



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## August Board Meeting

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### Date and Time

Wednesday August 31, 2022 at 10:00 AM EDT

### Location

You can also dial in using your phone: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)//276-835-573

205 Jesse Hill Jr Dr SE  
512 Twin Towers West  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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### State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

#### **August 2022 Board Meeting**

August 31, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
512 Twin Towers West  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

#### **Virtual Access Information:**

Meeting Link: <https://meet.goto.com/276835573>

Phone: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122) Access Code: 276-835-573

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### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I. Opening Items</b>			<b>10:00 AM</b>
A. Record Attendance		Buzz Brockway	1 m
B. Call the Meeting to Order		Buzz Brockway	
<b>II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes</b>			<b>10:01 AM</b>
A. July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Buzz Brockway	2 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>III. Organizational Development</b>			<b>10:03 AM</b>
<b>A. Past Trainings</b>	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook	5 m
GaDOE Data Collections Conference – August 23rd – 24th			
<b>B. Upcoming Trainings</b>	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook	5 m
FY23 Training Calendar Presentation			
<b>IV. Pre-Opening Schools</b>			<b>10:13 AM</b>
<b>A. Schools Open this Fall</b>	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook	5 m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amana West Academy</li> <li>• Destinations Career Academy</li> <li>• DeKalb Brilliance</li> <li>• Resurgence Hall Middle</li> </ul>			
<b>B. Pre-Opening Pipeline</b>	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook	5 m
<b>V. Accountability</b>			<b>10:23 AM</b>
<b>A. 2021-22 Academic Performance Measures</b>	FYI	Katie Manthey	10 m
<b>B. Monitoring Update</b>	FYI	Cerrone Lockett	5 m
<b>C. Audit Update</b>	FYI	Morgan Felts	5 m
<b>VI. Research and Evaluation</b>			<b>10:43 AM</b>
<b>A. Leader Advisor Program Report</b>	FYI	Katie Manthey	5 m
<b>VII. Action Items</b>			<b>10:48 AM</b>
<b>A. Utopian Academy for the Arts Replication</b>	Vote	Erin Wright	5 m
<b>VIII. Tabled Items</b>			<b>10:53 AM</b>
<b>A. Virtual Preparatory Academy Start-Up Petition</b>	Vote	Buzz Brockway	5 m
<b>IX. Additional Items from Commissioners</b>			
<b>X. Public Comment</b>			<b>10:58 AM</b>
To sign up for public comment, please email Erica Acha-Morfaw at <a href="mailto:erica.achamorfaw@scsc.georgia.gov">erica.achamorfaw@scsc.georgia.gov</a> .			

	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>A. Public Commenters</b>	Discuss	Buzz Brockway	6 m

1. Dr. Jonathan Patterson  
Superintendent, Fayette County Public Schools
2. Kim Herron  
Assistant Superintendent, Fayette County Public Schools

**XI. Closing Items**

**11:04 AM**

<b>A. Adjourn Meeting</b>	Vote
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# Coversheet

## July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Section:** II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes  
**Item:** A. July 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** July 2022 Meeting Minutes.pdf

# STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia Board Room  
512 Twin Towers West  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**Meeting Link:** <https://meet.goto.com/400166109>

**Phone:** +1 (872) 240-3212 **Access Code:** 400-166-109



### I. **Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.
- The following commissioners were in attendance: Commissioner Brockway, Perez, Johnson, and Milan. A quorum was formed.
- SCSC Executive Director Lauren Holcomb introduced Crystal Saldana as the SCSC's new Office Coordinator and announced Erica Acha-Morfaw's new role as Communications Specialist.

### II. **Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes**

- Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the June 29, 2022, meeting minutes. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The June 29, 2022, meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### III. **Organizational Development**

- The SCSC Director of Charter Development provided an update on past and upcoming trainings. Additionally, schools were reminded to complete Governance Training Certification for FY22.

### IV. **Pre-Opening Schools**

- The SCSC Director of Charter Development announced that the following schools will be opening this fall: Amana West Academy, Destinations Career Academy, DeKalb Brilliance, and Resurgence Hall Middle

### V. **Accountability**

- **Academic Accountability**
  - The SCSC Research Analyst presented the Georgia Milestones Results.
- **Operational Accountability**
  - The SCSC General Counsel announced that the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) responses from the FY22 monitoring cycle were disseminated to schools on July 1, 2022. The SCSC team is providing guidance to schools to assist in preparations for the upcoming school year and FY23 monitoring cycle.

### VI. **Grants**

- The SCSC President provided updates on the GEER II and CSP grants.

### VII. **Action Items**

- **Petitions**
  - SCSC staff recommended that the petition for The Anchor School be approved by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a charter contract for the operation of a state charter school for an initial charter term of five (5) years.
    - A representative from the school provided public comment.

- Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- SCSC staff recommended that the petition for Sankofa Montessori be approved by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a charter contract for the operation of a state charter school for an initial charter term of five (5) years.
  - A representative from the school provided public comment.
  - Commissioner Perez made a motion to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- SCSC staff recommended that the petition for Virtual Preparatory Academy of Georgia be denied. Commissioner Johnson recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest.
  - A representative from the school provided public comment and asked commissioners to delay their vote on the petition.
  - Commissioner Milan made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion did not receive a second.
  - Commissioner Perez made a motion to table the recommendation. Commissioner Milan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VIII. **Additional Items from Commissioners**

- None

IX. **Public Comment**

- Dr. James Bumpus provided public comment on behalf of Cirrus Academy Charter School.

