



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## April Board Meeting

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### Date and Time

Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM EDT

### Location

#### SCSC Board Room

1356B Twin Towers East

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE

Atlanta, GA 30334

### Virtual Access Information

[Meeting Link](#)

Phone Access: +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 870 7645 0542

Passcode: 700877

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### State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

April 2024 Board Meeting

April 24, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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### Agenda

Purpose Presenter

**I. Opening Items**

- A. Record Attendance Mike Dudgeon
- B. Call the Meeting to Order Mike Dudgeon

**II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes**

- A. February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes Approve Minutes  
Mike Dudgeon

**III. School Spotlight**

- A. Pataula Charter Academy FYI  
Donovan Head

**IV. Post Legislative Update**

- A. Update FYI  
Donovan Head,  
Carmen Freemire

- HB 318
- HB 409
- HB 1122
- HB 915 - Amended FY24 Budget
- HB 916 - FY25 Budget

**V. Charter Development**

- A. Training FYI  
Naquita Smith

- Past Training
- Upcoming Training
- GaDOE Training for Federal Programs

Visit the Training Page of the SCSC website for real-time updates and additional information.

<https://scsc.georgia.gov/school-resources/training-opportunities>

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>VI. Pre-Opening Schools</b>		
<b>A.</b> Update	FYI	Tiffany Leach
<b>VII. Petitions</b>		
<b>A.</b> Update	FYI	Erin Wright
<b>VIII. Accountability</b>		
<b>A.</b> Finance	FYI	Carmen Freemire
<b>B.</b> Operations	FYI	Tiffany Leach
<b>C.</b> Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Presentation	FYI	Scott Riley, Kiara Thompson, Carmen Freemire, Tiffany Leach
<b>D.</b> Schools Placed on Probation	FYI	Cerrone Lockett
<b>IX. State Charter Schools Foundation</b>		
<b>A.</b> Foundation Update Presentation	FYI	Michele Neely
<b>X. Action Items</b>		
<b>A.</b> Charter Amendment - Ivy Preparatory Academy	Vote	Carmen Freemire
<b>B.</b> Extension of Replication Petition Deadlines	Vote	Cerrone Lockett
<b>XI. Additional Items</b>		
<b>XII. Public Comment</b>		
To sign up for public comment, please email Crystal Saldana at <a href="mailto:crystal.saldana@scsc.georgia.gov">crystal.saldana@scsc.georgia.gov</a> .		
View the SCSC <a href="#">public comment procedures</a> .		
<b>XIII. Closing Items</b>		

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>A.</b> Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Mike Dudgeon

# Coversheet

## February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**Section:** II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes  
**Item:** A. February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Minutes for February Board Meeting on February 28, 2024

APPROVED



# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Minutes

### February Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday February 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM

#### Location

##### SCSC Board Room

1356B Twin Towers East,  
2 Martin Luther King Dr., SE  
Atlanta, GA 30334

#### Virtual Access information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89177012619?pwd=PaFAzHZMarKVM5O3aUES1DuTNmwom8.1>

**Meeting ID:** 891 7701 2619

**Passcode:** 045768

#### Phone Access Information:

+1 646 931 3860

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### State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

February 2024 Board Meeting

February 28, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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#### Directors Present

B. Brockway, C. Good, J. Cole, L. Millan, M. Dudgeon, T. Lowden

#### Directors Absent

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B. Scafidi

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Dudgeon called a meeting of the board of directors of State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia to order on Wednesday Feb 28, 2024 at 10:02 AM. Commissioner Scafidi was not able to join the meeting due to presenting at a conference.

## II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

### A. November 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes and January 26, 2024, Policy Retreat Minutes

Commissioner Dudgeon motioned to approve the minutes by unanimous consent. Both meeting minutes were approved unanimously after hearing no objections.

[Minutes for November Board Meeting on November 15, 2023](#)

[Minutes for January 26-27 Policy Retreat on January 26, 2024](#)

## III. Commissioner Visits to Schools

### A. School Visits

SCSC commissioners and staff will be visiting the following schools this Spring:

- ZEST Preparatory Academy
- RISE Schools
- Utopian Academy for the Arts - Trilith
- Sankofa Montessori
- PEACE Academy
- Miles Ahead Charter School
- The Anchor School
- Liberation Academy

## IV. Legislative Update

### A. Update

- **Amended FY24 Budget (HB 915)** passed both chambers and is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

- **HB 318** is also awaiting the Governor's signature. This new legislation reestablishes the Georgia Department of Education's Office of Charter School Compliance under the SCSC. The Office of Charter School Compliance will continue to support local school systems as charter authorizers. Special thank you to our good friend, State Representative Scott Hilton!
- **HB 1122** has passed the House Education Committee. Notably, this bill would provide funding to each state charter school for the beginning salary of one superintendent. Additionally, state charter schools serving grades K-8 could earn funding for up to two principals. Schools serving grades 9-12 will earn funding for one principal.
- **Crossover Day** is Thursday, February 29.
- **Sine Die** will be on Thursday, March 28.

## V. Charter Development

### A. Training

- **Past Trainings:**

- New School Orientation (1 of 2), Data Summary: The first in-person New School Orientation for FY-24 Pre-Opening Schools occurred on January 17th. 10 newly approved state charter school board members attended the training session.
- In-Person Governance Training Session (1 of 3), The first in-person Governance Training session for FY24 occurred on November 8th in Macon, GA. 47 state charter school board members, and school stakeholders attended the training event.
- The second in-person Governance Training session occurred on February 6th in Athens, GA. 104 state charter school board members and school stakeholders attended the training event.

- Upcoming Training

- March 20, 2024 - [New Schools Orientation pt. 2](#)
- April 17, 2024 - [April Governance Training](#)

Visit the Training Page of the SCSC website for real-time updates and additional information.

<https://scsc.georgia.gov/school-resources/training-opportunities>

## VI. Pre-Opening Schools

### A. Update

There are 5 schools in the pre-opening cohort, and 3 of those schools are projected to open in Fall 2024. The most recent pre-opening milestone was the submission of Governing



Board member rosters; 1 out of the 3 schools projected for Fall 24 opening did not meet the milestone. The lease submission milestone was due December 15, 2023. One school has been granted a lease extension until March 15, 2024. Facility, personnel, and enrollment milestones are scheduled for March and April; a more comprehensive preopening update will be given at the April board meeting.

## VII. Petitions

### A. Update

The online start-up petitions portal is currently open; petitioners have until March 15, 2024, to submit a petition for a start-up state charter school. As a reminder, we have posted several trainings and resources on our website, including an orientation that petitioners are required to view this year.

The SCSC received three letters of intent to replicate from schools in December. Those schools have until May 3, 2024 to submit their replication petition in the online portal.

## VIII. Accountability

### A. Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Update

Staff shared results from the Comprehensive Performance Framework for the 2022-2023 school year with schools on January 30, 2024. Schools were given until Tuesday, Feb. 20, to submit related questions or provide documentation to rebut any scores. Schools' scores are now finalized and staff will present CPF results at the next SCSC meeting in April.

### B. Finance

The SCSC Director of School Finance gave an announcement on the approved auditor program.

### C. Operations

- The legal compliance team is reviewing FY 24 operations and fiscal monitoring Corrective Action Plans (CAPs), which were due February 20, 2024. We expect to have CAP responses for schools by the end of March. Schools should direct any operations monitoring questions to Tiffany Leach- Associate General Counsel, [Tiffany.leach@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:Tiffany.leach@scsc.georgia.gov), and fiscal monitoring questions to Carmen Freemire- Director of School Finance, [Carmen.freemire@scsc.georgia.gov](mailto:Carmen.freemire@scsc.georgia.gov)
- Additionally, the SCSC has updated its LEA Legal Obligations Guidance. Schools may access the resource on the SCSC website under Operations Guidance and within the Start a School Resources pages.

## IX. Action Items

**A. Charter Amendment - Atlanta SMART Academy**

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to amend the Atlanta SMART charter contract to extend the contract term by one year.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the staff recommendation.

[Charter Amendment Recommendation – Atlanta SMART Academy \(contract extension\)](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**B. Charter Amendment - Northwest Classical**

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to amend the Northwest Classical charter contract to align the contract with the SCSC board's Grade Band Policy.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Charter Amendment Recommendation – Northwest Classical Academy \(Grade Band Completion\)](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**C. Charter Amendment - Ethos Classical**

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to the Ethos Classical charter contract to expand the grades served from K-5 to K-8, increase the enrollment limit, and amend mission-specific goals.

L. Millan seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Charter Amendment Recommendation – Ethos Classical \(Grade Band Expansion\)](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**D. Charter Amendment – Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence**

L. Millan made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to amend the Yi Hwang Academy charter contract to expand the grades served from K-5 to K-8.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

A representative from the school spoke in favor of the recommendation.

