

SCSC Expedited Review for Expansion and Replication

- Overview:** In addition to its annual petition review cycle for new charter schools, the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) will conduct abbreviated reviews for existing charter schools seeking to expand or replicate through authorization by the SCSC. The established track records of existing charter schools in the areas of academic performance, financial management, legal compliance, and school governance enable a more accelerated review than that which is required of a brand new charter petition. While the SCSC remains flexible with regard to the timeline for reviewing petitions for expansion or replication, final action to approve or deny these petitions will occur as early as possible to allow sufficient time for the school to prepare operations in the event of approval by the SCSC.
- Who:** Existing charter schools that meet the SCSC's [Evaluation Priorities for Charter School Expansion and Replication](#).
- What:** For each governing board proposing to replicate or expand an existing school model, SCSC staff will review:
- The existing school's original charter petition;
 - A brief narrative that describes the existing school's track record in the areas of student achievement, operational compliance, financial viability, and legal performance;
 - The ability of the existing school to meet the goals outlined in its current charter contract;
 - A brief narrative that describes how expansion or replication of the existing school model meets the needs of the proposed school's community and/or the state;
 - A proposed budget for the expansion or replication;
 - Past financial reports, audits, and monitoring reports created during the existing school's current charter;
 - Input from the existing school's current authorizer (if different from the SCSC); and
 - Publically available information regarding the existing school (e.g. news reports, public complaints, court documents).
- How:** SCSC staff will formulate a recommendation to approve or deny each request to expand and/or replicate based on a review of the aforementioned information submitted by the governing board of the proposed school, data and evidence collected by SCSC staff, an interview with the proposed school's governing board and administrative leaders, and input from the existing school's current authorizer (if different from the SCSC).
- When:** The SCSC timeline for considering petitions for expansion or replication is flexible depending on the needs of the petitioning group. However, an existing school considering expansion or replication should allot approximately three months to complete the application and review process. Accordingly, interested schools are encouraged to contact the SCSC as soon as possible to allow the school sufficient time to prepare operation for a new school year.