X. **Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

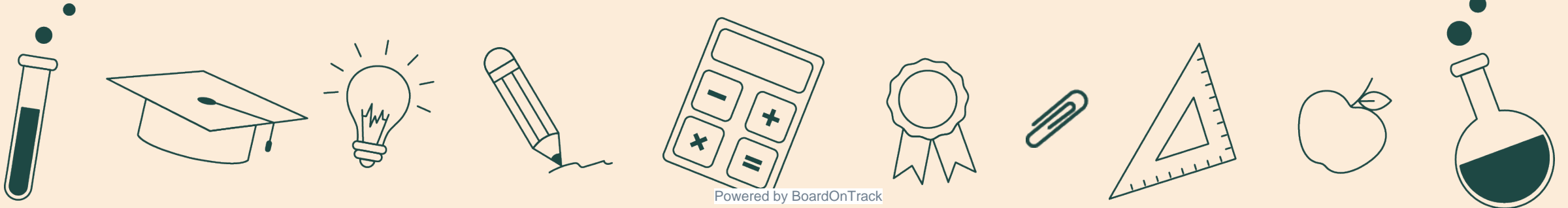
# Coversheet

## Upcoming Trainings

<b>Section:</b>	III. Organizational Development
<b>Item:</b>	B. Upcoming Trainings
<b>Purpose:</b>	FYI
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	Fy23 trainings and supports presentation.pdf

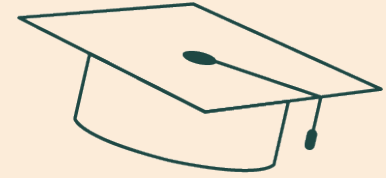


# FY23 Trainings and Supports





# Petitioner Trainings



## • **Petitioner Bootcamp**

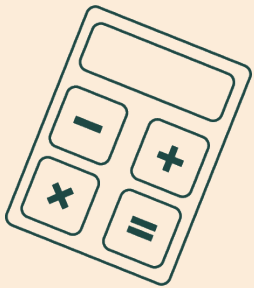
- Held Virtually- September 21
- Topics include:
  - Petition Process Basics
  - Fiscal Feasibility
  - Operating as an LEA
  - Board Governance
  - Planning for Pre-Opening as a Petitioner
  - Developing an Academic Plan

## • **Petitioner Webinars**

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Petition Policy Updates
- November 9<sup>th</sup> – Petition Platform Overview
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – Petition Budget Template Deep-dive

# Operational School Trainings

- **Governance Training**
  - 1.5 Days and In-Person
  - February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Athens
  - April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> TBD (likely Atlanta)
  - Provides governing boards with their 12 annual training hours required by law
  - Attendance at SCSC training is required for pre-opening schools and optional for operational schools
  - SCSC Governance Training is free for all SCSC schools and the SCSC reimburses board members for hotel and mileage costs
- **LEA Reporting Training**
  - In-Person held every year in July
  - Serves as a pre-course for the Annual GaDOE Data Collections Conference for new schools and new data collections staff



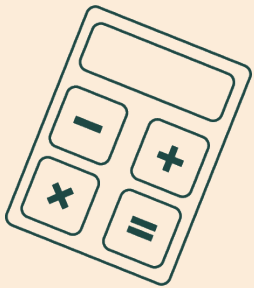
# Operational School Trainings



- **Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) Financial Certification Trainings**
  - 6- course series hosted by CVIOG
  - SCSC provides scholarships for SCSC schools to attend these training sessions
  - Currently being held virtually
- **Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) Financial Certification Trainings**
  - 6- course series hosted by GCSA
  - SCSC provides scholarships for SCSC schools to attend these training sessions
  - Currently being held virtually

# Pre-Opening School Trainings

- **Post Approval Webinar**
  - Hosted virtually every year for recently approved start-up schools
  - Provides an overview of the pre-opening process, state charter funding, and the Comprehensive Performance Framework
- **New School Orientation**
  - Two in-person sessions held annually
    - January 18, 2023 – SCSC Board Room
    - March 22, 2023 – SCSC Board Room
  - Topics include:
    - School Leadership Structure
    - Data Reporting
    - Federal Programs
    - LEA Obligations
    - How to Prepare for Monitoring
    - School Funding



# Other Technical Assistance Programs



- **Leader Advisor Program (Operational Schools Only)**
  - This program matches school leaders with an advisor to support them with an individual growth plan for the entire school year
- **Governance Support Specialists (Operational Schools Only)**
  - This program matches a governing board with a support consultant to assist with best practices in governance. This program runs through the entire school year.
- **Implementation Support Specialists (Pre-Opening Schools Only)**
  - This program matches newly approved schools with a support specialist to assist with navigating the pre-opening process.

