



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

October 2014 Newsletter

SCSC Meetings

The September State Charter Schools Commission was held on September 24, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, October 29, 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](#).

SCSC 2014 Petition Cycle

Congratulations to Cirrus Academy Charter School, Du Bois Integrity Academy, and Scintilla Charter Academy! The SCSC voted to approve the petitions of these schools at the September meeting. The SCSC approved four schools at the August meeting, bringing the total number of school approvals in the 2014 petition cycle to seven schools. All seven schools plan to open for the 2015-16 school year.

GaDOE FY15 Facilities Grants

Please note that the FY15 Facilities Grant Application was released via email and sent directly to the email address that the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has on file for the official contact for individual charter schools.

If a charter school leader did not receive the FY15 Facilities Grant Application email, they should contact Louis Erste immediately and update GaDOE records using the [Charter School Contact Information Update Form](#) link found at the last bullet point under *Most Requested Information* on the GaDOE website at <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Charter-Schools/Pages/default.aspx>.

Please direct questions to Louis Erste, GaDOE Associate Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools, District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs at lerste@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 651-8734.

Starting Strong: Best Practices in Starting a Charter School

An SCSC-commissioned report from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University focusing on academic and operational practices commonly employed by high performing start-up charter schools is now available [here](#). The Vanderbilt research team studied charter schools in three states -- Georgia, Tennessee and Florida -- and conducted interviews with leaders who work at Charter Support Organizations (CSOs) in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, New York,

Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington DC. They also reviewed existing literature of best practices for charter school start-ups. The researchers categorized their findings into 11 domains of best practices, spanning all ranges of charter school start-up, from governance board composition to student recruitment and accountability. Among the findings, researchers noted that early school performance is a strong indicator for subsequent school performance, emphasizing the importance of “starting strong.” The SCSC plans to share this report with petitioning groups, existing schools and other external stakeholders.

Training Opportunities

The draft 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.

Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program

Payroll Administration

November 6, 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 Payroll Administration course will focus on the following topics of the payroll process: Fair Labor Standards Act; new employee documentation; compensation calculation through the W-2 process; benefits including insurance and pensions; payroll taxes and remittances; payroll deductions; reporting and recording payroll; internal controls related to payroll; payroll resources. Visit the SCSC website to see the full [program overview](#).

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.

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 or (404) 656-2822.

Reporting Deadlines

The following reporting items are due in September and October:

- **Data Collections:** CPI, FTE, Student Class- Class Size, Student Record- Data Cleanse. The [FY15 Data Collections Calendar](#) is available on the SCSC website. For help accessing the 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, at terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2837.

GaDOE Austerity Survey

The GaDOE is conducting a survey on behalf of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and the General Assembly, related to how funds in the FY 2015 Austerity Reduction were utilized (a statewide increase of over \$314,357,555 in the FY 2015 State Appropriation). The intent of the additional funding was to offset the austerity reduction to provide LEAs the flexibility to eliminate furlough days, increase instructional days and increase teacher salaries.

It is very likely that future austerity reductions and methods of increasing K-12 funding, will be informed by information captured in this survey. With that in mind, please ensure that school staff members make a good faith effort to complete the report by **October 31, 2014**.

The survey is available [here](#).

Please direct questions to Amy Rowell, Interim Director of Financial Review, at arowell@doe.k12.ga.us, or (404) 656-2447.

Georgia Department of Public Health: Ebola Virus Safety

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has issues the following safety precautions for keeping your school community safe from possible spread of the Ebola virus.

(1) Be aware of students and their families, staff or teachers who have traveled to Ebola-affected West African countries, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea within the previous 21 days.

(2) Know the signs and symptoms of Ebola, which may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola and include:

- Fever greater than 101.5°F
- Severe headache
- Muscle pain
- Weakness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Unexplained, unusual bleeding or bruising

(3) If someone presents to your school health clinic with a fever, immediately ask if they have traveled to or come into contact with someone who has traveled to an Ebola affected region.

(4) If you encounter individuals who you believe meet the case definition described in (1) and (2) or (3), separate the individual from others and report it to DPH at 1-866-PUB-HLTH or the DPH Epidemiology section at 404-657-2588.

(5) Hand washing is still the most effective method to protect you from the spread of infectious disease. DPH encourages schools to review their infection control policies and procedures with staff and reinforce germ stopping habits with students. Current information related to the Ebola outbreak and infection prevention tips and flyers are available below.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

<http://dph.georgia.gov/infection-prevention-tips-staying-healthy>

Please contact DPH with questions at 1-866-PUB-HLTH or the Epidemiology section at 404-657-2588.

Centers for Disease Control: Enterovirus D68 Safety

The United States has recently experienced a nationwide outbreak of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness that has been especially harmful to children. Many of the children with Centers for Disease Control (CDC)-confirmed cases had asthma or a history of wheezing. The CDC has developed information and resources for parents and schools about EV-D68, outlined below.

