



# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

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## NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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### SCSC Meetings

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on October 28, 2015. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2015 Commission meeting calendar is available [on the SCSC website](#).

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### Training Opportunities

The [2015-2016 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 RSVP to [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) if you wish to attend a training session.

### Governance Training

**Invited: Board Members and Administrators of Operational State Charter Schools**  
February 10-11, 2016  
Atlanta Evergreen Marriott, Stone Mountain, Georgia  
[www.marriott.com/atlantaevergreen](http://www.marriott.com/atlantaevergreen)

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 may fulfill this obligation by one of two methods.

1. State charter school governing board members may attend one of the two governing board training opportunities provided to state charters by the SCSC *at no charge*; or
2. 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.

The SCSC strongly encourages state charter school governing board members to attend one of the governance trainings conducted by the SCSC as these trainings provide board members the unique opportunity to discuss issues and concerns directly with their authorizer. Further, the SCSC staff's unique understanding of the compliance issues facing state charter schools ensures that SCSC training sessions are always topical, relevant, and timely.

The last 2015-2016 SCSC Governance Training date and location is detailed below. Please RSVP to [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) to attend.

### [New School Orientation](#)

**December 2, 2015**

**Invited: Newly Approved School Teams, Newly Hired School Leaders, New Board Chairs  
Empire Room, Twin Towers, 205 Jesse Hill, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia**

This training is specifically developed to assist newly approved state charter school teams with the tools and resources needed for a successful planning year and school opening. SCSC staff and other presenters will review the SCSC Pre-Opening Checklist and share critical information on human resources, facilities, Title programs, special education requirements, the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems (TKES/LKES), and student recruitment and marketing strategies, among other topics. Newly hired state charter leaders and newly elected governing board chairs are also invited to attend.

### [Petitioner Boot Camp](#)

**December 15-16, 2015, Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia**

**January 20, 2016, Macon Marriott Conference Center, Macon, Georgia**

**Invited: Potential SCSC Petitioners**

The Petitioner Boot Camp prepares potential petitioners for the SCSC charter petition process. On the first day, attendees will learn what goes into a successful charter petition, with a specific focus on timeline, legal requirements, and proper board governance. Day two (Atlanta only) will focus on budget preparation and proper financial controls. Attendees will also hear directly from existing state charter schools and have the opportunity to ask questions of existing schools and SCSC staff. The SCSC will also offer a series of webinars for petitioners in early 2016 focused on budget preparation and school finance for those who cannot attend the Day two budget boot camp in Atlanta.

*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.*

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## [Reporting Deadlines](#)

The following reporting items are due in November and December:

- **Finance:** IRS Form 990
- **Other:** Second Semester SLO Submission opens for semester-long courses in November and closes December 18
- **Data Collections:** Free & Reduced Meal; Private School; Student Record-Data Cleanse; Special Education Transition Planning

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](mailto: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.*

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## **Suicide Prevention Training**

The State Board of Education recently passed Board Rule 160-4-8-.19 *Suicide Prevention Training Requirement For Certificated School System Personnel* to implement the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-779.1. Because both Board Rule 160-4-8-.19 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-779.1 relate to the health and safety of students, state charter schools do not have flexibility from their requirements. All certificated employees in a state charter school must receive annual training in suicide awareness and prevention. Employees may fulfill the training requirement through trainings offered by the Georgia Department of Education or through state charter schools or local school systems utilizing the training materials approved by the Georgia Department of Education. Additionally, all state charter schools must adopt a policy on student suicide prevention that are developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts. At a minimum, state charter school suicide prevention policies must relate to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. The Georgia Department of Education developed a model policy to assist school systems in developing individual policies that is available [here](#).