# Questions?



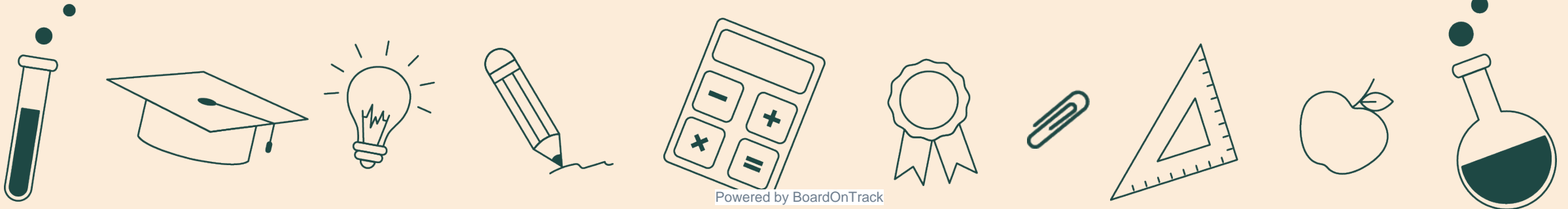
# Coversheet

## 2021-22 Academic Performance Measures

**Section:** V. Accountability  
**Item:** A. 2021-22 Academic Performance Measures  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** AlternativeMeasures\_Aug2022.pdf



# Academic Accountability 2021-2022 school year





# Vision

Innovative and superior charter schools advancing education in every community.

# Mission

The mission of the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia is to improve public education by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



# Academics Metrics Within the CPF

Schools may satisfy annual academic requirements by outperforming the attendance zone in all relevant grade bands on any one or combination following measures:

- **CCRPI Content Mastery,**
- **CCRPI Progress,**
- **CCRPI Grade Band Score,**
- **CCRPI Single Score (weighted by grade band enrollment),**
- **Value-Added Impact on Student Achievement**

OR by earning a “**Beating The Odds**” designation from GaDOE



# 2021-2022 Academic Accountability Updates



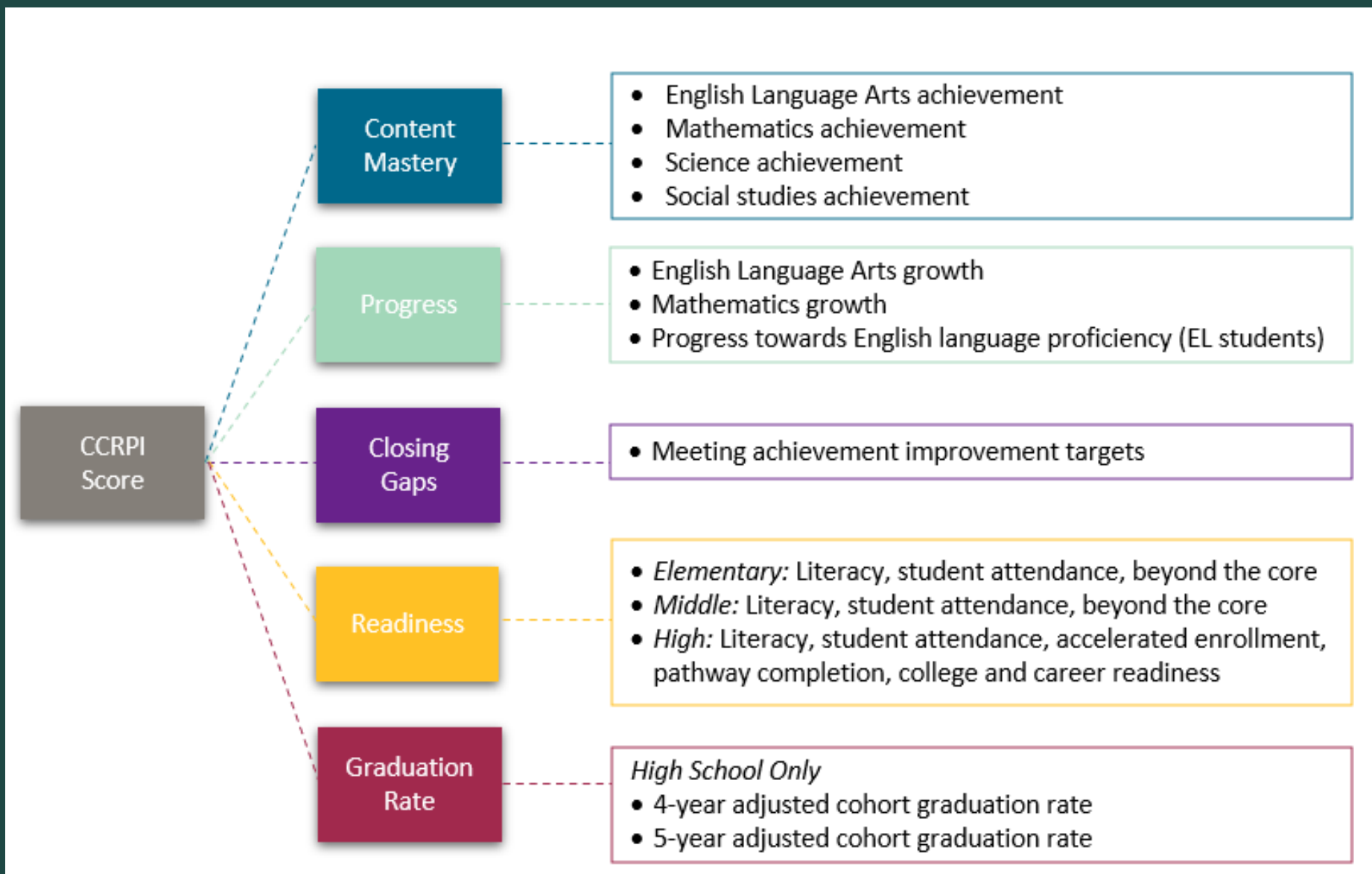
No assessment or accountability waivers were granted.

