



# Charter 101

The GLOBE Academy  
2/27/17

# CHARTER 101

- What is a charter
- Overview of GLOBE's charter
- Charter renewal process

# What is a Charter?

- A charter school is a
  - public school of choice
  - that operates under the terms of a charter, or contract,
  - with an authorizer, such as the state and local boards of education.
- Charter schools receive flexibility from certain state and local rules in exchange for a higher degree of accountability for raising student achievement.
- Charter schools are held accountable by their authorizer(s) for upholding the terms of their charter.
- Charter schools are governed by the Charter Schools Act of 1998, which is located in Title 20 of Georgia Code.

# What are Charter Schools? Charters are Public Schools

- Charter schools are public schools.
  - They receive public funding, cannot charge tuition, must have fair and open enrollment, must be secular, and are required to serve all student populations, including students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Charter Schools vs. traditional Public Schools
  - Autonomy and flexibility.
  - Governed, not by local board of education, but by *autonomous non-profit board of directors*
  - Flexibility from certain state and local rules and regulations in exchange for higher level of accountability.
  - Implement innovative or unique programs, in order to provide educational options to parents and students that are not typically available in the traditional public schools.

# What is a Charter School? Charter vs. Magnet or Private School

- Charter vs. Magnet or Theme School
  - A magnet or theme school is a school within a local school district
    - Offers a specific instructional program.
    - May have admissions criteria such as: test scores; teacher recommendations; or grades.
  - Charter schools operate independently from the local district
    - Not allowed to have admissions criteria. Cannot require students to pass a test or have a certain grade point average in order to be admitted.
- Charter vs. Private School
  - Charter schools are public schools of choice.
    - Receive public funding
    - Cannot charge tuition
    - Not allowed to have admissions criteria.
    - Subject to many of the same state and all federal regulations as traditional public schools.
      - statewide assessments and accountability measures
      - Special needs services.

# What is a charter school? Authorizers

- **What is an authorizer?**

- An entity granted the authority to create charter schools
- Authorizers make decisions regarding the approval and renewal of charters.
- Authorizers also conduct ongoing oversight to evaluate performance, monitor compliance, and enforce the terms of a charter.

# What is a charter school? Funding

- Charter schools are funded from multiple sources, much like traditional public school counterparts.
- Charter schools' funding sources include:
  - State Quality Basic Education(QBE) Funding
  - Local Funding
  - Federal Grants
  - Fundraising and Other Charitable Contributions

# Overview of GLOBE's Charter

- G.L.O.B.E. stands for Global Learning Opportunities through Balanced Education
- GLOBE is a start-up charter school that opened in the fall of 2013
- GLOBE's authorizer is the DeKalb County Board of Education
- GLOBE's attendance zone is DeKalb County
- GLOBE's charter is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018
- GLOBE opened with grades K-3 and by the end of the current charter, GLOBE will serve grades K-7
- GLOBE holds open enrollment with preference given only to siblings of enrolled children and children of employees and board members



## GLOBE's Charter – Innovative features

- GLOBE implements a second language acquisition model through dual-language immersion.
  - In a dual-language immersion model, children are immersed in both English and a second world language for all or some core subjects
- GLOBE Academy's curricular model, delivered in English and a second world language in a dual-language immersion constructivist framework, will employ multi-disciplinary units of inquiry

# GLOBE's Charter – Academic Performance Goals

- Many of the goals in our original charter are impacted by changes in state testing instruments
  - Original Measures that no longer apply are: CRCT, EOCT, Grade Five Writing Assessment, Grade Eight Writing Assessment
  - CCRPI: will be on renewal but is not on current charter
  - MAP Testing: goal is to that the percent that exceeds growth targets will increase by 5% each year
  - Second Language Fluency: AAPPL testing
  - Community Service (10-20 hours)

# GLOBE's Charter: Organizational Performance Goals

- Economic Sustainability
  - Fiscally sound per external audit
  - Effective allocation of resources
  - Adequate cash reserves
  - Follows GAAP (GASB)
  - Meets financial reporting deadlines
- Governing Board and Staff Training
- Stakeholder Engagement
  - Absenteeism
  - Parent Satisfaction (90% of parents satisfied with at least 85% of parents responding)
  - Re-enrollment (90%)
  - Parent participation in teacher conferences
  - Teacher retention rate (90%)
  - Teacher satisfaction (90% of teachers satisfied with 85% response rate)
  - Partnership satisfaction rate (80% satisfied)