[Charter Amendment Recommendation – Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence \(YHALE\) \(Grade Band Expansion\)](#)

Commissioner Lowden expressed his excitement for schools being approved for grade band expansions.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**E.**

### **Charter Surrender - Savannah Exploratory Charter Academy**

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to accept the surrender of the Savannah Exploratory Charter Academy charter contract.

L. Millan seconded the motion.

Representatives from the school explained why the school struggled to open over the years.

#### [Charter Surrender Recommendation – Savannah Exploratory Charter Academy \(SECA\)](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **F. Charter Renewal Recommendation - Pataula Charter Academy**

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the renewal application for Pataula Charter Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a charter contract for the operation of a state charter school for five years with an opportunity to receive an automatic renewal for an additional five years.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation. SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

#### [Pataula Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **G. Charter Renewal Recommendation - Coweta Charter Academy**

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the renewal application for Coweta Charter Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

L. Millan seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation. SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

#### [Coweta Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **H. Charter Renewal Recommendation - Georgia Cyber Academy**

L. Millan made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the renewal application for Georgia Cyber Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation. SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

#### [Georgia Cyber Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**I. Charter Renewal Recommendation - International Academy of Smyrna**

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to accept the renewal application for the International Academy of Smyrna by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school serving grades K-8.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation. SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

Commissioner Milan read a statement from Commissioner Scafidi that expressed his support for the staff recommendation.

[International Academy of Smyrna - Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**J. Charter Renewal Recommendation - International Charter Academy of Georgia**

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the renewal application for International Charter Academy of Georgia by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a 5-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school serving grades K-8.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation. SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

[International Charter Academy of Georgia Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**K. Charter Renewal Recommendation - Cirrus Charter Academy**

L. Millan made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation to approve the renewal application for Cirrus Academy Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated 3-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation.

Commissioner Lowden abstained.

SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

[Cirrus Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

B. Scafidi Absent

T. Lowden Abstain

**L. Charter Renewal Recommendation - SLAM Academy of Atlanta**

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation to approve the renewal application for SLAM Academy of Atlanta by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a probationary 2-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

L. Millan seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke in favor of the recommendation. SCSC commissioners expressed their continued support for the school.

[SLAM Academy of Atlanta Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**M. Charter Renewal Recommendation - Cherokee Charter Academy**

B. Brockway made a motion to to approve the SCSC staff recommendation to non-renew the charter contract for Cherokee Charter Academy.

T. Lowden seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke against the staff recommendation.

SCSC commissioners and staff discussed the school's academic, financial, and operational history.

Commissioner Milan read a statement from Commissioner Scafidi that expressed his support for the staff recommendation.

[Cherokee Charter Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

L. Millan Aye

J. Cole No

B. Scafidi Absent

C. Good Aye

T. Lowden Aye

B. Brockway Aye

**N. Charter Renewal Recommendation - Fulton Leadership Academy**

T. Lowden made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to non-renew the charter contract for Fulton Leadership Academy.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

School representatives spoke against the staff recommendation.

SCSC commissioners and staff discussed the school's academic, financial, and operational history.

### [Fulton Leadership Academy Renewal Recommendation](#)

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

L. Millan	No
C. Good	Aye
B. Scafidi	Absent
T. Lowden	Aye
M. Dudgeon	Aye
J. Cole	No
B. Brockway	Aye

## **X. Additional Items**

### **A. Updates**

Kiara Thompson has been promoted to Legal Programs Specialist.

Morgan Felts was recognized for her more than a decade of service to the SCSC and charter school community as a whole. Commissioners commended Morgan for her service to the state.

## **XI. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Dudgeon

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## **Documents used during the meeting**

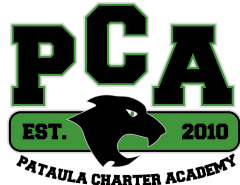
*None*

# Coversheet

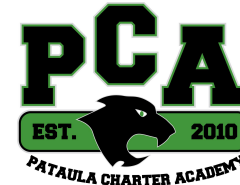
## Pataula Charter Academy

**Section:** III. School Spotlight  
**Item:** A. Pataula Charter Academy  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** PCA Presentation for SCSC Meeting.pdf

# Pataula Charter



# Academy





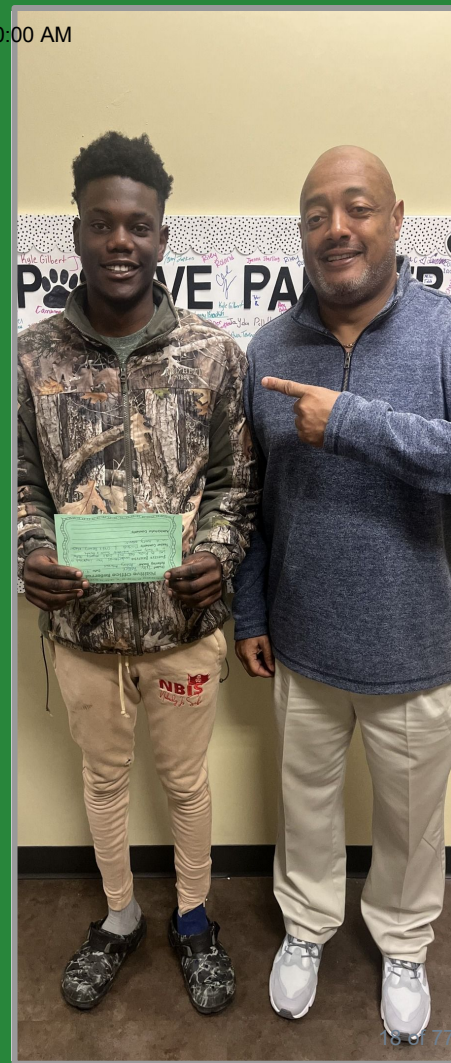


# Mission

The mission of Pataula Charter Academy is to prepare students for **life-long success** by partnering with **families** and **communities** to create a **safe, nurturing learning environment** that **engages** and **challenges** students, fosters **creativity**, and instills **integrity** and **leadership** skills that **inspire** students to reach their **full potential**.

# Background

- Pataula Charter Academy is located in Edison, GA and serves students in Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Early, Miller, Randolph, and Terrell counties.
- PCA opened in 2010 with grades K-6 and added one grade each year.
- We now serve over 600 students in grades Pre-K-12.
- <75% FRL eligibility
- <40% minority student population



# What We Offer

- A hands-on, student-centered, project-based approach to learning
- Opportunities for Field Work, Experts, and Service Learning
- Dual Enrollment options on and off campus
- Adding Advanced Placement courses over the next two years
- A focus on teaching the whole child through a variety of strategies; CREW being #1
- A wide variety of extracurriculars and athletics



Pataula Charter Academy  
2nd Grade Expedition  
"Georgia On My Mind"

## Overall Guiding Question:

How have the land and past historical figures of Georgia influenced Georgians today?

### Case Study 1 Guiding Question:

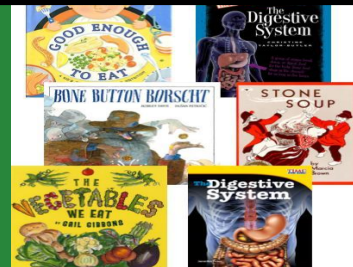
What resources does Georgia's land provide?

### Case Study 2 Guiding Question:

How have Georgians of the past impacted our lives today?

# Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

## Service Project Garden & Plant Life



Service Garden Clean Up & Replanting Field Work

Seed & Stem Experiments



Edible Plant Parts



Fall Harvest Field Work

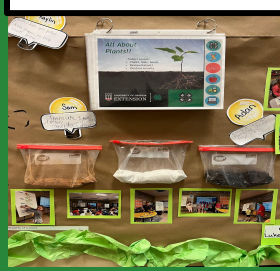


Spring Seed Germination Field Work

Reading Integration



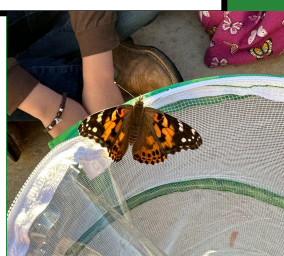
Soil Investigation



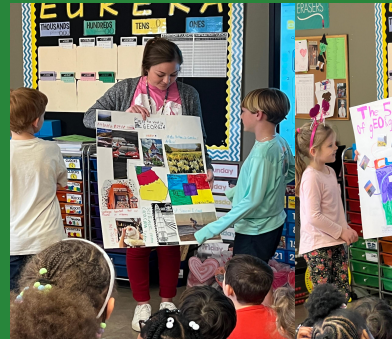
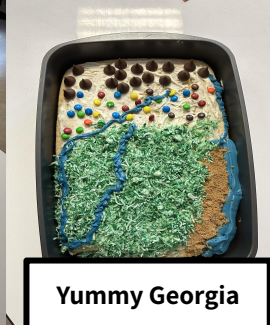
# Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

## Georgia Regions & Rivers

Butterfly Life Cycle (Pollinators)



Yummy Georgia



ACE Research Projects



Flint River Aquarium Field Trip



Callaway Gardens Field Trip

State of Georgia Schools Commission of Georgia - April Board Meeting Agenda - Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 8:00 AM

Powered by BoardOnTr

# Math Integration

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia - April Board Meeting - Agenda - Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Creek vs Cherokee  
19,000 > 18,000

What resources from the Georgia land did the Creek and Cherokee Indian use?

