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## 2016 State Charter Petition Approvals

The SCSC approved petitions for five new state charter schools to open in the 2017-18 school year. The schools are DREAM Academy, Genesis Academy for Boys, Genesis Academy for Girls, Resurgence Hall, and the School for Arts-Infused Learning (SAIL).

Applications for the 2016 petition cycle were submitted to the SCSC in May. The petition review process includes an initial staff review of the petition for general legal compliance and an in-depth panel interview with staff, commissioners, and expert third party reviewers in the fields of finance, education, law and policy. Interview panels make recommendations to SCSC commissioners to approve or deny petitions and commissioners vote upon those recommendations. Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the five petitions at the State Charter Schools Commission meeting on August 31, 2016.

The SCSC received 22 petitions in the 2016 petition cycle – the largest number of petitions ever received in a SCSC petition cycle. Five of the petitions were ineligible for review due to legal compliance issues, eleven withdrew their petitions from consideration to further develop their educational plans, and one petition was subsequently approved by a local school district.

Since its inception in 2013, the SCSC has authorized 30 state charter schools located throughout the state. 23 schools are currently operational and six are scheduled to open in the 2017-18 school year. More information about the SCSC, current state charter schools and the 2016 petition cycle is available on the [SCSC website](#).

For questions about the SCSC petition process, please contact Morgan Felts, Associate General Counsel and Petitions Manager, at [morgan.felts@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:morgan.felts@scsc.georgia.gov) or (404) 656-2837.



The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) is a state-level, independent charter school authorizing entity. The SCSC has the power to approve or deny petitions for state charter schools and renew, nonrenew, or terminate state charter school contracts in accordance with Georgia law.

## Upcoming SCSC Meeting

The last monthly State Charter Schools Commission was held on August 31, 2016. The August meeting minutes are available [here](#). The next monthly Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Board Room. The 2016 Commission meeting calendar is available [on the](#)

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## **SCSC Returns Funds to Schools**

The SCSC returned \$1,782,690 to state charter schools following the close of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. SCSC operations are solely funded through an administrative fee deducted from the annual operating budgets of state charter schools. In June, the SCSC unanimously approved a recommendation to return any remaining funds to schools upon satisfaction of the SCSC's FY 2016 expenses, as it did in both FY 2015 and FY 2014. Because these funds do not lapse, state charter schools can utilize the money in the 2016-2017 school year.

"The State Charter Schools Commission has made the extraordinary decision to voluntarily return funds to stakeholders for the third year in a row," said Governor Nathan Deal. "I applaud the Commission for continuing to realize financial efficiencies that keep dollars in schools and classrooms, where the impact is greatest. The Commission shares my priority of ensuring that Georgia's parents and students have access to competitive, high quality options in education."

Read the full release [here](#).

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## **Training Opportunities**

Please find recent and upcoming SCSC-provided training opportunities below. The [2016-17 SCSC Training Calendar](#) is available for your planning purposes. Presentations and materials from past SCSC trainings are available on the [Training Presentations and Materials](#) page of the SCSC website.

### **Preparing for Your SCSC Monitoring Visit Webinar**

**Target Audience: School Leadership Teams**

**September 6, 2016, 2:00 p.m.**

[View Recording](#)

The SCSC hosted a webinar to assist schools in preparing for their SCSC monitoring visit in the 2016-17 academic year. Staff outlined SCSC expectations and shared a monitoring handbook that will aid schools in preparing pertinent documents and information for the visit.

### **Newly Approved Schools Orientation Webinar**

**Target Audience: SCSC Newly Approved School Leadership**

## **Reporting Deadlines**

The following reporting items are due in **September and October**:

- **Finance:** DE046; Charter School Audit Report Submission

- **Title Programs:** End of Federal Fiscal Year Associated Title Reports Due; Beginning of Federal Fiscal Year Associated Title Budgets Due; Title II, Part A Completion Reports

- **Data Collections:** Pre-ID Cycle 2; FTE Data Survey; Student Record – Data Cleanse; CPI; FTE Cycle 1; Student Class-Class Size

The [FY17 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 Financial and Operational Accountability Manager, via email or at (404) 656-2837.

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## **2016 Charter School Annual Report Form**

The 2016 Charter School Annual Report Form was emailed at the beginning of September to the email addresses that the GaDOE

**Teams**

**September 22, 2016**

[Register](#)

The SCSC will host an orientation webinar to orient new school leadership teams with SCSC resources and expectations for the upcoming year. In this webinar, SCSC staff will review resources available to leadership teams, including group and school-level training and the SCSC Pre-Opening Milestones and Checklist, including milestones that must be achieved prior to school opening.

**Carl Vinson Institute of Government Financial**

**Management Certification Program:**

**Payroll and Purchasing**

**November 15 -16, 2016**

**Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts, 244 Washington Street, 3rd floor, Atlanta, Georgia**

[Register](#)

The Carl Vinson Institute of Government Charter Schools Financial Management Certification equips participants with the unique skills and knowledge needed to financially operate a charter school. The Payroll 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, and payroll resources. The Purchasing course will focus on topics important to the purchasing process, from determining needs to receipt of purchased goods and services. Also discussed are alternative purchasing methods, required documentation, and ethics. Find more information about the certification program [here](#).

*For more information, contact [Lauren Holcomb](#) via email or at (404) 656-2837.*

**Governance Training Requirement**

Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 20 2 2084(f), requires that every member of a governing board of a state charter school participate in annual governing board training. The SCSC will again offer two opportunities for state charter school board members to receive this training through the SCSC free of charge.\* The 2016-17 SCSC governance training sessions will be offered on the following dates.

