



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

April Board Meeting

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

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

April 2024 Board Meeting

April 24, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Agenda

Purpose

Presenter

I. Opening Items

	Purpose	Presenter
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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 318 • HB 409 • HB 1122 • HB 915 - Amended FY24 Budget • HB 916 - FY25 Budget 		
V. Charter Development		
A. Training	FYI	Naquita Smith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Training • Upcoming Training • GaDOE Training for Federal Programs 		
<p>Visit the Training Page of the SCSC website for real-time updates and additional information. https://scsc.georgia.gov/school-resources/training-opportunities</p>		
VI. Pre-Opening Schools		
A. Update	FYI	Tiffany Leach

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

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

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

February 2024 Board Meeting

February 28, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

B. Scafidi

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, and fiscal monitoring questions to Carmen Freemire- Director of School Finance, 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

B. Brockway Aye

B. Scafidi Absent

L. Millan Aye

J. Cole No

T. Lowden Aye

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

Documents used during the meeting

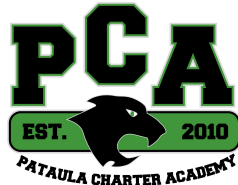
None

Coversheet

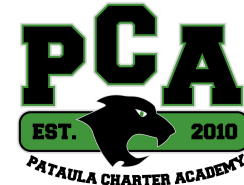
Pataula Charter Academy

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

Pataula Charter



Academy



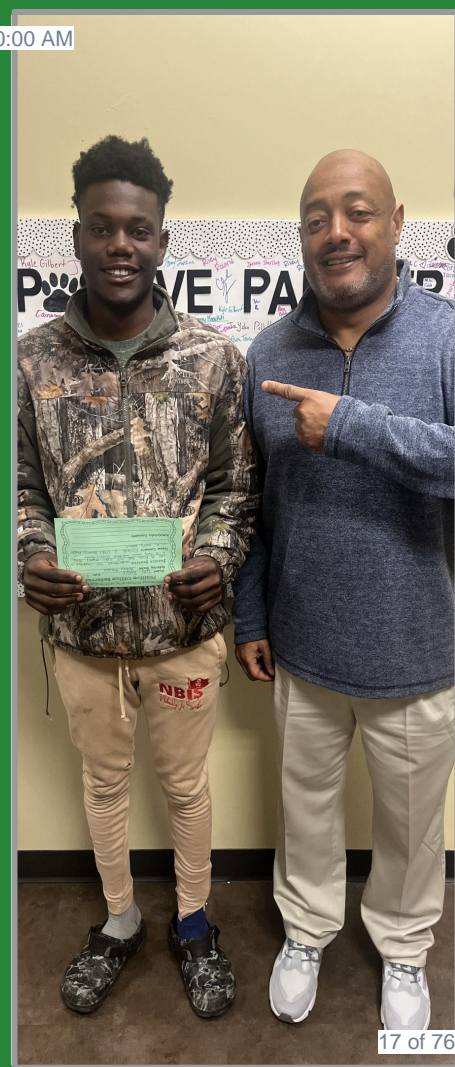


Mission

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?

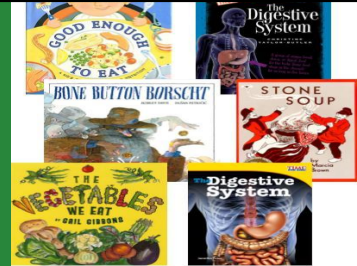
Case Study 1 Guiding Question:

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



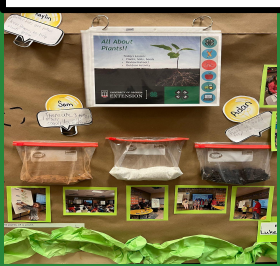
Edible Plant Parts



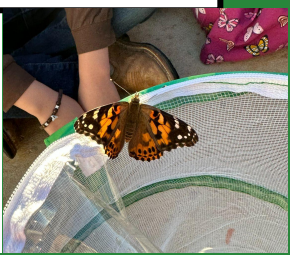
Fall Harvest Field Work
Powered by BoardOnTrack