- All students were required to test
- All schools will receive a CCRPI score\*

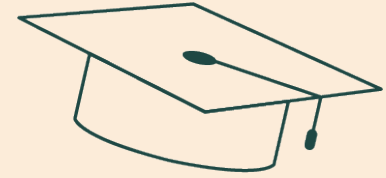
However, given the impact of pandemic-related data limitations on states' accountability systems, USED allowed states to modify their ESSA plans for 2022.

Georgia Dept. of Ed. structured the 2022 CCRPI so that it will establish a new baseline.

No Summative Ratings: There will be 0-100 scores for the indicators and components GaDOE is able to calculate, but there will be no overall, 0-100 scores, including letter grades, for the state, districts, or schools.

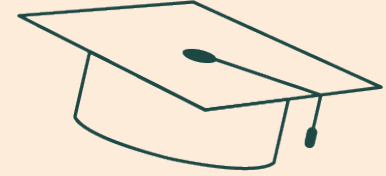


# Content Mastery: Changes for 2022 CCRPI



- There will be no changes in the calculation for Content Mastery.
- ELA, math, science, and social studies indicators will continue to be weighted according to the number of tests within the grade band.
- Participation rates will be reported and used to adjust achievement rates if participation is  $< 95\%$ , as required by USED.
- To maximize instructional time, and given the lack of summative ratings and continued flexibility in testing administration, retests will not be included.

# Progress: Changes for 2022 CCRPI



- ELA and Math progress (student growth percentiles –SGPs) will not be reported.
- 2022 will be used to set a new post-pandemic baseline.
- 2023 SGPs will be calculated as part of the Georgia Milestones program and reported on Georgia Milestones Individual Student Reports (ISRs).
- Progress towards English language proficiency will continue to be reported.

# Proposed Academic Measures for 2022:



- 1. GaDOE CCRPI Content Mastery Scores**
- 2. SCSC Student Growth Percentiles**
- 3. SCSC Value-Added Impact Scores**

A school is considering meeting standards if it:

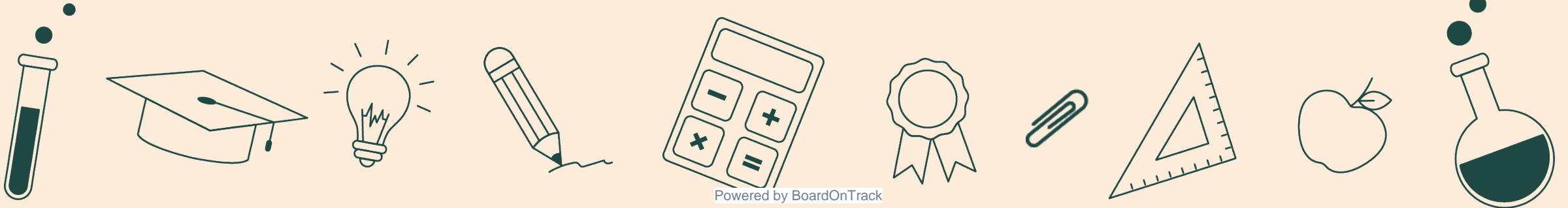
- Outperforms the schools from which it enrolls students on any one or combination of measures 1-3 in all grades bands served OR
- Outperforms the schools from which it enrolls students on a grade-band enrollment weighted overall school score for any measure 1-3.



# Next Steps

- Proposed 2022 Academic Measures are open to public comment until 5 p.m. Friday, September 30, 2022.
- Please provide written feedback to Katie Manthey, [katie.manthey@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:katie.manthey@scsc.georgia.gov) or Scott Riley, [scott.riley@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:scott.riley@scsc.georgia.gov)
- SCSC staff plan to bring final recommendations to the October 2022 SCSC meeting.





# Coversheet

## Leader Advisor Program Report

<b>Section:</b>	VI. Research and Evaluation
<b>Item:</b>	A. Leader Advisor Program Report
<b>Purpose:</b>	FYI
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Related Material:</b>	LAP Eval Report Final 2022.pdf

# Leadership Advisor Program Evaluation Report



2022

State Charter  
Schools Commission  
of Georgia



August 31, 2022  
[www.scsc.georgia.gov](http://www.scsc.georgia.gov)

# About the Program

The Leadership Advisor Program (LAP) is a support service offered by the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) to leaders of state charter schools in Georgia. The program provides targeted mentoring and leadership development in areas of need specific to participating schools. State charter schools in Georgia not only execute an education model but also function as their own Local Education Agency (LEA). As such, state charter school leaders are responsible for managing the academic achievement and the operational compliance of the school; a responsibility typically managed at the district level in traditional school systems. To support their success in both areas, the SCSC contracts with content-area experts who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in school operations, leadership and educational policy. These individuals are referred to as "leader advisors". Given the relationship between strong school administrators and positive student outcomes,<sup>1</sup> it is critical that state charter school leaders are equipped with the skills and support they need to fulfill operational obligations while ensuring the success of the academic model.