*Handwritten text describing resources like fish and nuts.*

# Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning... Georgia's First People

# Kolomoki Field Trip



# Writing Integration

Handwritten notes on a spiral notebook. A central diagram shows 'Creek' and 'Cherokee' connected by 'Resources' and 'Land'. Text includes: 'What resources from the land did the Creek and Cherokee use?' and 'Topic: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land. Creek: They used nuts to catch fish and build houses.' 'Cherokee: They used wood and nuts to make tools to use in the water. They built wood shiplike boats. They built wood rafts to keep their goods and animals in a safe place on the water. They used them to trade. Cherokee: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land.' 'Topic: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land.' 'Cherokee: They used wood and nuts to make tools to use in the water. They built wood shiplike boats. They built wood rafts to keep their goods and animals in a safe place on the water. They used them to trade. Cherokee: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land.'

Handwritten notes on lined paper. Text includes: 'What resources from the Georgia land did the Creek and Cherokee Indian use? Topic: The Creek and Cherokee Indian used resources from the Georgia land. They used nuts to catch fish and build houses. They used wood and nuts to make tools to use in the water. They built wood shiplike boats. They built wood rafts to keep their goods and animals in a safe place on the water. They used them to trade. Cherokee: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land.' 'Topic: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land.' 'Cherokee: They used wood and nuts to make tools to use in the water. They built wood shiplike boats. They built wood rafts to keep their goods and animals in a safe place on the water. They used them to trade. Cherokee: The Creek and Cherokee used resources from the land.'

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Printed worksheet titled 'Creek and Cherokee'. It asks: 'What resources from Georgia land did the Creek and Cherokee use?' and provides a list of options for students to check. A student named Clara has written 'I gathered the nuts.' and 'My ancestors had high-quality pottery.' 'I gathered the nuts.' 'My ancestors had high-quality pottery.' 'I gathered the nuts.' 'My ancestors had high-quality pottery.'

Printed worksheet titled 'Creek and Cherokee'. It asks: 'What resources from Georgia land did the Creek and Cherokee use?' and provides a list of options for students to check. A student named Jasmine has written 'I gathered the nuts.' and 'My ancestors had high-quality pottery.' 'I gathered the nuts.' 'My ancestors had high-quality pottery.'

Text Features for James Oglethorpe. Includes a portrait of Oglethorpe and a map of Georgia. Text includes: 'Text Features James Oglethorpe' and 'Oglethorpe settled in Savannah to help the Creek and Cherokee Indians. This helped the colonists and the Indians to live together.' 'Text Features James Oglethorpe' and 'Oglethorpe settled in Savannah to help the Creek and Cherokee Indians. This helped the colonists and the Indians to live together.'

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Art Integration project. A collage of student drawings depicting Creek and Cherokee life, including people in traditional dress, a boat, and a house. Labels include 'Creek' and 'Cherokee'.

# Art Integration

# Dioramas



# Reading Integration

# Future Savannah Field Trip



# Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

Wit & Wisdom Module 4 Integration



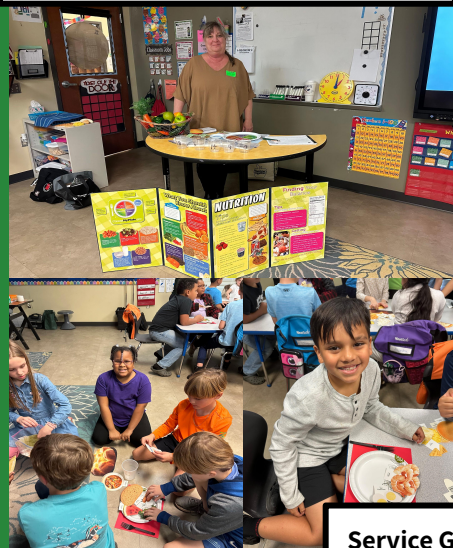
Farm Day Fitness

## Good Eating & Service Garden Field Work Wrap Up

COMING SOON...

Students will transplant the seeds that they germinated from our spring field work to larger garden beds during an upcoming field experience to our local UGA Extension office in Morgan, GA.

Good Eating/Build Healthy Plates



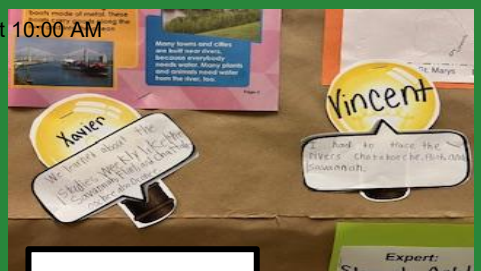
Service Garden Field Work



# Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...



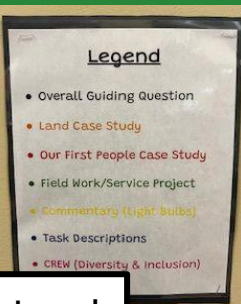
**Garden Harvest**



**Student Voice**



**Gallery Night Panel**



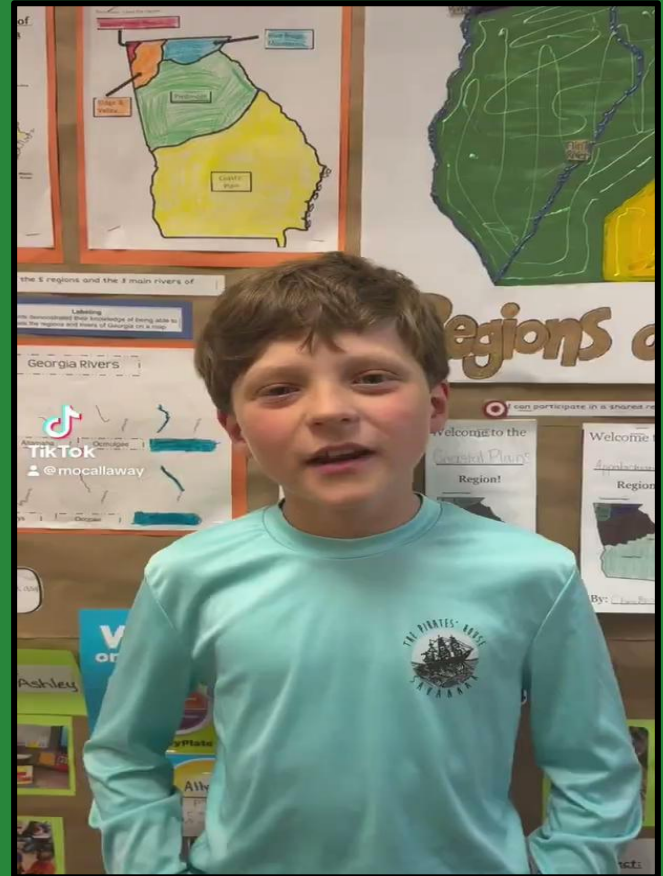
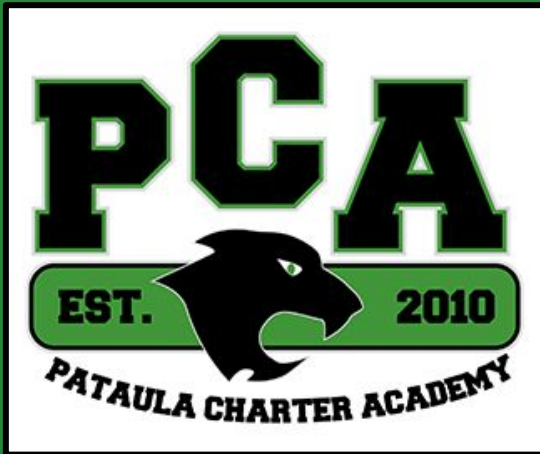
**Legend**



**Parent Engagement**

# Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

Why expeditionary learning impacts the learning environment and achievement at PCA...



