation of a **School Climate Star Rating** which is a diagnostic tool within the CCRPI. Each of the surveys is administered online through the provided URL address. As soon as the school administrator enters the URL address into the web browser, a drop-down menu will appear and the school administrator will use the drop-down menu to select their school district and their school. If there are new schools that wish to participate that are not included in the drop-down menu, please contact GaDOE using the contact information below.

**The surveys will remain open through Friday, February 27, 2015.** It is critical for all schools to participate in each of the surveys.

- **Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0**

There are two versions of the Georgia Student Health Survey (GSHS) 2.0. The first version is for middle and high school students (grades 6 – 12), and the second version is a short survey for elementary students (grades 3-5). **At least 75% of students at each grade level (3-12) must participate in the GSHS 2.0 to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating.** Please make plans for your elementary, middle and high school students to participate in the GSHS 2.0. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The survey is offered at no cost to all Georgia public school districts and private schools that wish to participate. We will let you know soon when the Spanish version of the student survey is available. The URL addresses for the elementary, middle and high school surveys are posted below.

**Access the surveys through the links below:**

[Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL \(grades 3-5\)](#)

[Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 - MIDDLE SCHOOL \(grades 6-8\)](#)

[Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 - HIGH SCHOOL \(grades 9-12\)](#)

- **Georgia School Personnel Survey**

The **Georgia School Personnel Survey** (GSPS) is modeled after the student survey and includes 31 questions. The GSPS is for all teachers, school administrators, certified staff members and other classified staff members (paraprofessionals, office staff, cafeteria workers, custodians, etc.) who work at least 50 percent of the day in the school. **At least 75% of your teachers and administrators must participate in the survey to be eligible for the School Climate Star Rating.** Most teachers should be able to participate in the GSPS using their classroom computer. The survey is also accessible using an iPad or smartphone. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Data results from the Georgia School Personnel Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. Access the survey [here](#).

- **Georgia Parent Survey**

The **Georgia Parent Survey** is also modeled after the student survey and contains 24 questions. A Spanish version of the parent survey will be available soon. Parents will be able to complete the survey using their personal computers, smartphones or iPads. For parents that do not have access to the Internet, school administrators might consider scheduling dates and times to allow parents to complete the Georgia Parent Survey at school. All parents should be encouraged to participate in the Georgia Parent Survey because the data will be used to calculate the **School Climate Star Rating**. However, there is no mandatory participation rate for parents. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. Data results from the Georgia Parent Survey will not be available to the public and will not be posted online. Access the survey [here](#).

A survey participation website has been developed to allow schools to monitor their survey participation rates. The survey participation website was emailed directly to superintendents.

Federal law requires that the student survey questions be made available for review by all interested parties; therefore, copies may be reproduced and made available to parents or other parties upon request. Copies of the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 questions are available [online](#). Please ensure that all parents/guardians know about the Georgia Student Health Survey 2.0 and are given the option to opt out if desired.

Please contact Marilyn Watson and/or Jeff Hodges with questions at [mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:mawatson@doe.k12.ga.us)/(404) 651-7179, or [jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jhodges@doe.k12.ga.us)/(404) 463-7891.

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## Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) Webinar

The GaDOE Parent Engagement Program is hosting a webinar to share information with Georgia School Districts about the Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT) work happening across the state. Participants will learn about Georgia's unique approach with APTT through a train the trainer model as well as hear from select APTT Cohort I schools regarding their experiences. Districts/schools will also learn how to sign up to be considered for APTT Cohort II.

Nov 17, 2014 at 9:00 AM EST

**Register [here](#).** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

*For questions, please contact Michelle Sandrock, GaDOE Parent Engagement Program Manager, at (404) 232 – 1148 or [msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:msandrock@doe.k12.ga.us).*

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## Georgia Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control: Ebola Virus Safety

The DPH and the CDC recently issued the following guidance to schools regarding the Ebola Virus:

Current medical and scientific evidence indicate that a person infected with Ebola virus disease is not contagious unless they develop signs or symptoms of illness, such as fever (including low-grade), headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or bleeding. In other words, a person who is not showing any signs or symptoms cannot infect others, not even close contacts such as children, spouses, other household members, or classmates. For this reason, we recommend that schools not exclude the household or family members of asymptomatic travelers returning from Ebola-affected countries or any asymptomatic teachers, staff, or students who have recently traveled to Ebola-affected countries. We further recommend that schools not require household members or asymptomatic travelers to obtain “clearance letters” from a physician or health authority before allowing them to attend classes or work.