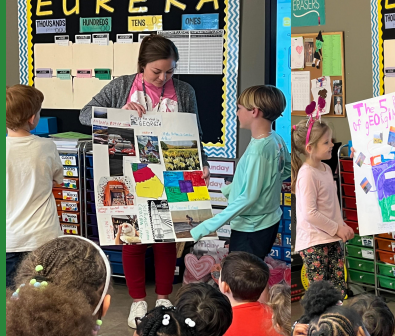
Spring Seed Germination Field Work



Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning... Georgia Regions & Rivers



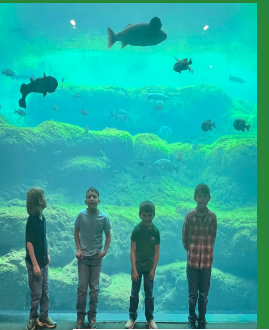
Yummy Georgia



ACE Research Projects



Flint River Aquarium Field Trip

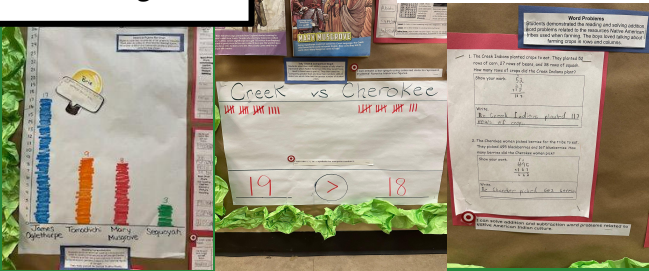


Powered by BoardOnTrack



Callaway Gardens Field Trip

Math Integration

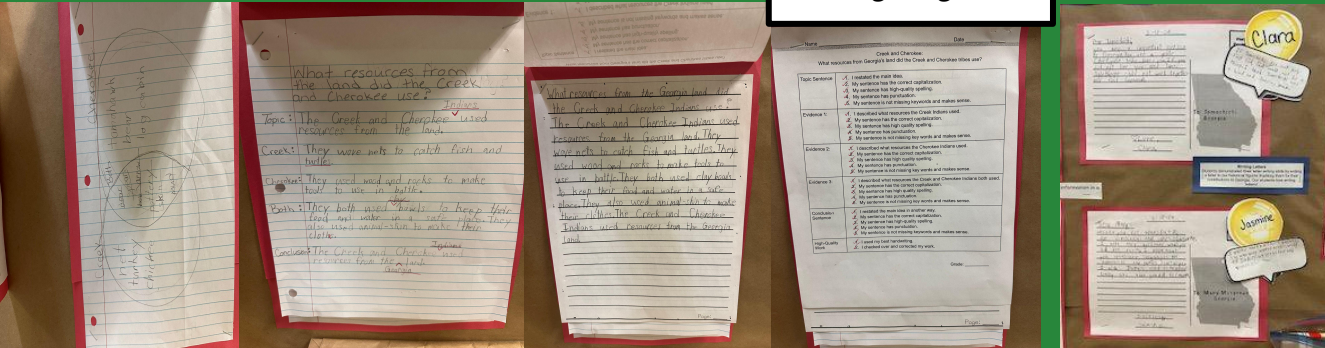


Koimoki Field Trip

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



Writing Integration



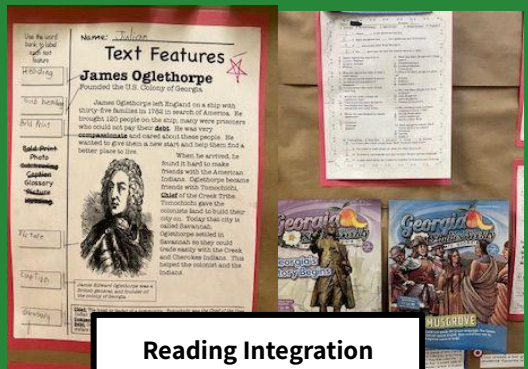
Art Integration



Dioramas



Reading Integration



Future Savannah Field Trip



Wit & Wisdom Module 4 Integration

Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

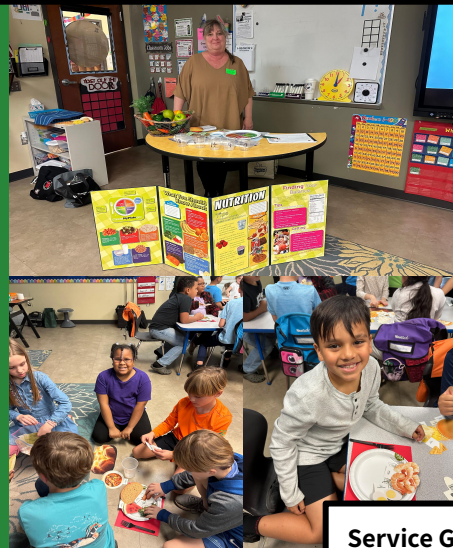
Good Eating & Service Garden Field Work Wrap Up

