



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC)

September 2014 Newsletter

SCSC Meetings

The August State Charter Schools Commission was held on August 27, 2014. The meeting minutes are available [here](#). The State Charter Schools Commission Annual Governance and Policy Retreat was held September 4-5 and the meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, September 24, 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 Byron Peach Charter High School, Foothills Education Charter High School, Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics, and International Charter School of Atlanta! The SCSC voted to approve the petitions of these schools at the August meeting and the schools plan to open for the 2015-16 school year. Commissioners will vote on three additional charter petitions that required supplemental information for staff to make a recommendation at the September meeting. The State Board of Education has 60 days following SCSC approval to overturn the SCSC action.

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.

Federal Grant Management

October 2, 2014

DECAL Oak Room, Atlanta, Georgia

Invited: Administrators, Business Managers, Grant Managers

The Federal Grant Management training session is for school administrators, school business managers, and/or anyone at the school who participates in the management of federal grants. This session will be led by Brette Kaplan from Brustein and Manasevit, a nationally recognized federal education regulatory and legislative practice, and will focus on federal grants management requirements found in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR),

including an overview of the three basic grants management systems (procurement, inventory, and financial management). Additionally, the training will cover federal requirements in applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars and a discussion of the upcoming changes required by OMB's recently released Omni Circular. The SCSC will reimburse travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines.

School Governance - Mandatory

October 9-10, 2014 OR February 5-6, 2015 (choose one)

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

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.

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:

- **Audits:** The deadline for state charter schools to submit completed FY14 financial audits is October 1, 2014. Any school that does not meet this deadline will be issued a letter that will be placed in the school's accountability folder.
- **Data Collections:** FTE Data Survey, 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 Accountability Manager, at terence.washington@scsc.georgia.gov or (404) 656-2837.

Georgia Milestones Assessment

At the August State Board of Education (SBOE) meeting, the Board approved the GaDOE's request to waive components of two SBOE Rules, specifically, 160-4-2-.11 PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION, sections (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(c), and 160-4-2-.13 STATEWIDE PASSING SCORE, sections (2)(d), (2)(e), (2)(f). In short, the Board waived the promotion and retention requirements for grades 3, 5, and 8, as well as the requirement that the end of course score contribute 20% to a student's final course grade for the 2014-2015 school year. This waiver was sought and granted due to the implementation of Georgia's testing protocols – the Georgia Milestones Assessment System. Please note that the waiver does not apply to accountability measures, such as the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI).

Districts should follow local policy, when making promotion and retention decisions in the impacted grades of 3, 5, and 8 at the conclusion of the current school year. Additionally, districts should develop or follow local policies related to the calculation of final course grades for the eight identified courses requiring a Georgia Milestones end of course measure. Note that the waiver extends through the summer semester (July 31, 2015).

Please contact Melissa Fincher, Ph.D., GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, at 404-651-9405 or mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

CCRPI 2014 and 2015

Please see the following important documents highlighting the 2014-15 CCRPI:

- [CCRPI 2014-2014 Summary of Changes](#)
- [2015 CCRPI Indicators](#)

Please contact Melissa Fincher, Ph.D., GaDOE Deputy Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability, at 404-651-9405 or mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us with questions.

Free Digital Textbooks

Teachers, school leaders, parents and students now have access to free, interactive digital textbooks through the GaDOE's website.

The textbooks, which can be accessed by visiting www.gavirtuellelearning.org/Resources, are currently available for middle and high school courses. They cover an array of content areas in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, CTAE Electives, and several World Languages (Spanish, German, French, Latin, Chinese and Japanese). Textbooks available range from courses such as Coordinate Algebra, Analytic Geometry, and Biology to electives such as Web Design, Agriculture, and Healthcare Science.

Many of the textbooks feature supplemental or interactive content, including study guides, discussion questions, games, audio recordings, and quizzes. When learning about function families in a Coordinate Algebra textbook, students can hover over vocabulary words to view their definitions. In a Fundamentals of Web Design CTAE course, students can take interactive quizzes as they learn HTML.

These resources are aligned with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and are free for use by schools, districts, or individuals. To access the textbooks and a list of subjects available, visit www.gavirtuellelearning.org/Resources, then visit the "click here" link under the "shared" heading. Visit www.gavirtuellelearning.org to access more online-learning resources from the GaDOE.