Each leader advisor is partnered with one or more state charter school leaders for the entirety of the school year. At the start of the school year, the leader advisor and school leader work together to develop an individualized growth plan that builds upon the school leader's strengths, mitigates their weaknesses, and cultivates quality leadership practices to increase student achievement and improving operational efficiency.

Throughout the year, the leader advisor observes and assesses academic and operational practices and provides meaningful feedback to promote professional growth. At the conclusion of the school year, both the leader advisor and school leader reassess progress on the goals identified in the growth plan. **The LAP is successful when a school leader is better equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to sustain the ongoing work and carry out new goals related to increasing student achievement and maintaining operational efficiency.**

New schools (schools in their first year of operations or schools in their first year under authorization by the SCSC), schools with a new leader, and schools that have struggled to meet SCSC academic standards as outlined in the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework are eligible to participate in the LAP on an annual basis. For the purposes of the LAP, the term "school leader" may refer to an individual school leader (superintendent, principal, etc.) or member of the school leadership team, depending on the leadership model employed at the school. The LAP is flexible to varying leadership models and the needs of individual schools. All services provided by the LAP are covered by the SCSC and offered at no cost to the school.

# 2022 Cohort

The Leader Advisor Program (LAP) was first implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. Each year about 10-13 schools engage in the LAP. In the 2021-2022 school year, 12 state charter schools participated.<sup>2</sup> Two schools were in their first year of operations, five schools were in their second year of school operations, and the remaining five were in their second or subsequent year of operating. Ten of the schools are located in the metro-Atlanta area; the remaining two are located in the southwestern part of the State. They serve students across all grade bands, elementary, middle and high, and employ varying education models including, classical, cultural relevancy, foreign language immersion, service learning STEAM and STEM. In total, the 12 participating schools employed 365 teachers and enrolled over 3,600 students in the 2021-2022 school year.

**12 Schools**



**Over 3,500  
Students Impacted**



**365 Teachers**



# Methodology

For the purposes of the Leader Advisor Program (LAP) evaluation, the SCSC employs a goal-based approach. Four data sources are used to gather information to assess whether the program is fulfilling its goals.



## 01 Surveys

At the end of the school year, all participating school leaders are asked to complete a survey assessing their satisfaction with the LAP. The survey employs a Likert-type scale across eight statements. Generally, respondents are asked to rate each statement as either 5- Strongly Agree, 4- Agree, 3-Neutral, 2- Disagree or 1- Strongly Disagree. There are two open-ended questions that allow for more in-depth feedback. All responses are anonymous.

## 02 Activity Trackers

On a monthly basis, leader advisors submit activity trackers detailing work completed and the status of ongoing work to support their billable hours. The tracker includes the school name, the date work was conducted, work category,<sup>3</sup>task, the status of the task (planned, in progress, complete, removed), number of hours worked, hourly rate and the total amount owed.

## 03 Growth Plans

At the start of the school year, the leader advisor and school leader develop a *growth plan* outlining the main goals to be accomplished. At the conclusion of the school year, the leader advisor and school leader update the growth plan noting which goals were accomplished, which are in progress, and which still require significant attention.

## 04 Performance Data

Annually, the SCSC evaluates state charter school performance in the areas of academic achievement, financial viability and operational compliance through a tool called the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).<sup>4</sup>Participating schools' CPF scores before and after program participation will be reviewed. Other performance data is incorporated as needed.

# Logic Model

The Leadership Advisor Program (LAP) logic model is a road map that illustrates the relationships shared among the resources or inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes of the program.

## Inputs

- Funding, for program operations, payment to leader advisors
- Program Staff, to oversee program planning and implementation
- Partnerships, with SCSC schools and leader experts, participants' time and commitment



## Activities

- Recruit, personnel with specific expertise to act as leader advisors
- Collaborate, to create and work towards goals
- Observe, leadership practices and school operations
- Mentor, school leaders to grow professionally



## Outputs

- Number of participating schools
- Number of work, training and mentoring hours provided
- Amount of funds allocated toward each goal
- Number of school leaders satisfied with the program



## Outcomes

- Increased academic performance
- Improved operational compliance and efficiency
- A well-developed landscape of state charter school leaders that are better equipped to meet the needs of their school- student population, staff and faculty, taxpayers, and other stakeholders.

# Findings: Goal One

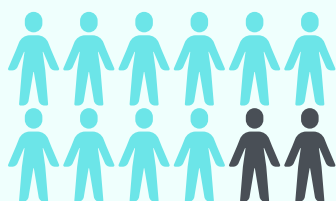


Provide support programming that state charter schools feel is needed and effective.