Farm Day Fitness

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

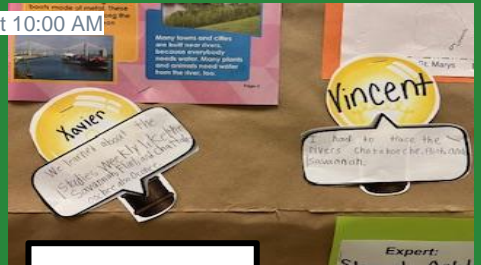


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Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

Garden Harvest

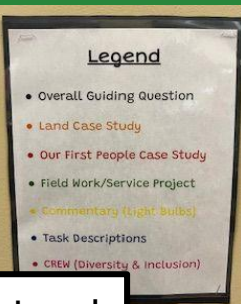
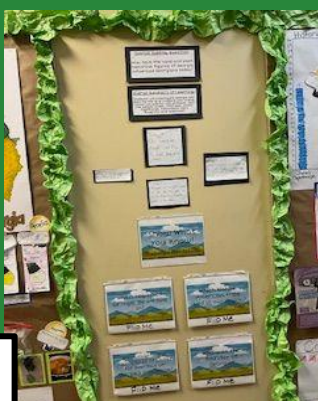


Student Voice

Gallery Night & Parent Engagement



Gallery Night Panel



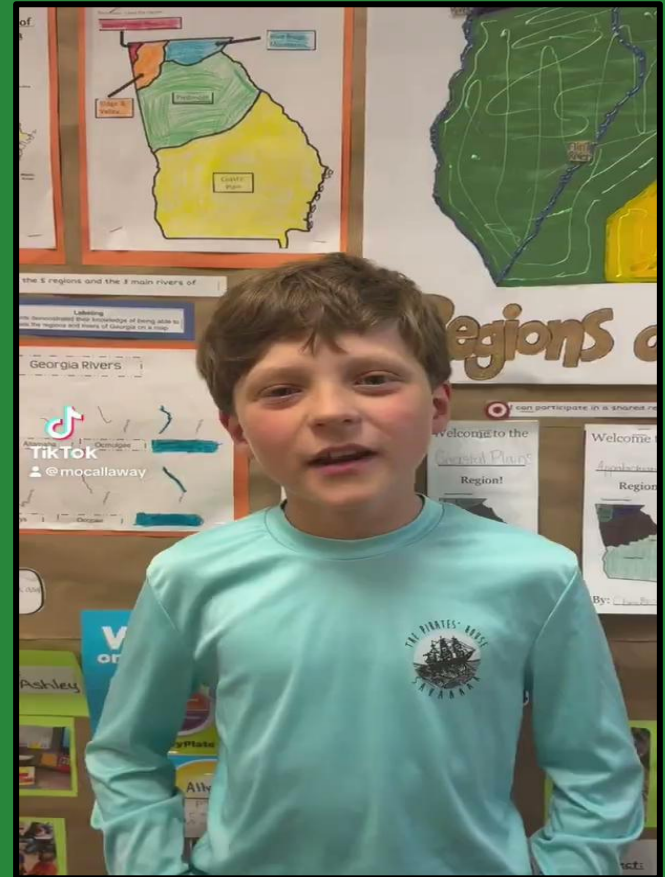
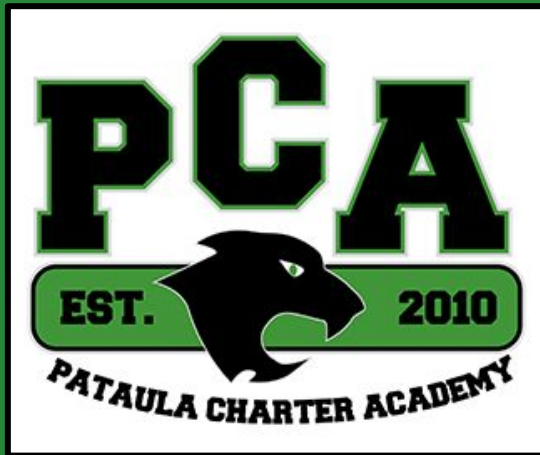
Legend



Parent Engagement

Our Journey Through Expeditionary Learning...