*For more information, visit [www.dph.ga.gov/ebola](http://www.dph.ga.gov/ebola) or contact DPH with questions at 1-866-PUB-HLTH or the Epidemiology section at 404-657-2588.*

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## Invitation to E-rate Modernization Order Webinar

All participants in the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) Program are invited to join USAC for a webinar this Thursday, November 13, about the major changes resulting from the [E-rate Modernization Order](#). Topics include Category Two budgets, changes to eligible services, and application process changes.

**Register here:** [E-rate Modernization Order Webinar](#)

Thursday, November 13, 2014

3:00 to 4:00 PM EST

### Presentation Topics

This webinar serves as an introduction to the major changes in the E-rate Modernization Order, including:

- Overview of the E-rate Modernization Order
- Category Two budgets
- Changes to eligible services
- Changes to the application process

Please note: Due to the large size of the virtual audience, the presenters will not accept live questions during the presentation.

## State Charter Collaborative Communities

The GaDOE has created a schedule of Collaborative Communities for state charter schools in the 2014-15 school year focused on special education. The information presented will assist schools in the five focus areas for implementation of IDEA: the Identification Process, Services and Supports, Student Progress, Parent Engagement, and College and Career Readiness. **Two attendees** may participate from each school. Register at [www.mresa.org](http://www.mresa.org) or contact Raylicia Davis at [raylicia.davis@mresa.org](mailto:raylicia.davis@mresa.org) with questions.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION		PARKING
12/10/14	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia	No Parking Fee
2/11/15	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia	No Parking Fee
5/6/15	10:00 - 2:00	Chick-Fil-A	5200 Buffington Road Atlanta, Georgia	No Parking Fee

**Chick-fil-A will provide a complimentary Continental Breakfast and Lunch each day.**

## 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](#).

### **FY16 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Georgia Department of Education**

The GaDOE's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program is pleased to announce the release of the FY16 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Request for Proposal (RFP). This competition seeks to fund applicants who will operate 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website](#) or [GaDOE website](#) for more information regarding 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC rules, regulations, and guidance.

Applicants will have the option of completing and submitting their 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC proposal(s) entirely online. Please visit the [21<sup>st</sup> CCLC RFP website](#) to view the FY16 RFP and Technical Guidance regarding this option. Although applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposal(s) online, hard copy submission(s) via mail or hand delivery is still available. Please visit [the GaDOE website](#) to download the FY16 RFP and its associated forms.

Everything needed to submit a proposal is included in the RFP itself, however please see below for some important suggestions and upcoming dates:

- It is strongly recommended all online applicants read the online RFP and Technical Guidance prior to beginning their proposal(s). Both of these documents can be found on the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC RFP website homepage.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit an Intent to Apply online, via email, or via fax no later than October 24<sup>th</sup>. Although not required, submitting an Intent to Apply will provide our staff the additional information necessary to help facilitate the RFP process.
- **The application is due by 2:00 p.m. on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

Contact: [21stcclc@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:21stcclc@doe.k12.ga.us).

## **2015 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award Call for Nominations National Center for Families Learning**

The [National Center for Families Learning](#) (NCFL) is accepting nominations for the [2015 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award](#), which will award a \$20,000 to an exemplary teacher engaging families in education. Educators working with families through schools, libraries, and many other community-based organizations will be considered, and nominations are due December 31, 2014.

The selected educator's school or program will receive the \$20,000 prize to further efforts to engage families in learning together and join an elite group of educators across the country that have been recognized as such for nearly two decades. NCFL will award the second prize winner a \$2,500 prize. Both winners will be announced in March at the [2015 Families Learning Summit](#), which will be held this year in Houston, TX. The grand prize winner will deliver a speech to summit attendees alongside keynote speaker Leland Melvin, former astronaut, NASA deputy director, and NFL player who currently co-chairs the White House STEM Council.