The SCSC Research and Evaluation team reviewed survey responses submitted by school leaders. A majority of school leaders that submitted responded that they either Agree or Strongly Agree that their leader advisor provided sound and valuable advice that, helped them define and implement a mission focused on school improvement, promoted practices to make higher academic achievement possible, enabled better use of data to inform school improvement and operational procedures, and resulted in better execution of operational practices to comply with the law, among other things.<sup>5</sup>

**80%** of school leaders reported that the Leader Advisor Program helped them better manage the unique demands inherent to leading a state charter school



Hear what school leaders had to say:

*"My LAP Advisor has encouraged me when I faced challenges throughout the year with both staffing, the board, parenting, and even student behavior. Her insight has provided guidance."*

*"There are many ways my LAP Advisor has assisted me, from short to long-range planning, as well as seeing the bigger picture of how to effectively affect organizational changes. It has been so useful and insightful."*

*"When I had several questions and concerns and didn't know who to turn to, my LAP provided valuable and constructive feedback. I have learned a lot over this past year."*

*"The support provided by my LAP Advisor is unique when compared to other resources I have at my disposal by being a person of experience with whom I can be completely transparent and receive full honest advice or just a listening ear. No other resource is available to assist me with this critical need."*



# Findings: Goal Two

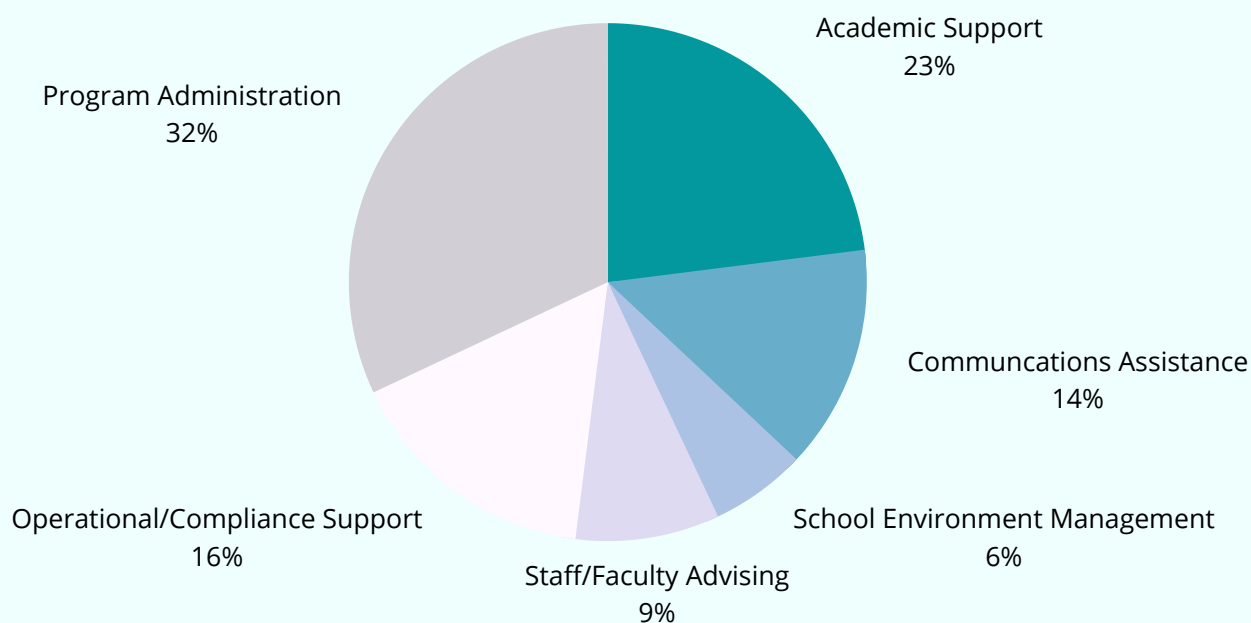


Steward state dollars responsibly by implementing a program that operates efficiently.



According to the Better Business Bureau’s (BBB) Standards for Charity Accountability, at least 65% of an organization’s total expenses, within a given fiscal year, should be spent directly on program services.<sup>6</sup> Thus, no more than 35% of a program’s budget should be spent on overhead and administrative functions. Although the SCSC is a governmental organization, SCSC support programs, like charitable organizations, operate free of charge to participants and with the intent of helping those in need. As such, the SCSC uses the BBB standard as a benchmark for tracking program time and expenses. In the 2021-2022 school year, the SCSC expended just under \$110,550.00 in funds for LAP leader advisor duties. In turn, the leader advisors dedicated 1,725 hours of their time and expertise. The pie chart below illustrates the percentage of funds expended per program support category. Leader advisors are paid an hourly rate; thus, the percent of time associated with each program area corresponds directly with the costs displayed in the pie chart. As such, 68% percent of advisors’ time was spent on program tasks related directly to supporting school leaders while only 32% percent of their time was spent carrying out administrative functions.