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



Coversheet

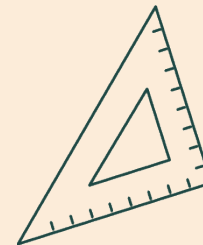
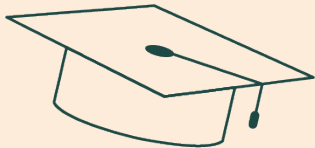
Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Presentation

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

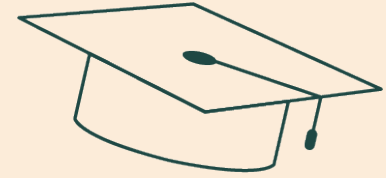
Innovative and superior charter schools advancing education in every community.

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.

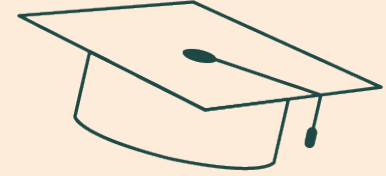
In each of the three areas, the framework asks a fundamental question:

- **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:



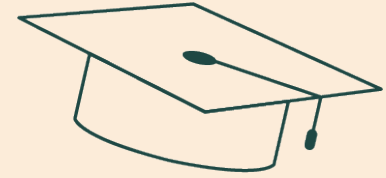
1. GaDOE CCRPI Content Mastery Scores

- 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.):