# Coversheet

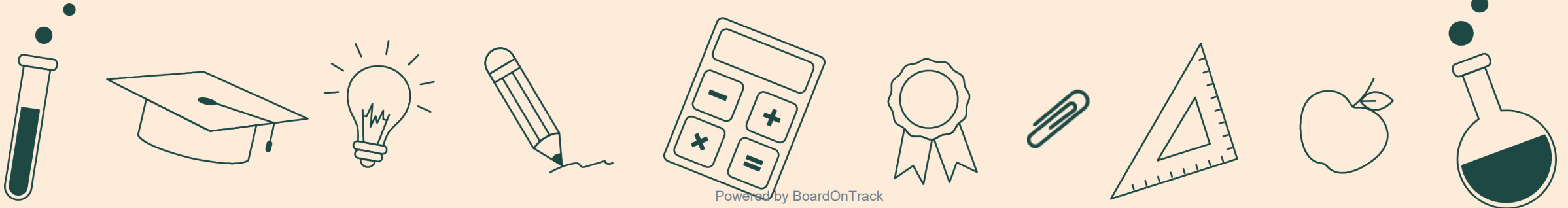
## Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Presentation

**Section:** VIII. Accountability  
**Item:** C. Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Presentation  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** 2022-2023 Accountability Presentation.pdf



# SCSC Accountability: Comprehensive Performance Framework Results

2022-2023 School Year



# Vision

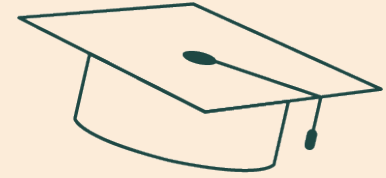
Innovative and superior charter schools advancing education in every community.

# 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.



# Comprehensive Performance Framework



The Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) is the tool the SCSC uses to annually assess state charter performance and track progress toward renewal.

In each of the three areas, the framework asks a fundamental question:

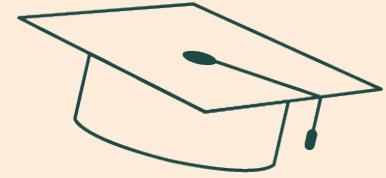
- **Academic Performance:** Is the educational program offering students a better educational opportunity than they would otherwise receive at a traditional public school?
- **Financial Performance:** Is the school financially viable?
- **Organizational Performance:** Is the organization effective, compliant, and well run?



# Academic Metrics



# Academic Measures for 2023:



- 1. GaDOE CCRPI Content Mastery Scores**
- 2. GaDOE CCRPI Progress Scores**
- 3. SCSC Grade Band Scores**
- 4. 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 1-4 in all grade bands served OR
- Outperforms the schools from which it enrolls students on a grade-band enrollment weighted overall school score for any measure 1-4.

# Academic Measures for 2023:



## 1. GaDOE CCRPI Content Mastery Scores

- Proficiency on Georgia Milestones Assessments (GMA). Schools earn points based on the percentage of students scoring in each category- Beginning (0), Developing (.5), Proficient (1), and Distinguished Learner (1.5).

## 2. GaDOE CCRPI Progress Scores

- Demonstrated growth on Georgia Milestones Assessments utilizing Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs). SGPs describe the amount of growth a student has demonstrated relative to academically-similar students.

# Academic Measures for 2023 (cont.):



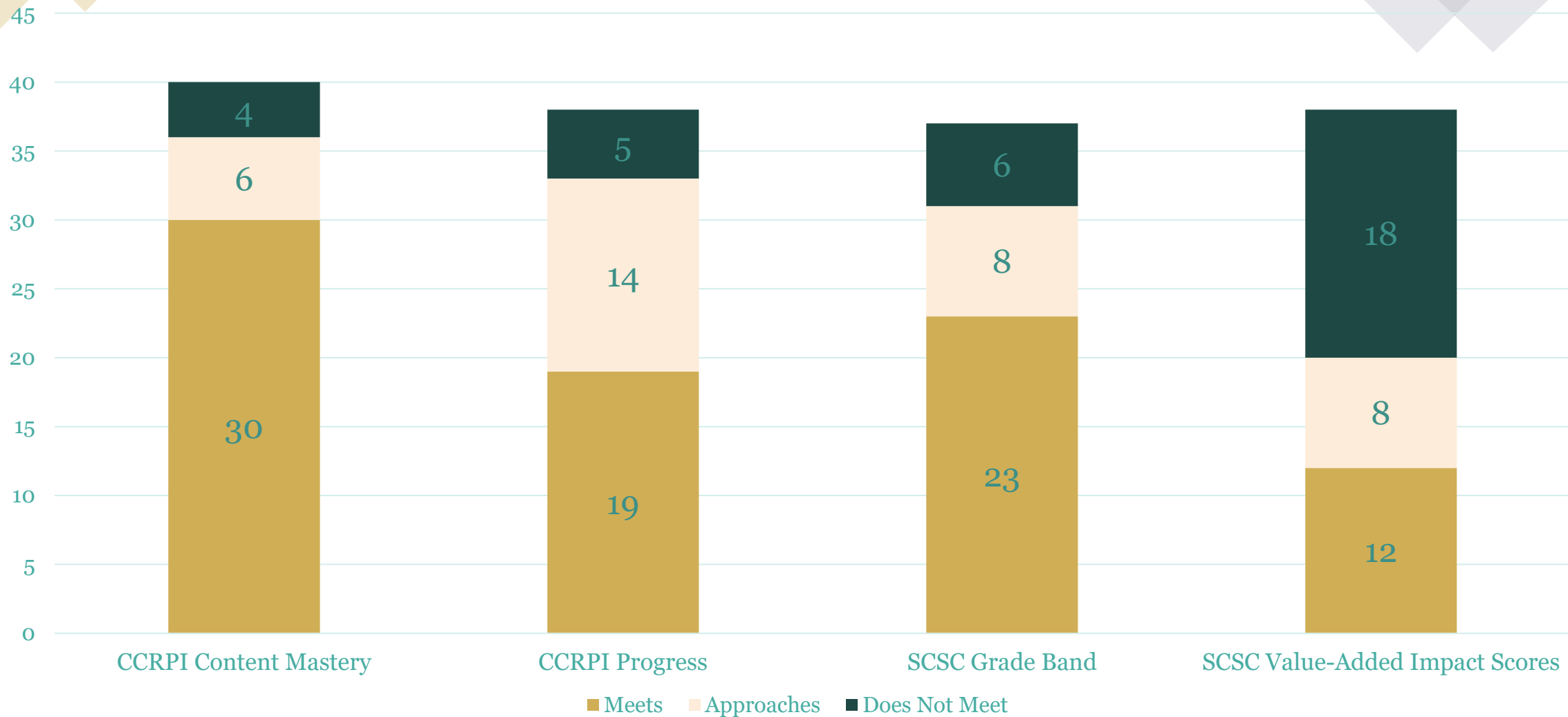
## 3. SCSC Grade Band Scores

- A replication of the indexed Grade Band single score previously calculated by GaDOE. Calculation includes weighting of various CCRPI components to produce an overall score.

## 4. SCSC Value-Added Impact Scores

- A student's actual score on GMA is subtracted from their predicted score (based on their observable characteristics), and the differences are averaged across all tested students in a school. Adjustments to a school's score are made to account for the differences in the population of students it serves.

## Academic Performance by Measure, 2022-2023 School Year, 41 Schools





35 of 41 (85%) state charter schools are meeting academic standards for the 2022-2023 school year.

95% of SCSC students were enrolled in one of the 35 schools, that's 32,231 students.

# The following State Charter Schools outperformed their attendance zone comparison across all four academic measures:

Academy for Classical  
Education

DELTA STEAM  
Academy

Liberty Tech Charter  
School

Atlanta Unbound  
Academy

Genesis Innovation  
Academy for Boys

Resurgence Hall  
Charter School

Baconton Community  
Charter School

International Academy  
of Smyrna

Yi Hwang Academy of  
Language Excellence



# Financial Metrics

# Financial Metrics

Schools may satisfy annual financial requirements by:  
Demonstrating adequate performance on the following near-term measures:

- current ratio of assets to liabilities
- unrestricted days cash
- enrollment variance
- debt to income ratio, and
- default on debt