[GBI Sexual Offender Registry](#)

In accordance with state law, the GaDOE recently emailed the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) Sex Offender Registry access information to all school principals. The list of registered sex offenders on the GBI website is updated twice daily. It may be accessed from the GBI's homepage at: <http://gbi.georgia.gov>. From this website, click on the Sexual Offenders Registry (SOR) link and you can download an excel file. In addition, the GBI website will allow you to search by county, city, zip code and more as well as the ability to create lists that includes photos. All these lists are easily printed. In addition, you may use the link below to access directly the Sexual Offender Registry:

http://gbi.georgia.gov/00/channel_modifieddate/0,2096,67862954_87983024,00.html.

For questions about the GBI Sexual Offender Registry and how it affects your school, contact Ms. Deborah Stephens by telephone at 404-656-4689.

[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. The registration deadline is **September 20, 2014**. Register at www.mresa.org or contact Raylicia Davis at raylicia.davis@mresa.org with questions.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	PARKING
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10/1/14	11:30 – 3:00	Discovery Center Junior Achievement Of Georgia	Georgia World Congress Center Building C 280 Northside Drive, NW Atlanta, Georgia	An electronic Parking Voucher will be emailed once participants are registered. The Parking Voucher must be <u>printed & presented at the gate.</u>
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](#).

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.
- **GaDOE 21st CCLC staff will host a one day, in-person training on September 19th at four locations throughout the state.** If you plan to attend, registration is required and may be submitted online, via email, or via fax. More information may be found in the RFP. All trainings, whether in-person or online, are completely optional.
- 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.

Innovation Fund
Governor’s Office of Student Achievement

The Innovation Fund has received \$5 million in FY15 state funding to provide grants to local education agencies (LEAs), schools, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations focused on planning, implementing or scaling innovative education programs.

Priority Areas

- Applied Learning with a Focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education,
- Development and Replication of Blended Learning School Models,
- Development and Replication of Innovative Resource Management Models, and
- Teacher and Leader Induction and Development

Award Timeline

August 1, 2014	Grant Guidelines Release Planning Grant Guidelines Implementation Grant Guidelines Scaling Grant Guidelines
August 13, 2014*	Grant Technical Assistance Day: Central Georgia Convention Center in Forsyth, GA
August 14, 2014*	Grant Technical Assistance Day: GTRI Center in Atlanta, GA
August 22, 2014	Intent to Apply and Grant Application Release
September 12, 2014	Intent to Apply Due
October 3, 2014	Planning Grant Proposals Due
October 27, 2014	Implementation and Scaling Grant Proposals Due
December 15, 2014	Awards Announced

** All agencies interested in applying must have attended one of the technical assistance days in order for your application to be considered.*

Contact: Rebecca Ellis, Innovation Fund Program Manager at rellis@georgia.gov or (404) 596-3651

Business Managers Meeting for Member Schools
Georgia Charter Schools Association

At this Business Managers Meeting for GCSA members, on September 22 at 9:30 a.m., attendees will discuss the pros and cons of offering an optional Business Managers Certification, plus a first draft of a proposal to create such a program. More information is available [here](#).

Educator Summits
Georgia Charter Schools Association

Special Populations Summit

The Special Populations Summit is geared toward learning how to best meet the academic needs of students with disabilities and remain compliant and fiscally solvent. Join GCSA for a day devoted to topics such as: best practices with compliance, balancing grade level standards with IEP mandates, accommodations versus modifications, and in-depth, co-teaching methodologies. This summit is ideal for regular education teachers with topics geared towards K-8 and 6-12 grade spans, as well as special education teachers in both bricks and mortar buildings, as well as the virtual/blended schools.

This summit is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30 from 8am-4:00pm at Kennesaw Charter Science & Math Academy. To register or view the schedule and confirmed presenters, click [here](#).

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](#).

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:**

- September 25, 2014, Savannah Arts Academy, Savannah Chatham Schools, Savannah, GA
- September 29, 2014, The Carlos Museum at Emory University, Atlanta, GA
- October 10, 2014, Rockdale Career Academy, Rockdale County, Conyers, GA
- 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 Thursday, September 25, 2014, Savannah Arts Academy, Savannah, GA

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

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

AP Course session offered on Monday, September 29, 2014, The Carlos Museum, Emory U, Atlanta, GA

AP Art History (this will be the only course offered at this site)

AP Course sessions offered on Friday, October 10, 2014, at Rockdale Career Academy, Conyers, 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 European History	AP Psychology
AP Music Theory	AP Physics I		AP Human Geography	AP World History
	AP Physics C			

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

AP Course sessions offered on Friday, October 17, 2014, at Lambert High School, Suwanee, 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.*

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