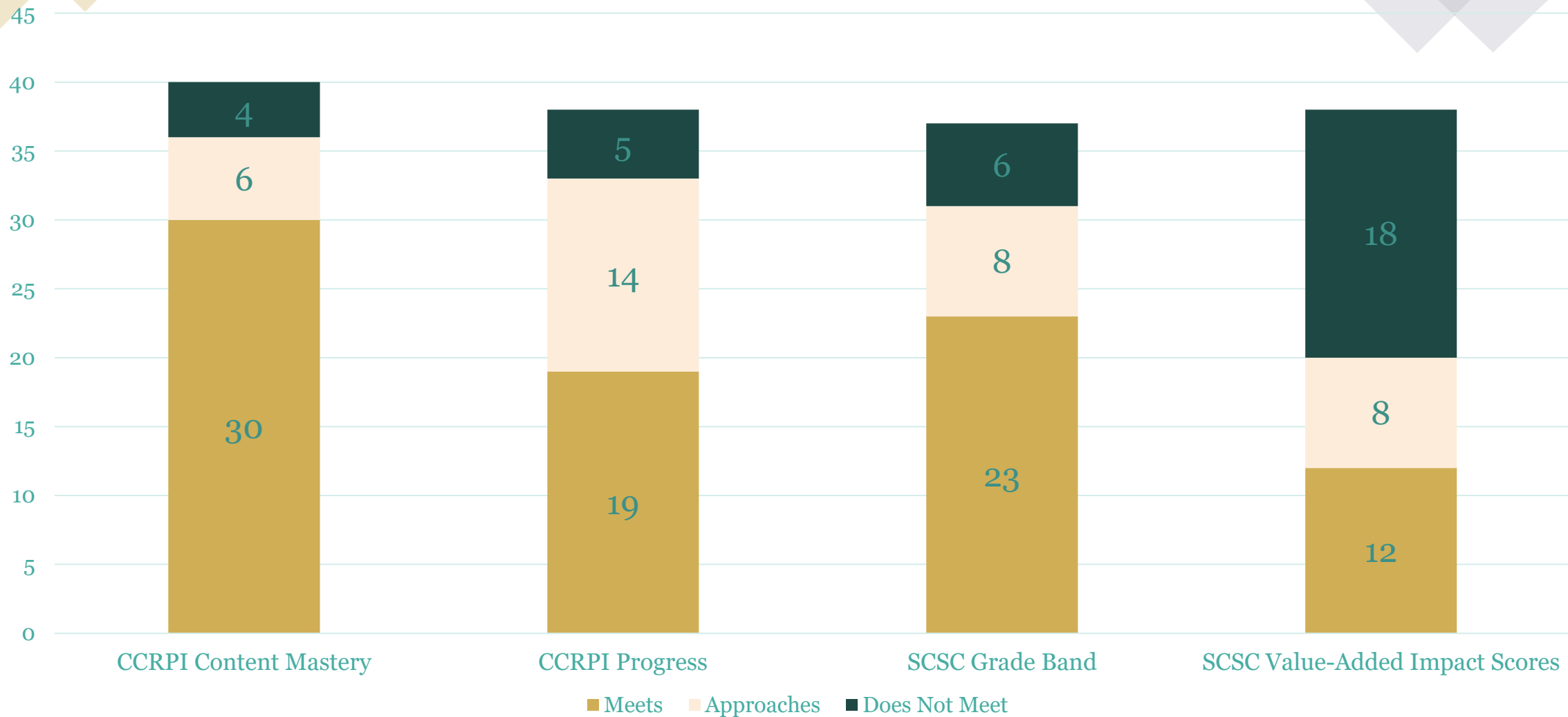
3. SCSC Grade Band Scores

- 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:

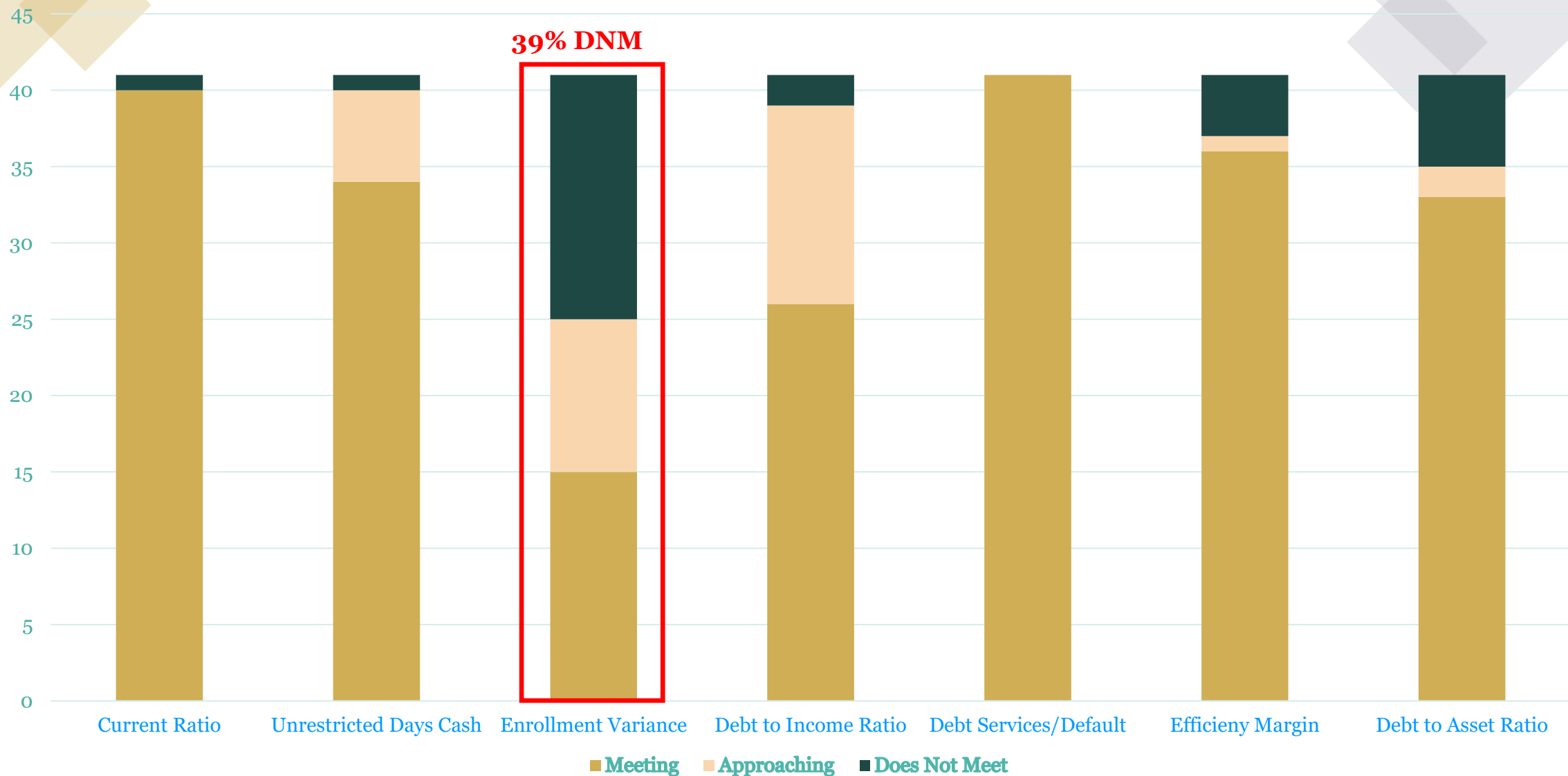
- current ratio of assets to liabilities
- unrestricted days cash
- enrollment variance
- debt to income ratio, and
- default on debt