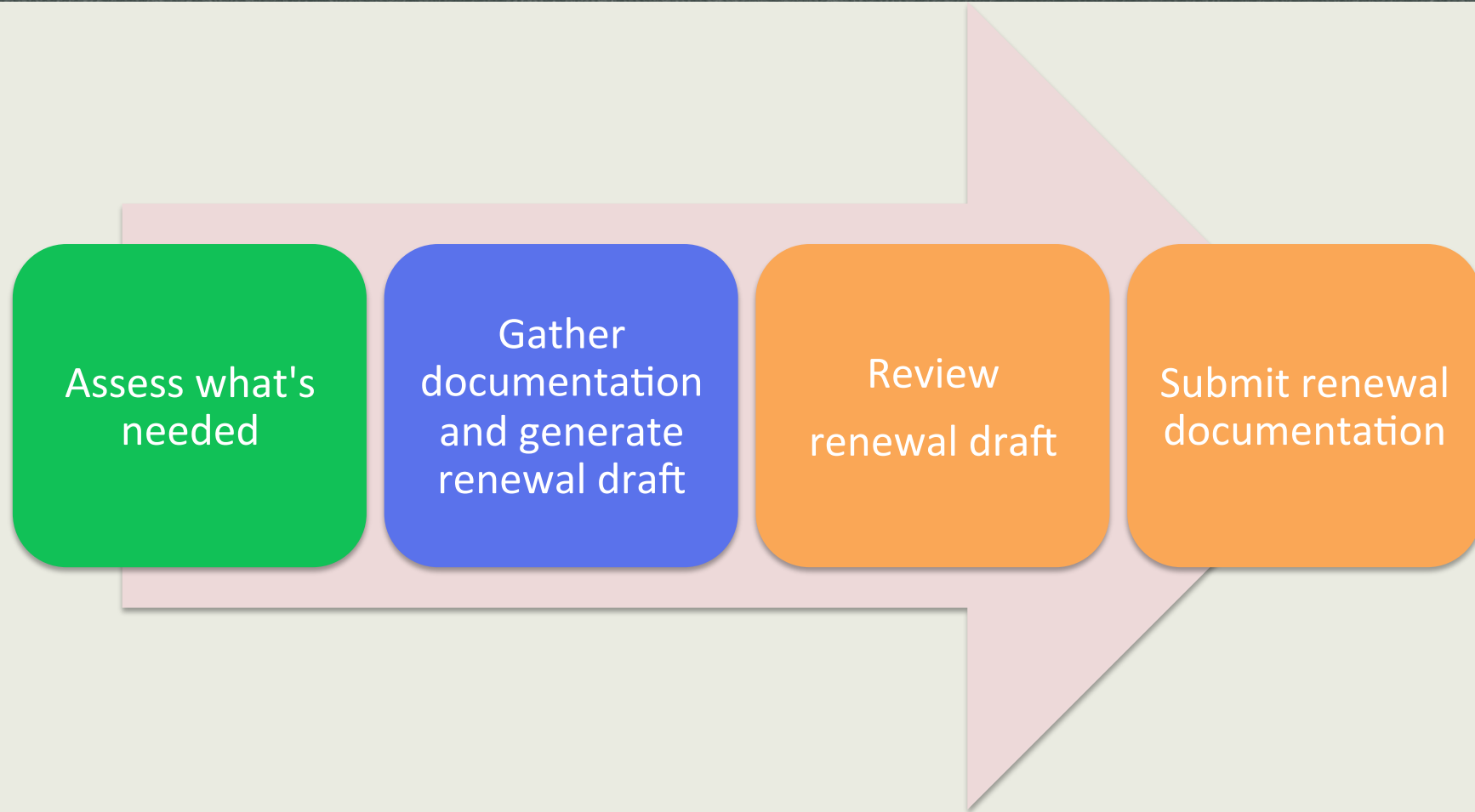
# Charter Renewal Committee

- Purpose: The Charter Renewal Committee shall be charged with leading the charter renewal process.
- Membership
  - Board members: Sharon Camara, Anita Patel
  - School Admin/Staff: Christi Elliott-Earby, Judy Limor, Susan Malloway, Sandra Daniel, Denise Clayton-Purvis
  - Parent representatives: Gil Hearn, Namita Agravat
  - Additional input and support is also being provided by board committees and GLOBE staff as needed