68% of program costs go directly to supporting school leaders

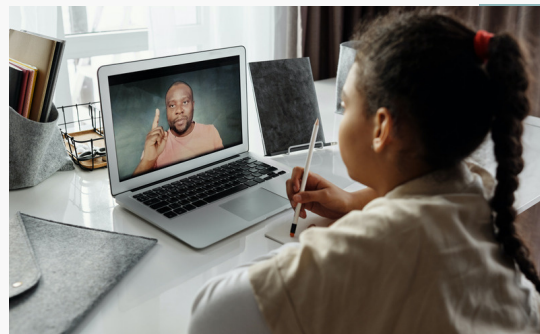


# Findings:

## Goal Three

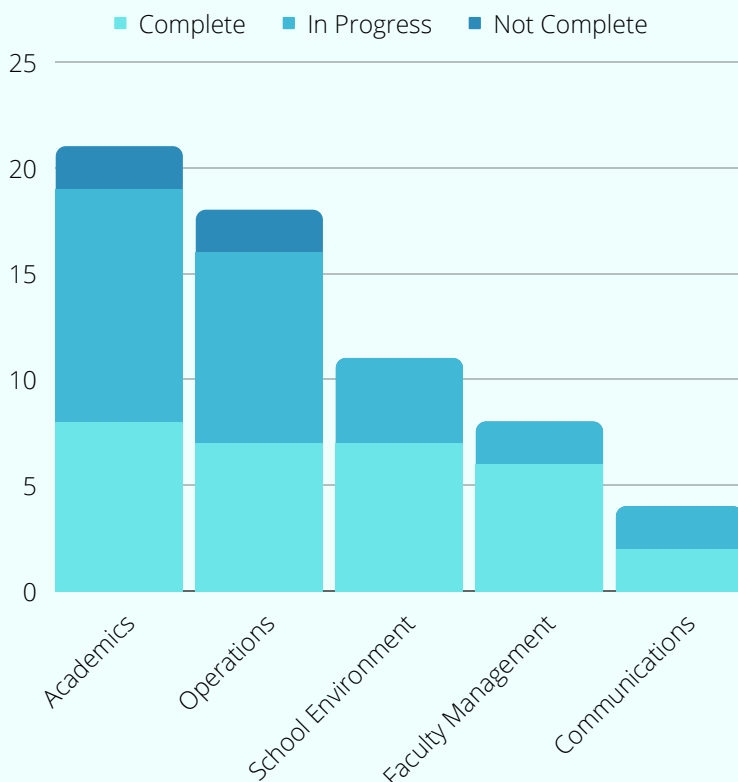


Cultivate quality leadership practices aimed at increasing student achievement and improving operational efficiency.



In alignment with program goals and as illustrated in the bar chart below, LAP schools developed goals primarily focused on academics and operations and had relative success in completing those goals within the school year.<sup>7</sup> However, more work can be done to move tasks from "In Progress" to "Complete."<sup>8</sup> SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) data for the relevant (2021-2022) school year were not yet available when this report was published. However, ten of the 12 participating schools also engaged in the LAP services the previous (2020-2021) school year. Nine of those ten schools met academic standards, and six met operational standards in 2020-2021.<sup>9</sup> We expect the performance trend to continue and increase with the release of 2022 data.

### Year-End Goal Status by Category



**50%** of goals initiated at the start of the school year were completed by the end.



**90%** of schools that participated in the program for the past two years met academic standards in 2021.



**60%** of schools that participated in the program for the past two years met operational standards in 2021.



# Recommendations and Next Steps

- Reengage with current leader advisors for the upcoming school year and recruit new educational experts to serve as leader advisors as needed
- Revise the End-of-Year Leader Survey and feedback process to better understand areas of need and increase response rates
- Identify opportunities to reduce the administrative burden on leader advisors
- Support school leaders and leader advisors in increasing the number of academic and operational goals that are "In Progress" to "Complete" by the end of the school year

## Final Thoughts

The findings indicate that the Leader Advisor Program (LAP) is fulfilling its goals and more schools are meeting SCSC academic and operational standards. Leader advisors are supporting state charter school leaders with the knowledge and resources they need to sustain ongoing work and carry out new goals related to increasing student achievement and maintaining operational efficiency. The SCSC will continue to collect data on leader satisfaction, areas of need, program operations and performance outcomes.



# Thank you

Thank you to all state charter school leaders who commit their time to school improvement. The SCSC understands this work occurs year-round, beyond normal work hours. Georgia's students benefit from your dedication. Thank you to all the education experts that serve as leader advisors. SCSC schools are more successful because of your commitment.

## Contact Us:



Address

504 Twin Towers West,  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr., SE  
Atlanta, GA 30334



Telephone

404.656.2837



Website

[www.scsc.georgia.gov](http://www.scsc.georgia.gov)

# End Notes

1. How Principals Affect Students and Schools: A Systematic Synthesis of Two Decades of Research. 2021. Jason A. Grissom, Anna J. Egalite and Constance A. Lindsay. The Wallace Foundation
2. Atlanta Unbound Academy, Atlanta SMART Academy, Brookhaven Innovation Academy, Delta STEAM Academy, Fulton Leadership Academy, Furlow Charter School, Georgia Fugees Academy, International Academy of Smyrna, International Charter Academy of Georgia, Northwest Classical Academy, Southwest Georgia STEM and Yi Hwang Academy for Language Excellence.
3. "Work Categories" are aligned to program growth objectives and tie back to the SCSC CPF. Specifically, the categories include, academics (mission, curriculum and instruction, modeling and data analysis), staff/faculty management (staff recruitment, staff support and staff retention), communications (internal and external), school environment (faculty culture and student environment) and all sections of CPF [academic, finances and operations] (compliance and resource use).
4. The SCSC's official accountability tool is the Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) which assesses school performance in three critical areas: academic, finances and operations.  
<https://scsc.georgia.gov/state-charter-school-performance/scsc-comprehensive-performance-framework>
5. Only five out of the 12 participating school leaders responded to the LAP End-of-Year Survey.
6. BBB Standards for Charity Accountability. <https://give.org/charity-landing-page/bbb-standards-for-charity-accountability>
7. Goals that were removed from the Growth Plan during the school year are not included in the analysis. Goals can be removed if both the school leader and leader advisor agree the goal is no longer necessary or feasible. Data reported incorrectly or submitted after the first draft of this report was released are also not included in this analysis.
8. Goals are considered "In Progress" when some but not all work was completed, any amount between 1-99%. Goals are considered "Complete" when they are 100% complete and "Not Complete" when 0% of related tasks were completed.
9. SCSC CPF results for the 2020-2021 school year are available on the SCSC website:  
<https://scsc.georgia.gov/state-charter-school-performance/scsc-comprehensive-performance-framework/2020-2021-state-charter>