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

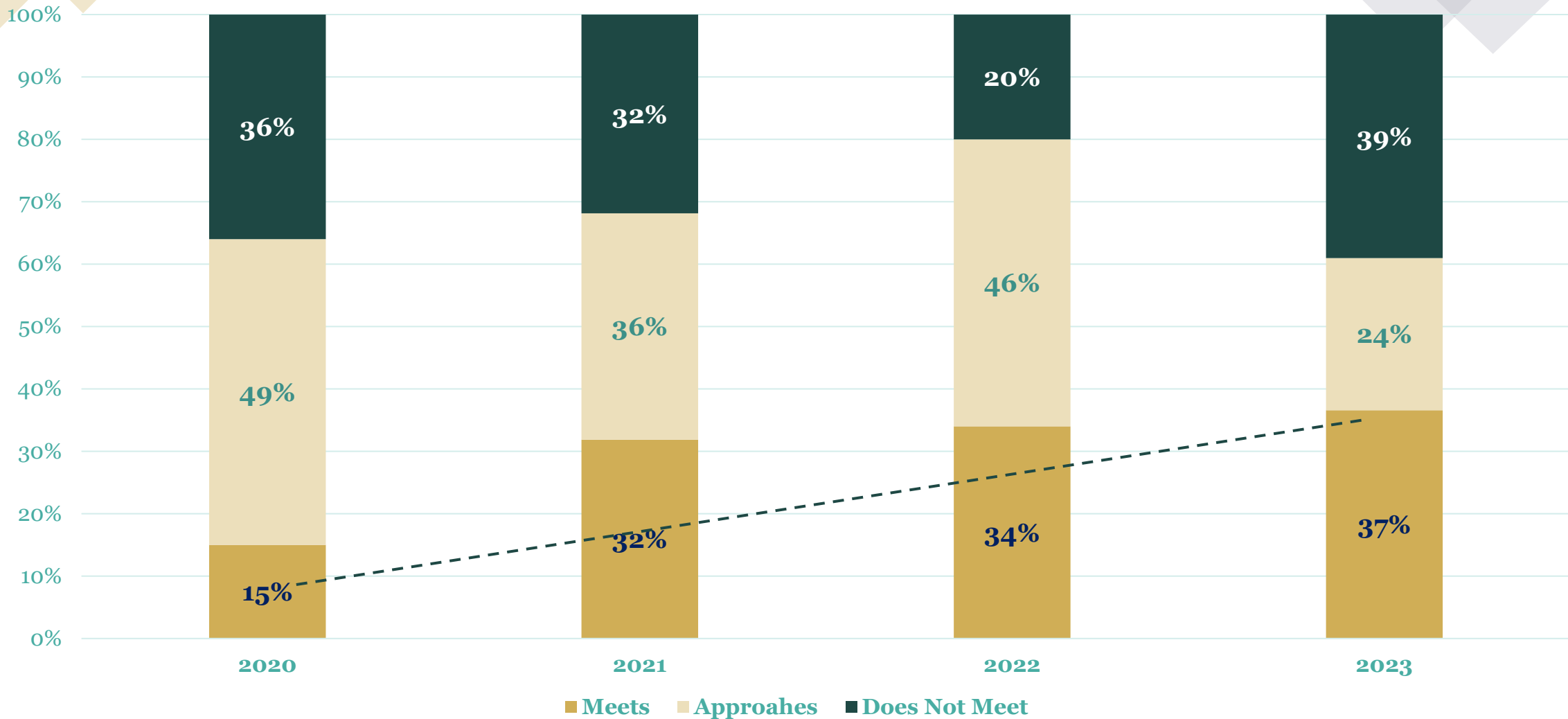
Measure 1c, Enrollment Variance: $\frac{[\text{Actual Enrollment during the October FTE Count}(\text{fiscal year 2023}) - \text{school enrollment projection}(\text{fiscal year 2023})]}{\text{school enrollment projection}(\text{fiscal year 2023})}$