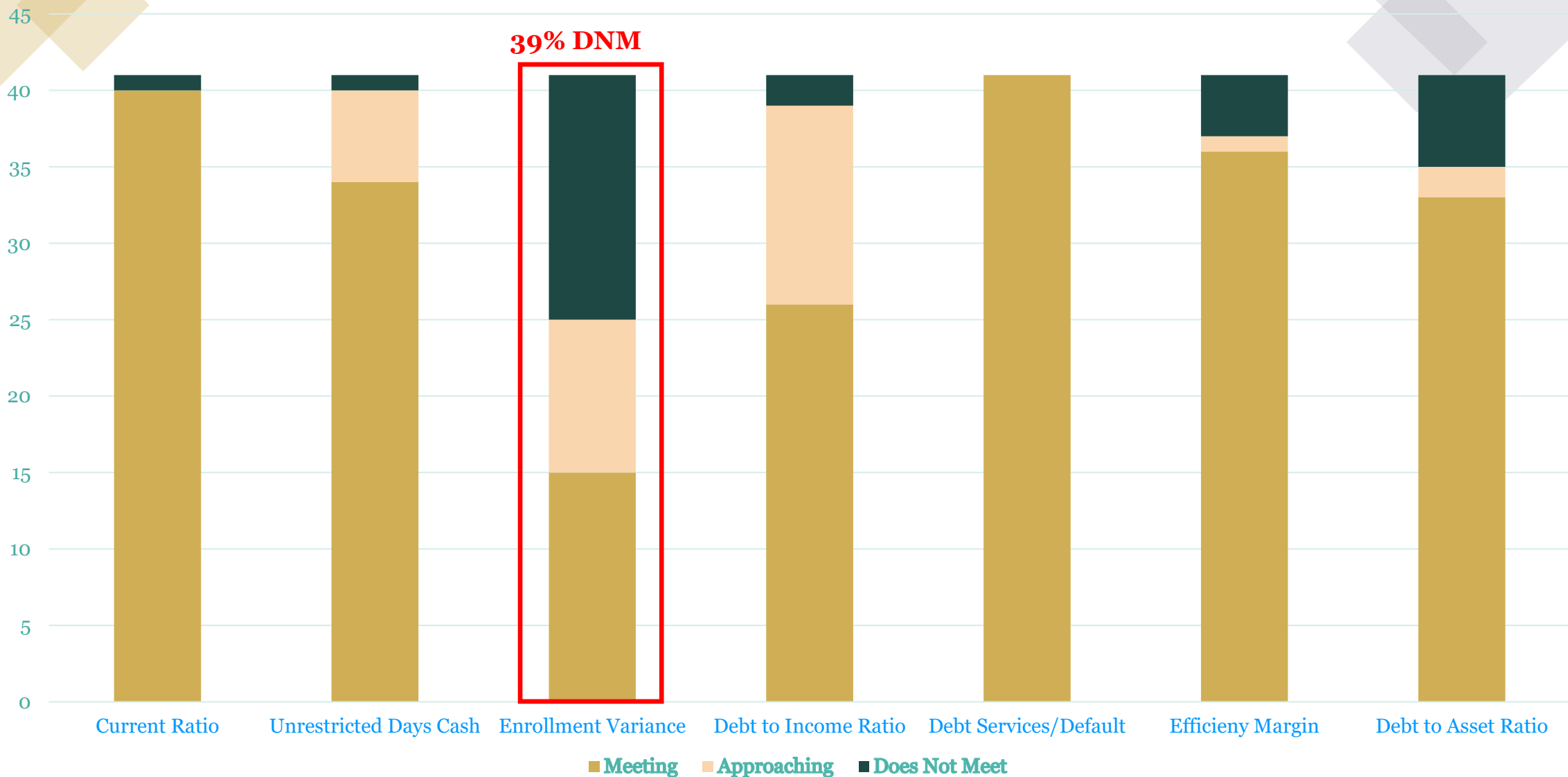
AND on the following sustainability measures:

- efficiency margin, and
- debt to asset ratio.





# Financial Performance by Measure, 2022-2023 School Year, 41 Schools

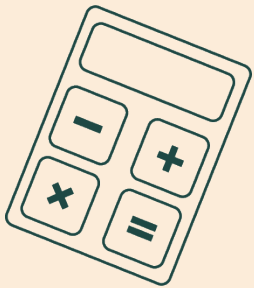


# Enrollment Variance

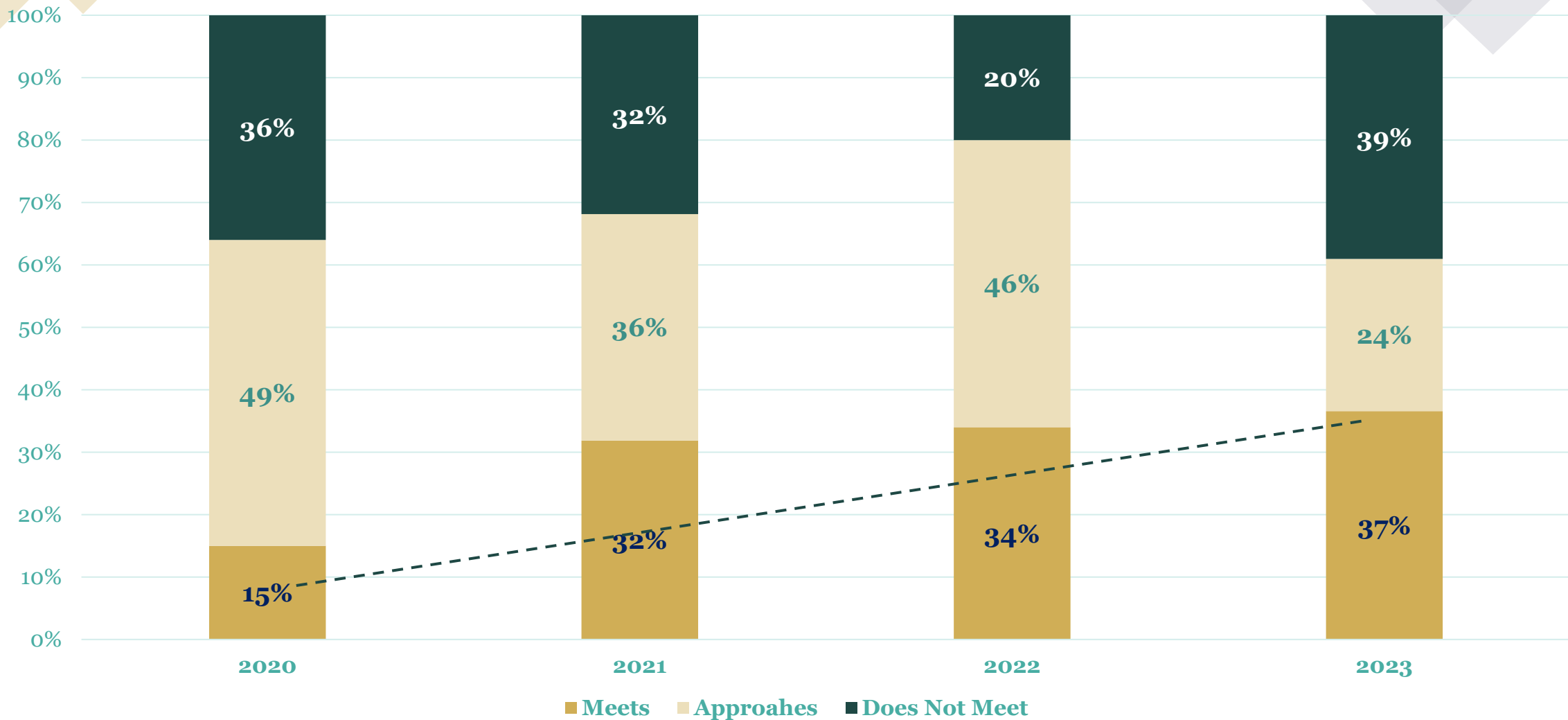
**Measure 1c, Enrollment Variance:**  $\frac{[\text{Actual Enrollment during the October FTE Count}(\text{fiscal year 2023}) - \text{school enrollment projection}(\text{fiscal year 2023})]}{\text{school enrollment projection}(\text{fiscal year 2023})}$

**Is the school able to project enrollment in a way that enables them to adequately budget?**

- Meets Standard: Enrollment Variance equals less than 2 percent.
- Approaches Standard: Enrollment Variance is between 2 and 8 percent.
- Does Not Meet Standard: Enrollment Variance is greater than 8 percent.



## Enrollment Variance





80% of state charter schools (33 out of 41) are meeting financial standards for the 2022-2023 school year.



# Operations Metrics

# Operations Metrics

Schools may satisfy annual operational requirements by adhering to the requirements of their charter contracts and all applicable rules and laws as measured by:

1. the school's **educational program** (adherence to its essential or innovative features and implementation of required programs);
2. **financial oversight** (adherence to GAAP standards);
3. **governance** capacity and transparency;
4. protecting **students and employees** through the appropriate use of compensatory programs and employee qualifications;
5. maintaining a positive **school environment** by promoting student retention and support services;

AND any **additional obligations** including:  
the timely remediation of previous noncompliance.