Educators can be nominated via the brief online application, and learn more about winning criteria and Toyota Family Teacher of the Year benefits, [here](#). For inspiration, [read](#) about last year's winner, Liz Atack (Nashville Public Library).

## **Educator Summits Georgia Charter Schools Association**

### **Innovation and Creativity....in Math Summit**

Math has continued to be one of the lagging disciplines in Georgia's charter sector for a number of years. This summit is geared toward supporting teachers in raising achievement in mathematics through innovation and creativity applied via technology, instructional practices, and integration with other disciplines or partnerships.

This summit is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2014 from 8:00am-4:00pm at The Museum School at Avondale Estates. There will be 3, 90-minute presentations selected but we're also looking for 12, 10-15 minute 'Ted Talk' type presentations to share best practices, encourage, motivate, and inspire. To submit a proposal, please click [here](#).

## **Board Bank Training Georgia Charter Schools Association**

As the charter school community grows, so does the need for founding board members with the critical skills required to steer charters schools from mission development, through petition submission, to becoming operational. GCSA is pleased to offer a free training on Saturday, November 15th, 2014, 9 am to noon. The location will be announced soon. The training is for individuals who have a heart for education and a desire to serve the charter school community. If you have expertise in education, business, law, human resources, marketing, fundraising, or other specialized fields — or if you have strong community and business ties in a particular community, your service can be invaluable to current or future charter public schools.



The free training will introduce the skills and parameters of charter school board service and can match you with schools who would benefit from your skill set. Contact Elisa Falco, [404-837-2973](tel:404-837-2973) or [efalco@gacharters.org](mailto:efalco@gacharters.org) to learn more and please complete this short survey below if you are interested in enrolling.

LINK TO SURVEY: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HKGC83P>

- See more at: <http://www.gacharters.org/event/board-bank-training-atlanta-2/#sthash.o2TnsrVE.dpuf>

### **Grant Writing Workshop**

#### **Georgia State University College of Law and Grant Writing USA**

The Georgia State University College of Law and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grants workshop in Atlanta, November 24-25, 2014. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines. Attendees will learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. [Click here for full event details.](#)

Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment. Educators can earn one semester unit of post-baccalaureate-level professional development credit from [FPU](#) for participation in a Grant Writing USA Workshop.

Tuition is \$455 and includes all materials: workbook and accompanying 420MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary.

More information including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration is available [here](#).

### **2014 Annual Conference**

#### **Georgia School Boards and Georgia School Superintendents Associations**

The Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) and Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) Annual Conference is the state's premier education conference held each year at the [Renaissance Waverly Hotel](#) in Atlanta. **The GSBA block of rooms is now fully booked. Please view the overflow hotels listing [here](#).**

GSBA affords local school board members a great opportunity to fulfill their annual training requirements for the fiscal year in conjunction with the GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference. The conference dates are December 5-6 and Pre-conference workshops are December 3-4, 2014. This is a convenient way to obtain the necessary credit for annual training (see O.C.G.A 20-2-230).

More information is available [here](#) and the conference agenda is available [here](#).

### **2015 Winter Conference**

#### **Georgia Association of Educational Leaders**

Registration is now open for the 2015 conference, *Politics and the New Discipline*. *The conference will be held* January 25-27, 2015 at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. Speakers will include Ruby Payne, William Daggett, Phillip Hartley, Avery Niles, Heather George, Brooks Coleman, and Lindsay Tippins. [Information and Registration is available here.](#)

### **2015 Leadership Conference**

#### **Georgia Charter Schools Association**

Join GCSA for the second annual Leadership Conference on January 29-30. Following on the heels of a very successful 2014 conference, GCSA will continue the tradition of focusing this event to the school leaders, board members, business managers and new this year, teacher leadership. Plan now to attend this conference by putting the dates on your calendar

and planning accordingly for budget to bring your team. See more at: <http://www.gacharters.org/event/2015-gcsa-leadership-conference/#sthash.PRTuGsf8.dpuf>.

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