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## **Math and Science Supplement**

As a reminder, state charter schools that employ teachers who are certified in mathematics or science by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and teach in those areas receive additional funding for the salary of those teachers. While state charter schools have the flexibility to set compensation for individual teachers without regard to the state salary schedule, additional funding received by a school pursuant to the Math and Science Teacher Supplement must be provided to the teachers who earned that funding. Georgia law provides that math and science supplements are paid by the Georgia Department of Education through the LEA that employs the teacher, but O.C.G.A. § 20-2-212.5 clearly identifies that the funding is a property right of the teacher. As the funding is property of the teacher, a state charter school must not utilize that funding for any other purpose. A state charter school that does not provide the Math and Science Supplement to teachers that earned that compensation is violating the rights of the teachers in violation of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065(b)(5).

Each state charter school that receives additional funding through the Math and Science Teacher Supplement will receive a report from the Georgia Department of Education that identifies the teachers who earned the additional compensation and the amount of compensation each individual earned. It is the responsibility of the state charter school to ensure that each teacher receives the additional compensation to which he or she is entitled. As the Math and Science Teacher Supplement is made available to schools in the fiscal year after it is earned by employees, it is possible that a state charter school may receive funding for a teacher that is no longer employed by the school. In such cases, the state charter school must locate the former employee to provide him or her the additional compensation he or she earned.

The Math and Science Supplement is discussed in more detail in the SCSC's Legal Obligations of a State Charter School guidance available [here](#).

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## **Reminder - SCSC Survey of Development Needs**

The SCSC invites all state charter school administrators and governing board members to participate in a survey assessing school needs. The SCSC will use the results of the survey to inform trainings and development opportunities available to state charter schools in the 2015-16 academic year. Please access the survey [here](#).

Please contact Lauren Holcomb at [lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:lauren.holcomb@scsc.georgia.gov) with questions.

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

### Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems Training for State Charter Schools Georgia Department of Education

The GaDOE Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness has a new training to offer state charter administrators who have been implementing the Teacher Keys Evaluation Instrument for at least one year. One participant from each Charter is invited to register on both the Electronic Platform (directions attached) and with Middle Georgia RESA. The Middle GA RESA registration site is [www.ciclt.net/sn/resa/recl\\_application.aspx?ClientCode=mgresa&CL\\_ID=103102](http://www.ciclt.net/sn/resa/recl_application.aspx?ClientCode=mgresa&CL_ID=103102)

December 8, 9, 10, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily

Elam Alexander Academy Media Center, 2051 Second Street, Macon, GA 31201

The purpose is to provide additional support around inter-rater reliability. Therefore, we are offering a three-day training entitled, *Evaluation Instrument on Inter-Rater Reliability*, to assist evaluators with their observation skills and accuracy. There will be particular emphasis on an evaluator's objective collection of evidence during the observation of teacher classroom performance. At the conclusion of the three day training, each participant will view a video and rate a teacher's performance using our Georgia TAPS and the associated performance appraisal rubrics. Each participant's scores will be analyzed to determine degrees of rater-reliability, and the participant will receive a subsequent score report.

As a follow up, please note that after the training, these reports should be saved as a PDF and uploaded in each participating evaluator's LKES plan. Trainers will ensure these documents are uploaded into the TLE Electronic Platform on site at the training. Charter School Evaluators of Administrators (LKES) who attend should consider this information as an additional source of documentation to inform professional development, as well as evidence in the LKES evaluation that the participant has engaged in additional training to improve evaluation skills. Additional professional development and training will be offered in the event a participant's scores determine that follow-up is needed.

Please call or e-mail Kathy Reese with the GaDOE, 478-361-9708 or [kreese@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:kreese@doe.k12.ga.us), to register.

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Charter Schools Conference Georgia Charter Schools Association

The Georgia Charter Schools Conference is the only statewide gathering of the entire Georgia charter schools community. The 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center from February 3-5, 2016. GCSA welcomes charter school leaders, governing board members, authorizers, business partners, petitioners, teachers, and business managers to gather and learn about new programs, products, and techniques as well as share best practices and network.

GCSA is currently accepting Presentation Proposals. In addition to useful breakout sessions and inspiring keynote addresses, GCSA will celebrate a Charter School Teacher and Leader of the Year. More information is available [here](#).

### 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](http://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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