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

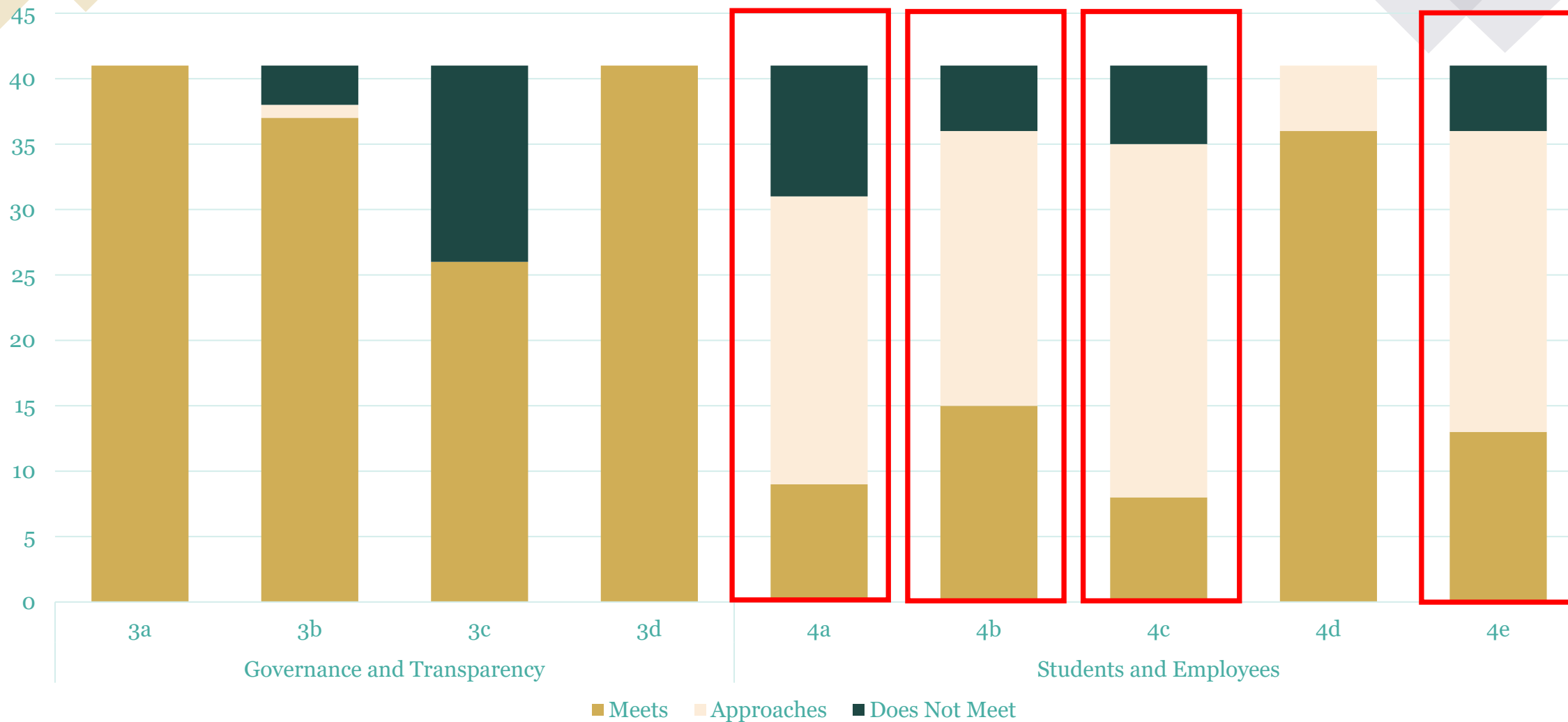
Measure 2b- Adherence to Federal Financial Requirements