# Charter Renewal Process

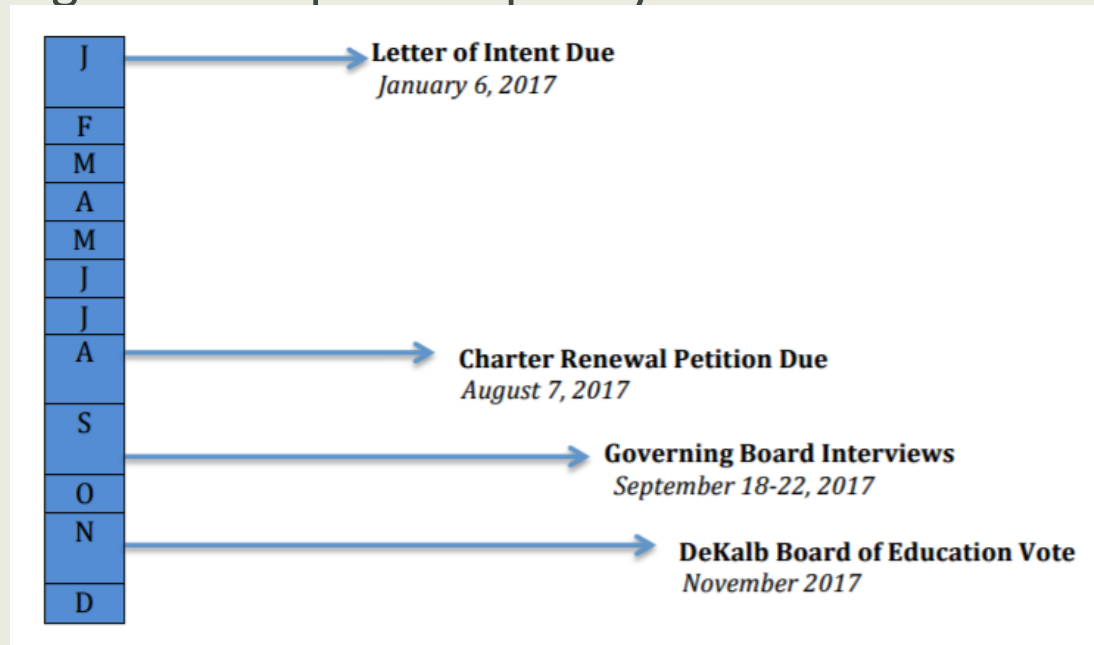
- Charters are required to renew prior to the expiration of the charter term
- Renewal looks at two things
  - Has the charter met the terms of their current contract?
  - What is the charter's plan for increasing student achievement in the next five years?
- County BOE evaluation focuses on whether:
  - The charter school has achieved academic, organizational, and financial performance promised
  - The charter school has complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures
  - The academic, organizational, and financial plans are viable; and
  - The charter school is still in the public interest

# Charter Renewal Process



# Charter Renewal: Timeline

- While GaDOE does not have an application deadline, applications are processed and interviews are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Submitting to GaDOE your locally-approved application one year in advance of your planned opening date will provide plenty of time to obtain approval.



# Renewal: Diversity

- Charter School Governing Boards Should Be Diverse
  - Diverse skill-sets should include members with experience in such areas as
    - Finance and accounting
    - Real estate and facilities
    - Legal and human resource services
    - Fundraising and grant writing
    - Marketing, community partnerships
    - Academic programming.
- Charter School Faculty, Staff, and Student Should Be Diverse
  - A charter school's faculty, staff, and students should also reflect the sociodemographic diversity of the community served by the charter school.



# Renewal: Weighted Lottery Opportunity

- House Bill 372 passed during the 2015 legislative session, and went into effect on July 1, 2015. It allows charter schools to give educationally disadvantaged students more weight in a charter school's lottery and thus a greater chance of admittance.
- Implementing a weighted lottery would demonstrate a charter school's commitment to ensuring those students most need it can benefit from school choice.
  - Students with disabilities
  - Migrant students
  - Limited English proficient students
  - Neglected and delinquent students
  - Homeless youth
  - Economically disadvantaged students
- GaDOE encourages charter schools that use weighted lotteries to do so as part of a "broader strategy that includes fulfillment of existing responsibilities related to outreach, recruitment, and retention of all students, including educationally disadvantaged students."
- There is no legal limit on the maximum weight a charter school can give a category in a weighted lottery. It is presumed that the school's governing board will take the school's unique circumstances into consideration when making this decision.



**Questions?**

[scamara.globe@gmail.com](mailto:scamara.globe@gmail.com)

# Resources/Links

- State of Georgia Charter School site
  - <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Charter-Schools/Pages/default.aspx>
- GLOBE's charter
  - <https://1.cdn.edl.io/tsDIBHyGSH9uauFaMJNSwgQw51ADidfqTMkMnsM2SiX0P0zh.pdf>
- Renewal documents
  - State of Georgia: <http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/Charter-Schools/Pages/default.aspx>
  - DeKalb County: <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/charter-schools/>