# Financial Oversight

## Measure 2b- Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements

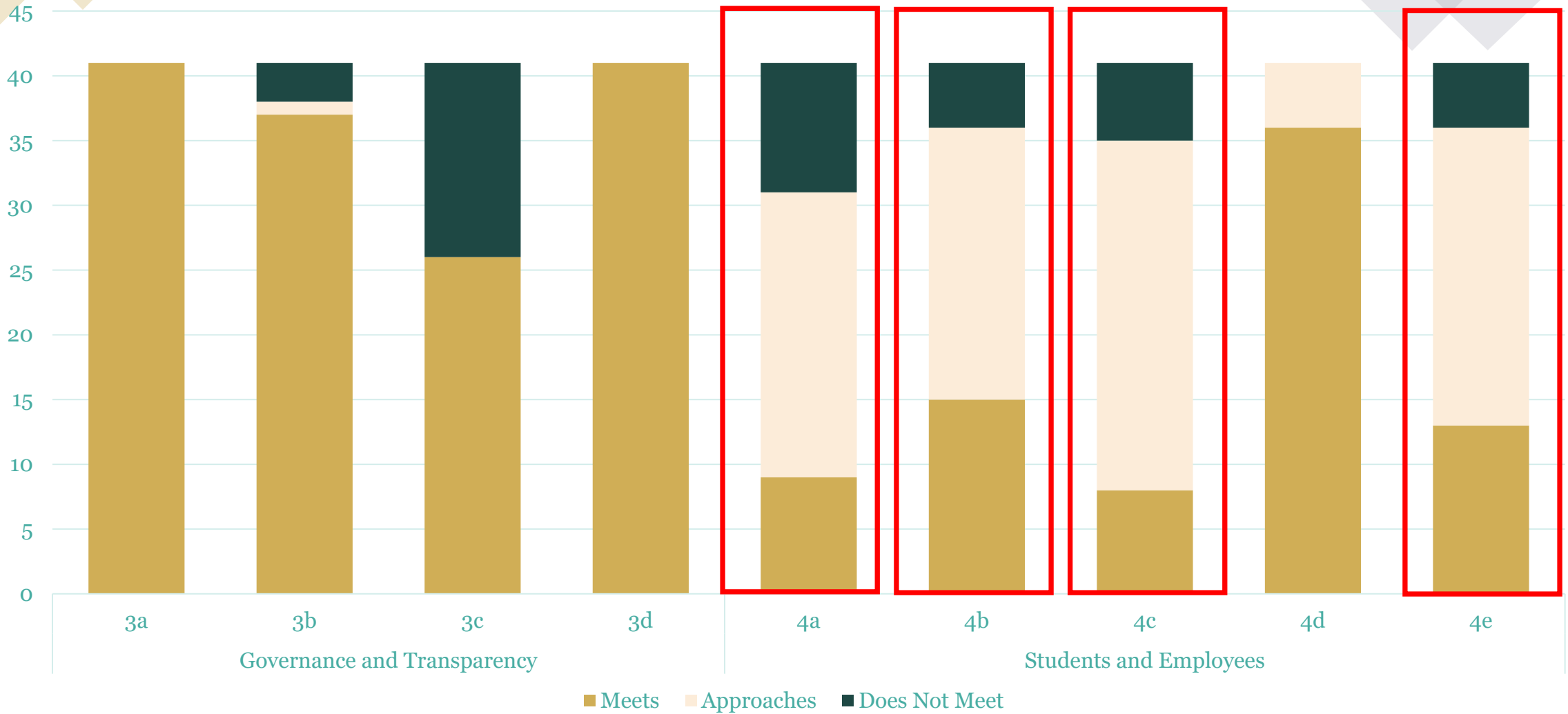
*Meets Standard:* The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to proper internal controls, expenditures, inventory, drawdowns, and cost principles when expending federal funds, including but not limited to:

- Proper segregation of duties;
- Source documentation for expenditures paid with federal funds;
- Complete and on-time submission of program budgets (Title I, IDEA, and grant budgets); and
- Maintaining inventory controls and documentation in accordance with federal regulations for items purchased with federal funds.





## Operations Performance by Measure, 2022-2023 School Year, 41 Schools



# Students and Employees

## Measure 4a - Rights of All Students

*Meets Standard:* The school complies with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, and its policies relating to the rights of students, including but not limited to:

- Policies and practices related to admissions, lottery, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, and enrollment (including rights to enroll or maintain enrollment);
- The collection and protection of student information (that could be used in discriminatory ways or otherwise contrary to law);
- Due process protections, privacy, civil rights, and student liberties requirements, including First Amendment protections and the Establishment Clause restrictions prohibiting public schools from engaging in religious instruction; and
- Conduct of discipline (discipline hearings and suspension and expulsion policies and practices).



# Students and Employees

## Measure 4b, Rights of Students with Disabilities

### *Meets Standard:*

Consistent with the school's status and responsibilities as a Local Education Agency (LEA), the school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract (including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act) relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability, including but not limited to:

- o Identification and referral of students who may have a disability;

- Operational compliance regarding the academic program, assessments, and all other aspects of the school's program and responsibilities;
- Discipline, including due process protections, manifestation determinations, and behavioral intervention plans;
- Appropriately implementing student Individualized Education Programs and Section 504 plans;
- Ensuring appropriate access to the school's facilities and programs to students and parents.



# Students and Employees

## Measure 4c - Rights of Students who are English Learners (ELs)

*Meets Standard:* The school complied with all applicable provisions of Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to EL requirements, including but not limited to:

- Required policies related to the service of EL students;
- Proper steps for identification of students in need of EL services;
- Appropriate and equitable delivery of services to identified students;
- Appropriate accommodations on assessments;
- Exiting of students from EL services; and
- Ongoing monitoring of exited students.



# Students and Employees

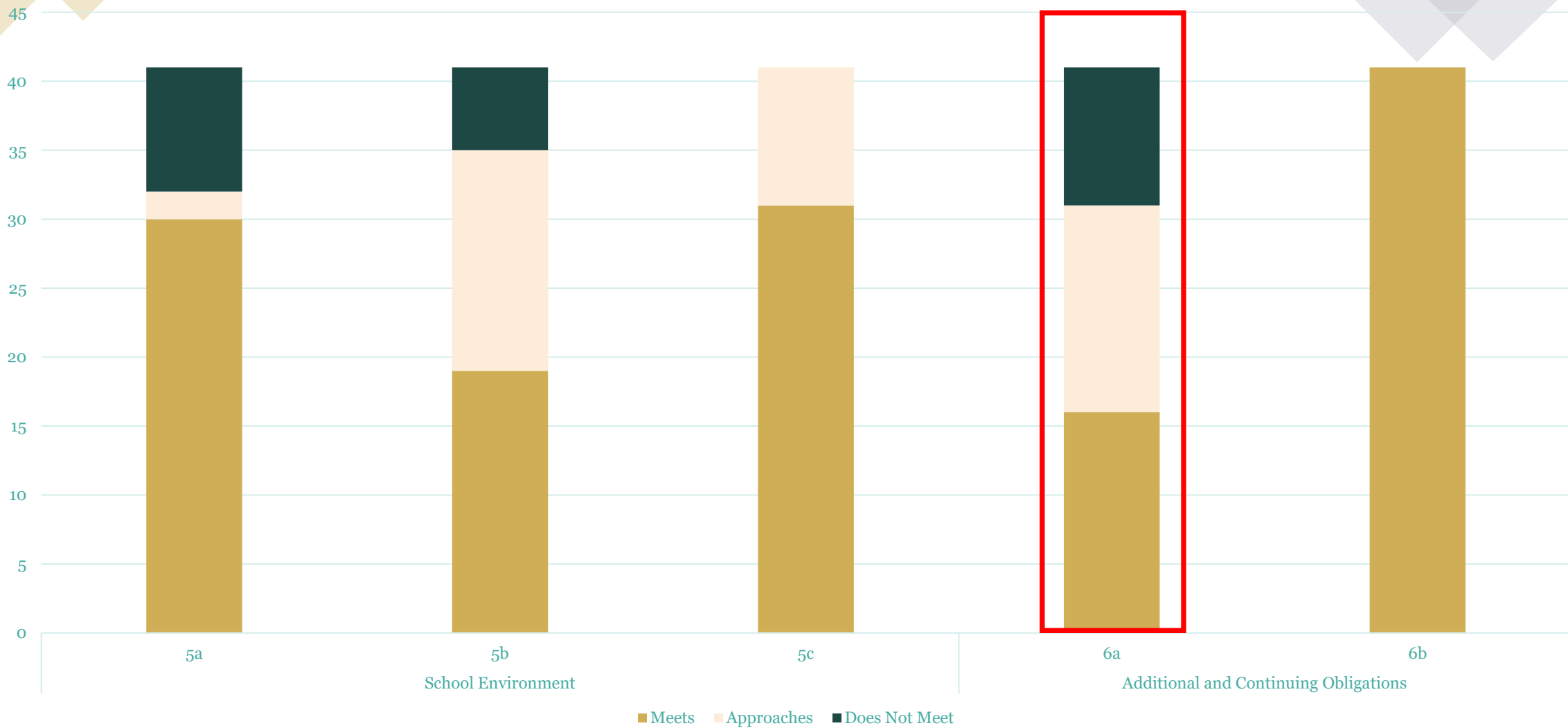
## Measure 4e, Employee Rights

### *Meets Standard:*

The school complied with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, provisions of its charter contract, and its governing policies relating to employment considerations, including those relating to the Family Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, employment contracts, and employee termination.