Below are CDC resources about EV-D68 developed for parents and schools:

- [Web Feature](#), “What Parents Need to Know About Enterovirus D68”
 - [Drop-in newsletter article \(matte article\)](#), “Parents: Learn the Facts about Enterovirus D68”
 - [Fact sheet for parents](#), “What Parents Need to Know about Enterovirus D68”
 - [General questions and answers for the public](#)
 - [Infographic: Keep Your Child from Getting and Spreading Enterovirus D68](#)
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Registration Open: 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 or contact Raylicia Davis at 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 except on 10/1/14 when only lunch will be provided.

[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](#).

FY15 Facilities Grants Georgia Department of Education

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Contact: Louis Erste, GaDOE Associate Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools, District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs at lerste@doe.k12.ga.us or (404) 651-8734.

2014 Parent Engagement Month Kick-Off Celebration Georgia State Capitol

November is Parent Engagement Month in Georgia and a time for all parents, families and community members to get the facts, get connected, and get involved. Join First Lady Sandra Deal, Superintendent John Barge and other parent organization representatives to promote parent involvement and kick off the “I Can Make a Difference” campaign.

October 20, 2014
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Georgia State Capitol, North Wing

FY16 21st Century Community Learning Centers Georgia Department of Education

The GaDOE’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program is pleased to announce the release of the FY16 21st CCLC Request for Proposal (RFP). This competition seeks to fund applicants who will operate 21st 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 21st CCLC rules, regulations, and guidance.

Applicants will have the option of completing and submitting their 21st CCLC proposal(s) entirely online. Please visit the [21st 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 21st CCLC RFP website homepage.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit an Intent to Apply online, via email, or via fax no later than October 24th. 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 28th, 2015.**

Contact: 21stcclc@doe.k12.ga.us.

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 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>

2014 AP Regional Workshop Georgia Department of Education

To maintain Georgia's strong Advanced Placement program throughout the state, the GaDOE has planned four **Advanced Placement AP Regional Workshops for the fall of 2014:**

October 17, 2014, Lambert High School, Forsyth County, Suwanne, GA

October 23, 2014, Lowndes County High School, Lowndes County, Valdosta, GA

There is no registration fee to attend. Specific courses offered at each workshop site are listed below. **Each workshop is designed primarily for teachers with 0-3 years of AP teaching experience; however, any AP teacher who feels a need for a refresher course is welcome to register.** Each course will be led by at least two highly successful Georgia high school AP teachers. There will be 30 seats available in each course area. Workshops will begin at 8:30am and conclude by 3:00 pm. Lunch is not provided on site but there will be ample time scheduled to buy lunch off campus.

To register, please email Bonnie Marshall at GaDOE, bmarshall@doe.k12.ga.us.

AP Course sessions offered on Friday, October 17, 2014, at Lambert High School, Suwanne, GA

AP English Language	AP Biology	AP Calculus AB	AP US History	AP Macro Economics
AP English Literature	AP Chemistry	AP Calculus BC	AP US Government	AP Micro Economics
AP Spanish Language	AP Env Science	AP Statistics	AP Human Geography	AP Psychology
AP French Language	AP Physics I	AP Computer Sci		AP World History
AP Studio Art	AP Physics C			

*AP Coordinators/Administrator Session (see note below about this session)

AP Course sessions offered on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at Lowndes Co HS, Valdosta, GA

AP English Language	AP Biology	AP Calculus AB	AP US History	AP Macro Economics
AP English Literature	AP Env Science	AP Statistics	AP US Government	AP Micro Economics
			AP Human Geography	AP Psychology
				AP World History

*AP Coordinators/Administrator Session (see note below about this session)

**The AP Coordinator/Administrator session will be conducted by The College Board and includes a morning information session with a Q&A session to help new coordinators and administrators better understand their role in supporting AP; it also includes ample time to visit some of the subject area sessions going in the afternoon.*

2014 Annual Fall Conference Learning Forward Georgia

Join educators across Georgia for the opportunity to network and engage in concurrent sessions on **November 4-5** on TKES, LKES, SLO'S, and CCGPS and listen how to make it all connect successfully in your school or district. Presenters include **Dr. Marcia Tate** – "Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites: 20 Instructional Strategies for Teaching Common Core State Standards," as well as the Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta Public Schools, Catoosa, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Richmond) and Sponsor "Thinking Maps"

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2015 -11:00 a.m-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014- 8:00 a.m-4:00 p.m.

Marriott City Center 240 Coliseum Drive

Macon, GA 31201

478-621-5300

- **Registration Fee for 2-days \$225**

- **Registration Fee for 1-day \$165**
- **Conference participants limited to 150**

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learning-forward-georgia-fall-conference-tickets-12795055355>

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