



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

September Newsletter

State Charter Resources

The following resources have been added or updated on the SCSC website:

- [Annual Reporting Timeline](#) – This document provides key dates and information to assist state charters in meeting the reporting deadlines required by the state.
 - [Legal Compliance Guidance](#) – This document assists state charters in meeting legal obligations. The original version of the guidance detailed specific laws relating to the operation of a state charter school serving as its own LEA generally, with a specific focus on legal requirements related to student education. The revised version adds an additional chapter that identifies commonly applicable laws related to a state charter school's personnel administration.
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SCSC Monitoring Visits

Attention state charters! The SCSC staff will be conducting head count and monitoring visits during the month of September. The SCSC Accountability Manager, Terence Washington, will contact you to schedule the visits. See you soon!

Training Opportunities

Governance Board Training

SCSC staff are planning a fall training session for governing board members and school administrators. Details and dates for this training session will be announced in September.

Special Education Training

The Georgia Department of Education is planning a training session for school districts regarding IDEA transition requirements. From GaDOE:

Announcing a one day transition technical assistance session entitled “Hitting the Mark” designed to assist districts with developing and writing compliant transition plans and addressing issues of possible noncompliance before they are identified on a state level. Remember, this training is for districts that have never participated in “Hitting the Mark” training and are not involved in the CCaRS Institute or Project. The training will be on October 2, 2013 from 8:30-4:00 at the Central GA Tech College-Macon Campus, Bldg I, Rm 102-Prof Development Center. This is an opportunity for no cost technical assistance aimed at improving the good work you are doing in your district. Remember we will be sending out the survey this fall and asking you to review a randomly selected list of student’s transition plans. This is a good way to “brush up “on the tools that may help you in that process and ensure your plans are compliant before the survey goes out.....

Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness System Training

The GaDOE will offer a special TKES/LKES training session for charter schools this fall and will issue Guidance on TKES/LKES within the next two months. The SCSC will keep state charters updated on this information as dates are announced.

State Charter Petition Review

The SCSC will interview 12 state charter petitioners in the month of September. Petition decisions will be voted on by the Commission at the October board meeting.

August Commission Meeting

The August Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 10 a.m. in the DECAL board room. Meeting minutes are available [here](#). The September Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 10 a.m. in the DECAL board room.

Funding 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](#).

Charter School Growth Fund

<http://chartergrowthfund.org/>

The Charter School Growth Fund is a non-profit that invests philanthropic capital in the nation's highest performing charter school operators to dramatically expand their impact on underserved students. The Charter School Growth Fund will invest in: 1) Emerging CMOs: Individual schools that wish to become CMOs based on outstanding performance or 2) Existing CMOs: Operators that have the potential and desire to continue to grow and have outstanding performance at their existing schools. To be eligible to apply, applicants should demonstrate the following:

- History of High Academic Performance: A record of operating at least one school for three or more years that demonstrates successful academic performance, with students registering strong, consistent gains across several testing periods on a state test and/or a nationally-normed reference test. Candidates with two years of data might be eligible to apply in some cases, and should contact applications@chartersgrowthfund.org for more information.
- Under-Served Population: Service of high-needs families who otherwise would not have access to a quality education.
- Academic Model: Strong, well-structured academic programs and assessment systems that are tailored to the needs of enrolled students and their families, and that have the potential to be replicated.
- Board Support: In pursuing expansion and seeking a partnership with CSGF.
- Charter: If the applicant currently operates charter schools, then it must possess a charter in good standing with its authorizer(s), and demonstrate a consistent record of compliance with the authorizer(s).
- Legal Status: Possession of a valid corporate status and Tax I.D. number.

Application deadline: Rolling

Contact: applications@chartersgrowthfund.org

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