## Operations Performance by Measure, 2022-2023 School Year, 41 Schools



# Additional Obligations

## Measure 6a – Additional Obligations

*Meets Standard:* The school complied with all other legal, statutory, regulatory, or contractual requirements, including those contained in its charter contract, that are not otherwise explicitly addressed in these Operational Performance Standards, including but not limited to requirements from the following sources:

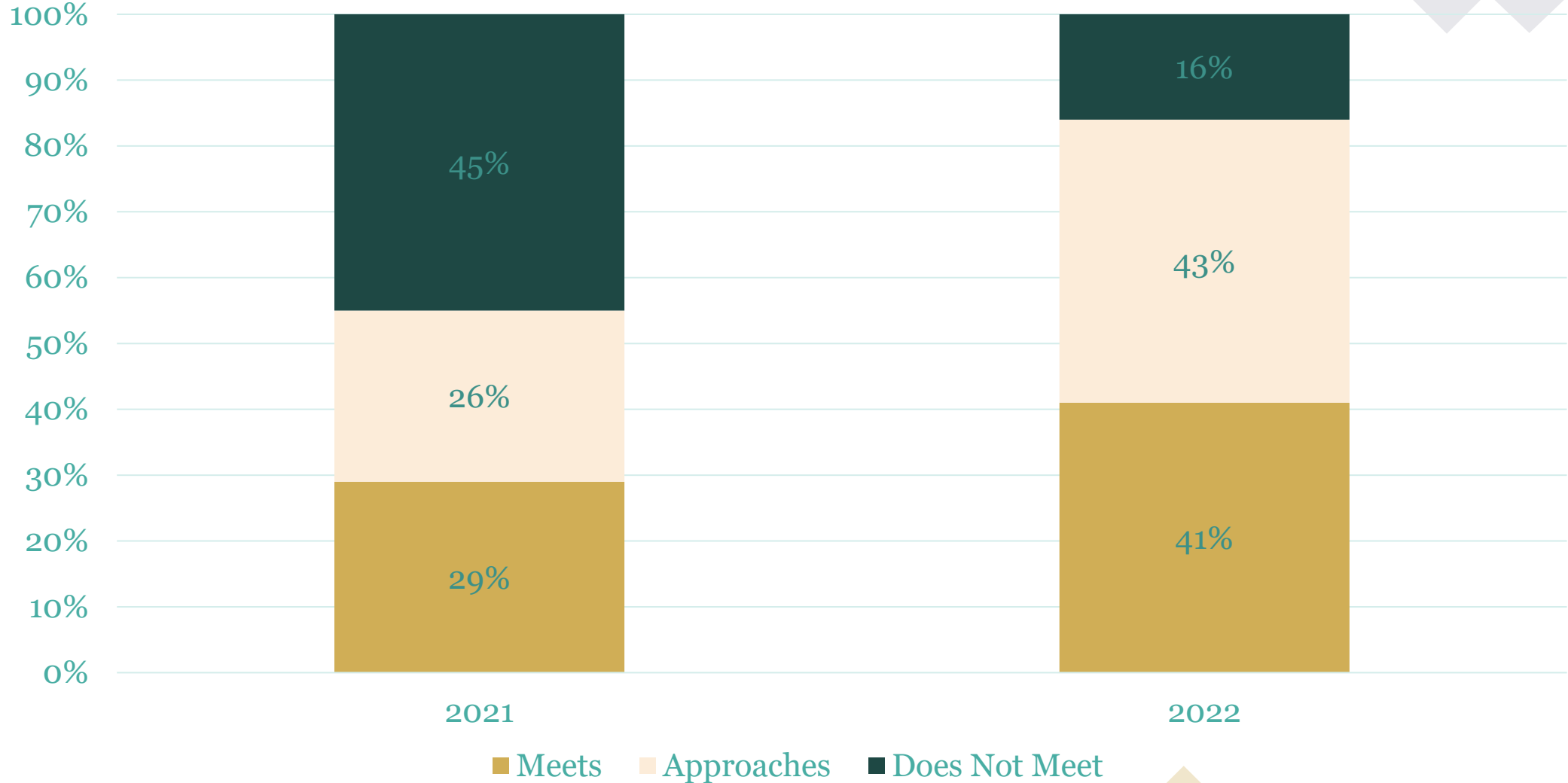
Revisions to state charter law;

Consent decrees;

- Provisions of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and/or After-School Snack Program, including nutritional and reimbursement requirements thereof, if food service is provided;
- School bus specifications, bus driver training and licensing requirements, and transportation survey deadlines, if transportation is provided;
- Intervention requirements by the authorizer; and
- Requirements by other entities to which the charter school is accountable (e.g., Georgia Department of Education, Professional Standards Commission, Department of Labor, etc.)



## Health and Safety







# Operational Performance: External Sources

Indicator	Data Source
1. Educational Program Compliance	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
2. Financial Oversight	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Financial Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
3. Governance	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Training Rosters Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
4. Students and Employees	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Data Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
5. School Environment	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring, Data Reports SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Training Rosters Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report
6. Additional and Continuing Obligations	GaDOE: Charter School Annual Report, SEA Program Monitoring SCSC: Monitoring Activities, Complaint Investigations, Training Rosters Other: Reports of Noncompliance from a State or Federal Agency, Independent Audit Report



# Common Issue Areas of External Data Sources

- GaDOE Federal Programs Cross-Functional Monitoring (CFM)
  - 16 SCSC schools were monitored in FY23. 10 schools were monitored in FY22. Prior to FY22, 3 to 4 SCSC schools were monitored annually.
  - Findings in CFM reports can impact **Indicators 1, 2, and 4**.
  - To better prepare SCSC schools for CFM, GaDOE is hosting a webinar series specifically targeted towards Charter LEAs beginning in May.
- Governance Training Completion – **Indicator 3**
  - 15 schools failed to meet governance training requirements
- On-Time Data Submission of GaDOE and SCSC reports – **Indicator 1**
  - 19 schools missed at least one or more data reporting deadlines