<b>November 29-30, 2016</b>	<b>February 7-8, 2017</b>
<a href="#">Lake Lanier Legacy</a>	<a href="#">Macon Marriott City</a>

has on file for Georgia's charter school Principals/CEOs/Heads of School/School Leaders.

**If you are a current Georgia charter school Principal/CEO/Head of School/School Leader and did not receive the 2016 Charter School Annual Report Form email, please contact [Louis Erste](#).**

<a href="#">Lodge</a>	<a href="#">Center</a>
7000 Lanier Islands Parkway Buford, Georgia 30518	240 Coliseum Drive Macon, Georgia 31217
Group Lodging Rate: \$139/night	Group Lodging Rate: \$109/night
Lodging Reservation Deadline: 10/30/16	Lodging Reservation Deadline: 1/20/17
<a href="#">Register to attend</a>	<a href="#">Register to attend</a>

*\*State Travel Policy applies. Individuals are responsible for arranging their own overnight accommodations.*

Meetings will start at noon on Day 1 and end at 5 p.m. on Day 2. This year, the SCSC will offer a two-hour pre-session for new governing board members on “board basics” beginning at 10 a.m. on Day 1. This session is not required but new board members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Board members who do not wish to participate in SCSC training may again seek alternate training through a list of [approved providers](#). Note that board members are required to attend SCSC governance training in the first year of the school’s initial charter term. Information about alternate training is available in the Frequently Asked Questions guide below.

[2016-17 Governance Training Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[2016-17 SCSC Governance Training Sessions](#)

[2016-17 Alternate Governance Training Session and Hour Requirements](#)

For more information, contact [Lauren Holcomb](#) via email or at (404) 656-2837.

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## **Facility and School Registry**

The annual certification of records in the Facility and School Registry of the Georgia Department of Education began on Thursday, September 15, 2016 and ends on Friday, September 30, 2016. All school systems in the State of Georgia are required to review all records in the Facility and School Registry, which includes the Site Registry, the Facility Registry and the School Registry. Each school system shall review the records in the Facility and School Registry to ensure the records are accurate and correct. When a school system determines that all records are accurate and correct, the Superintendent of schools in each school district shall certify all records in the Facility and School Registry. **Failure to certify records by a school system will result in the school system not being allowed to participate in the October FTE**

**count.**

Please direct questions to Ted Beck, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer at [ted.beck@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ted.beck@doe.k12.ga.us) or (404) 656-2492.

## **Science Georgia Standards of Excellence Support Webinars**

The State Board of Education adopted the Science Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) on March 31, 2016. The Science GSE will be implemented beginning in school year 2017-2018. In an effort to support the role that district and school administrators will have in guiding the implementation of the Science GSE, a five webinar series will be provided to share information about the new standards, describe the expected changes in instructional practices, and explain how support will be made available.

The webinar series will be archived and available on-line. See below for the webinar series timeline. All science webinars will start at 10:00 am and will last for approximately one hour.

<b>Webinars for District and School Administrators</b>	
<b>Webinar Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
<a href="#">Understanding Instruction Under the New Science GSE</a>	October 13, 2016
<a href="#">Making Thinking Visible. A Way to Assess Science Learning</a>	November 15, 2016
<a href="#">Addressing Differentiation In The Science Classroom</a>	December 12, 2016
<a href="#">Universal Design for Learning Supporting Science Instruction</a>	January 18, 2017

## **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](#).

### **Innovation in Teaching Competition**

#### **The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)**

The Innovation in Teaching Competition is a recognition and reward opportunity for Georgia's teachers who are implementing innovative practices that advance student achievement in their classrooms every day. This round, GOSA is looking for teachers focused on the

following [priority areas](#):

- Applied Learning with a Focus on STEAM Education;
- Blended Learning;
- Innovative Practices to Close the Achievement Gap; and
- Kindergarten through Third Grade Language and Literacy.

Winning teachers receive a \$3,000 stipend for themselves and a \$4,000 grant for their school. In addition, Georgia Public Broadcasting will film each of the winning teachers in action. [GOSA will make this video, along with each teacher's unit plan and supplementary materials, available for other educators online.](#)

To participate, teachers must first be recommended. By September 20, recommend a teacher [here](#). [For more information about the Innovation in Teaching Competition, including who is eligible to nominate teachers, please visit the Governor's Office of Student Achievement's website, or contact Jaclyn Colona at \[jaclyn.colona@georgia.gov\]\(mailto:jaclyn.colona@georgia.gov\) or 404-904-5514.](#)

### **2017 Georgia Charter Schools Association Conference**

Registration is now open for the 2017 GCSA conference, which will be held at the [Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center](#) from Tuesday, March 14 through Wednesday, March 15. The conference allows all the charter community an opportunity to connect and share best practices. Register [here](#) and visit [this link](#) to learn more about submitting conference proposals. GCSA is seeking sessions that focus on best practices, professional development strategies, and Georgia's focus on quality charter schools leading to high student achievement.

### **The Captain Planet Foundation Grant Opportunity**

The Captain Planet Foundation is offering grants for hands-on environmental education activities. The mission of the foundation is to promote and support high-quality programs that help children understand and appreciate the natural world through learning experiences that engage them in active projects. Those receiving the grants must have an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million, and priority will be given to requests that include a 50% matching component. Funding will be considered for up to \$2,500. For more information and to apply visit [The Captain Planet Foundation](#). Applications are due by September 30.

### **Walmart Foundation Community Grants**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have identified four core areas of community grant giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, [Sustainability](#), [Women's Economic Empowerment](#) and [Opportunity](#). To ensure that your application has the best chance of being funded, the proposed use of the grant should fit within one of these areas of giving. Award amounts will range from \$250 to a maximum of \$2,500 and proposals must be submitted by December 31. For further information, eligibility and to apply visit: [Walmart Foundation](#).

### **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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