# Coversheet

## Utopian Academy for the Arts Replication

**Section:** VII. Action Items  
**Item:** A. Utopian Academy for the Arts Replication  
**Purpose:** Vote  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Utopian - Charter Replication.pdf

## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Staff Recommendation

#### Charter Replication: Utopian Academy for the Arts

August 31, 2022

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<b>School:</b>	Utopian Academy for the Arts-Trilith
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	Statewide
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	Sixth through Eighth (6-8)
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the replication petition for Utopian Academy for the Arts-Trilith be <b>approved</b> by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.
<b>Rationale:</b>	<p>The existing school, Utopian Academy for the Arts (“Utopian”), is a state charter school located in Ellenwood, Georgia (Clayton County). It is authorized to serve grades 6-8 through a five-year contract that expires June 30, 2024.</p> <p>Utopian’s mission is that through a structured and supportive environment, the school will develop academic and artistic students to enter and to succeed in the global society with proficiency to enroll in a college, university or specialty school of their choice.</p> <p>Utopian seeks to replicate its model to serve students statewide, proposing to locate in Fayette County.</p> <p>The replication petition met all requirements of rule and law and indicates that the school will operate as a quality charter school consistent with the SCSC’s mission and the educational goals of Georgia. Utopian’s Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) results suggest that it is positioned for long-term success.</p> <p>If approved, Utopian Academy for the Arts-Trilith will open in Fall 2023 serving a projected enrollment of 125 students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, with a total year five enrollment of 350 students in grades 6-8.</p>
<b>Link to Petition and Related Materials:</b>	Click <a href="#">here</a> to access the replication petition and related materials.

# Coversheet

## Virtual Preparatory Academy Start-Up Petition

**Section:** VIII. Tabled Items  
**Item:** A. Virtual Preparatory Academy Start-Up Petition  
**Purpose:** Vote  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** 1. FY22 Petition Recommendation - Denial.pdf



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Staff Recommendation

#### 2022 Petition Cycle

July 27, 2022

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<b>School:</b>	Virtual Preparatory Academy of Georgia
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	Virtual Preparatory Academy of Georgia proposes to serve students statewide.
<b>Grade Levels:</b>	Kindergarten through Twelfth (K-12)
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>	SCSC staff recommends that the petitions for Virtual Preparatory Academy of Georgia be <b>denied</b> .

**Rationale:**

1. The proposal failed to demonstrate that the School's educational model and instructional approaches would result in positive student outcomes. The interview panel was concerned with several proposed methods, including the lack of daily synchronous teaching for the elementary grade band's core classes and an unclear plan to align curriculum regarding depth of knowledge, which concerns are compounded by the lack of a successful performance record. The School's proposed ESP, ACCEL, has operated the Ohio Distance and Electronic Learning Academy (OHDELA) since 2018. OHDELA's achievement scores continue to trend downward, displaying low levels of growth and very low graduation rates with high rates of chronic absenteeism. There does not appear to be data available for other ACCEL virtual schools due to recent opening dates and/or limited data attributable to COVID. Although SCSC understands that ACCEL took over OHDELA as a failing school, the likely success of ACCEL's virtual programming remains unclear without an established track record of success. Furthermore, it is still not clear how the board would establish clear metrics and strategies for assessing ACCEL's performance in light of its concerning track record of student performance.

2. The governing board did not demonstrate a full understanding of key School performance indicators and financial plans to ensure it can operate autonomously to hold vendors accountable. The board often relied on the ESP and CFO throughout the interview. Although some reliance on experts for details is understandable and expected, the board must demonstrate its awareness of significant aspects of its proposed plan. For example, it appears that the board did not independently evaluate performance numbers and indicators presented by ACCEL to ensure impartiality in how metrics were calculated. Furthermore, the board did not evaluate whether ACCEL's per student fees strictly cover expenses for student services or also include a portion of the management fee to the ESP. Finally, the board, without assistance from the CFO, could not explain how the budget incorporates receipt and repayment of a potential loan from ACCEL in the EMO line. The governing board must ensure that it independently evaluates and understands important aspects of the proposed plan.

3. The governing board does not appear to have considered alternate vendors apart from ACCEL for certain functions to ensure the School receives the best value and service. The board's plan elects to receive a lot of its other services, including human resources, marketing, accounts payable, and facility management, through ACCEL. Although this arrangement may be in the best interest of the School, the board should demonstrate due diligence in considering other vendors.

4. Finally, the board's consideration of a startup loan from ACCEL or a related entity continues to be concerning as such acceptance may negatively affect the board's ability to independently oversee ACCEL's performance. Although the board considers the loan a last option, it did not provide credible evidence of other revenue options to cover startup costs.

**Related Materials:**      Click [here](#) to access the 2022 Petition

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