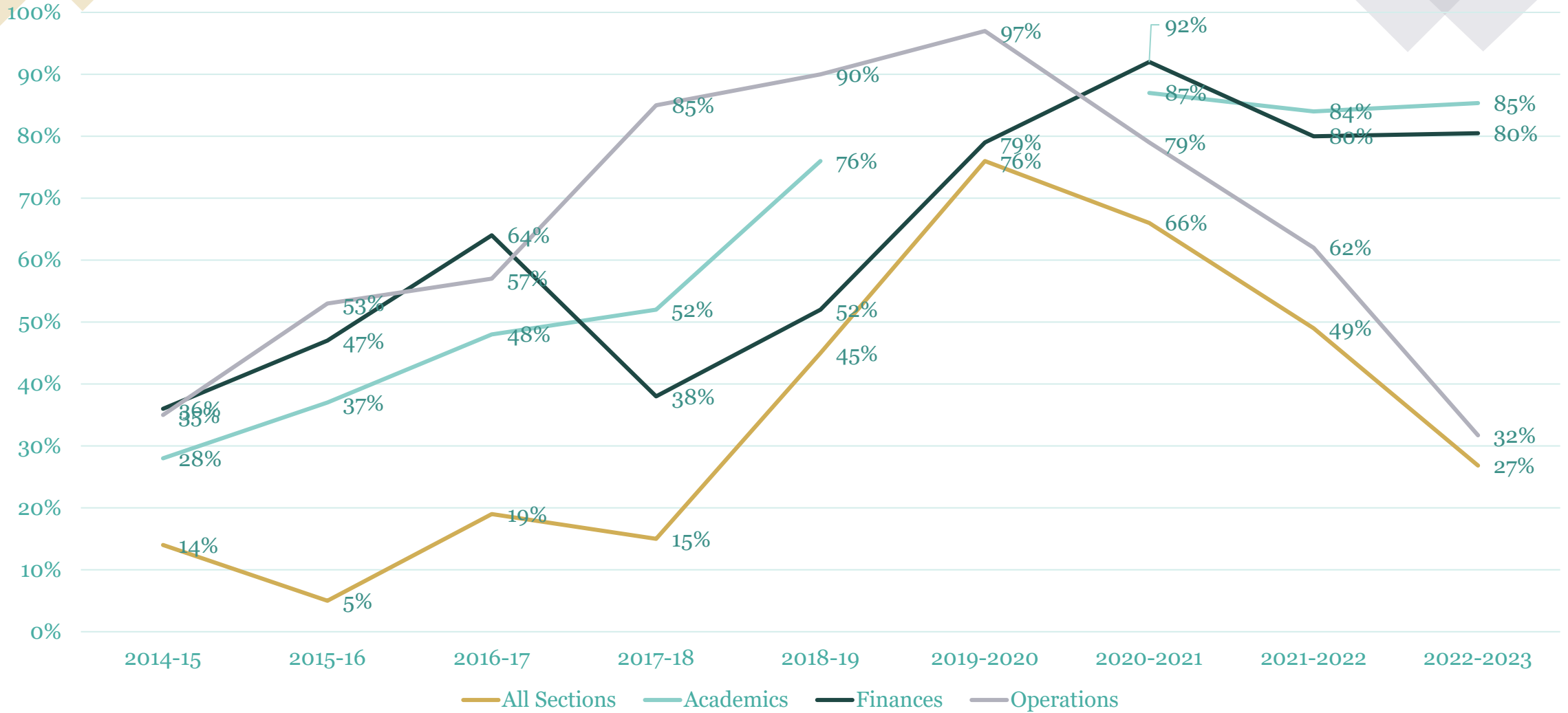


13 of 41 (32%) state charter schools  
are meeting operational standards for  
the 2022-2023 school year



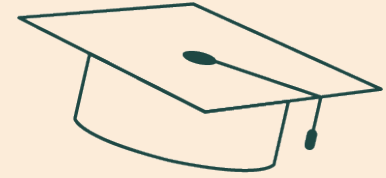
# Overall Performance

## All Sections of the CPF Performance Over Time

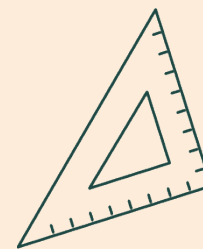
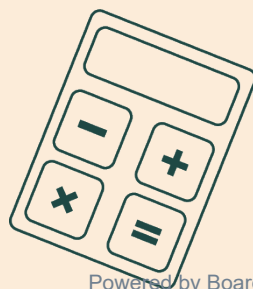




# Next Steps:



- The 2023-2024 CPF will include the updates adopted at the July 2023 SCSC meeting
- Any additional proposed updates will be shared in the upcoming months
- Performance Reviews → Probation Identification





# Coversheet

## Foundation Update Presentation

**Section:** IX. State Charter Schools Foundation  
**Item:** A. Foundation Update Presentation  
**Purpose:** FYI  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** SCSF Update for Commissioners April 24 2024.pdf



State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia  
**Impact Update**

**Michele Neely, President & CEO**



# Charter Growth Initiative

## Activities to support new, replicating, and expanding charter schools

### GEER II Subgrant

- \$2,716,525.93 in subgrants to 12 charter schools/networks
- Two cohort programs serving 9 charter schools/networks
- New charter school website and public information campaign; water bottles, yard signs, car magnets, and t-shirts distributed to charter schools across Georgia and community events
- 99.9% utilization of grant funds (\$4,088, 455.72)
- Onsite monitoring of subgrantees – no major findings
- No findings or notes on single audit





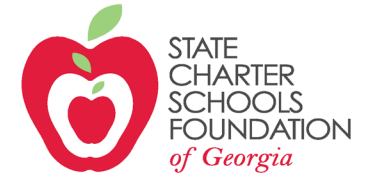
# Charter Growth Initiative

## Continuing the work to grow high-quality charter school seats

### CSP State Entity Grant

- \$7.7 million in subgrants awarded to 6 charter schools
  - New Schools: The Anchor School, Excelsior Village Academies, Sankofa Montessori
  - Replications: GSIC, Utopian Academy for the Arts- Trilith
  - Expansion: Scintilla Charter Academy
- New School Leader Fellowship
  - Excelsior Village Academies
  - Second year: The Anchor School, Miles Ahead, Sankofa Montessori
- Replication & Expansion Cohort Program
  - Chattahoochee Hills Charter School
  - International Charter Academy of Georgia
  - Liberty Classical Schools
  - Spring Creek Charter Academy





# Community Engagement

## Spreading the word about Georgia's charter schools

- Atlanta School Choice Expo
- Charter Schools Day at the Capitol
- Charter School 101 presentations – Columbus, Royston, civic groups
- FindaGaCharter.org
- Collaboration with charter school partners





# Training & Technical Assistance

## Helping charter schools reach & maintain excellence

- Training & Interactive Sessions
  - New Schools Orientation: Who Does What at Charter Schools (org chart)
  - Governance Training: Fundraising 102 – Building a Case for Support, Local Government Engagement
  - GCSA Conference: AI in Schools, Financial Support after Year 1, Authorizer Standards
- Webinars with Partners
- Free, online certification program for school on inclusive education (with partner)
- One-on-one TA for school operations
- Weekly newsletter to schools with resources & reminders





# Direct School Support

## Awarding grants, facilitating donations, celebrating schools

- Book Vending Machine grant awards
    - Genesis Innovation Academy, Baconton Community Charter School
  - Over 1,000 books to students with the Book Wagon
  - 275 students recognized in Art of Connection – Exhibition of Student Art ([scsfga.org.art](https://scsfga.org/art))
  - Distributed over 1,400 microscopes to 15 schools
  - Sponsored 15 teachers at the Teacher Store to “shop” for \$500 of school supplies
  - Gave 245 dozen donuts to schools
  - Facilitated laptop distribution for 400 state charter school families
- 
- Upcoming: 22 Shining Star Teachers, 2 Book Vending Machine Grantees



# We are here for charter schools!



Michele Neely, President & CEO – [mneely@scsfga.org](mailto:mneely@scsfga.org)



# Coversheet

## Charter Amendment - Ivy Preparatory Academy

**Section:** X. Action Items  
**Item:** A. Charter Amendment - Ivy Preparatory Academy  
**Purpose:** Vote  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Ivy Prep Contract Extension Amendment.pdf



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Charter Amendment – Ivy Preparatory Academy (contract extension)

#### Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the Ivy Preparatory Academy charter contract (Charter) to extend the contract term by two years.

#### Rationale

The school improved on two of three CPF sections. A review of the school's FY22 and FY23 audits indicated that the school decreased its debt service amount from two million dollars in FY22 to \$680,000 in FY23. It also lowered its debt-to-income ratio from 26.6% to 8.6%, a total decrease of 18%. While the school provided information that it did search for a more favorable bond package, the school explained that its existing bond terms are more favorable than what is available in the current market.

This recommendation aligns with the SCSC's recent renewal decisions for schools in similar situations in which the school's financial CPF score was impacted by existing terms of its bond agreements. The school will remain on high-risk financial monitoring to ensure it continues to focus on improving its financial CPF score while meeting the terms of its current bond.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Develop and maintain a strong internal foundation that aligns with and supports the SCSC's mission and vision.

# Coversheet

## Extension of Replication Petition Deadlines

**Section:** X. Action Items  
**Item:** B. Extension of Replication Petition Deadlines  
**Purpose:** Vote  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:** Replication Timeline Amendment.pdf  
FY24 Replication Petition Extended Timeline.pdf



## State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

### Action Item – Staff Recommendation

#### Item Summary

Extension of the FY24 Charter Replication Petition Timeline

#### Recommendation

The SCSC staff recommends that the State Charter School Commission Board of Commissioners vote to amend the FY24 charter replication petition cycle by approving the extended charter replication petition timeline as presented.

#### Rationale

In alignment with the SCSC's strategic objectives, we recommend extending the deadlines for replication letters of intent and petitions to encourage replication of high-quality charter schools in underserved areas of the state, including the areas that will be impacted by recent school closures (Fulton and Cherokee County areas). Petitioners are still required to meet the SCSC's replication and concurrent submission requirements. SCSC staff will confirm replication eligibility upon receipt of a petitioner's letter of intent. Eligible petitioners will receive a link to submit their applications.

#### Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Develop and maintain a strong internal foundation that aligns with and supports the SCSC's mission and vision

# 2023-2024 Charter Replication Petition Timeline

Task	Current Timeline	Proposed Extended Timeline
Letter of Intent Due	December 11, 2023	May 31, 2024
Petition Portal Opens	January 5, 2024	January 5, 2024
Petition Submission Deadline	May 3, 2024	June 14, 2024
Capacity Interviews Begin	June 3, 2024	On a rolling basis
SCSC Recommendations Begin	July 26, 2024	On a rolling basis