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

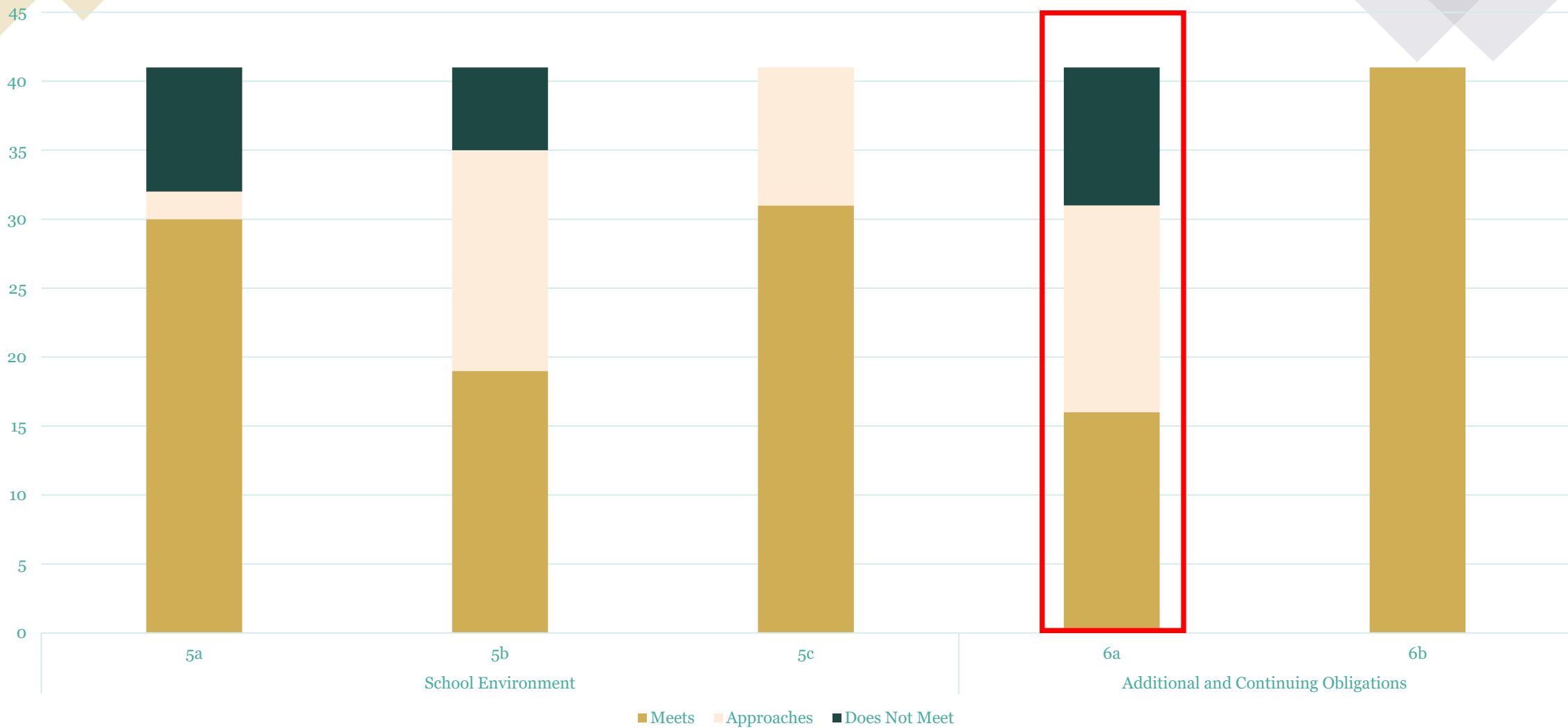
Measure 4e, Employee Rights

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:

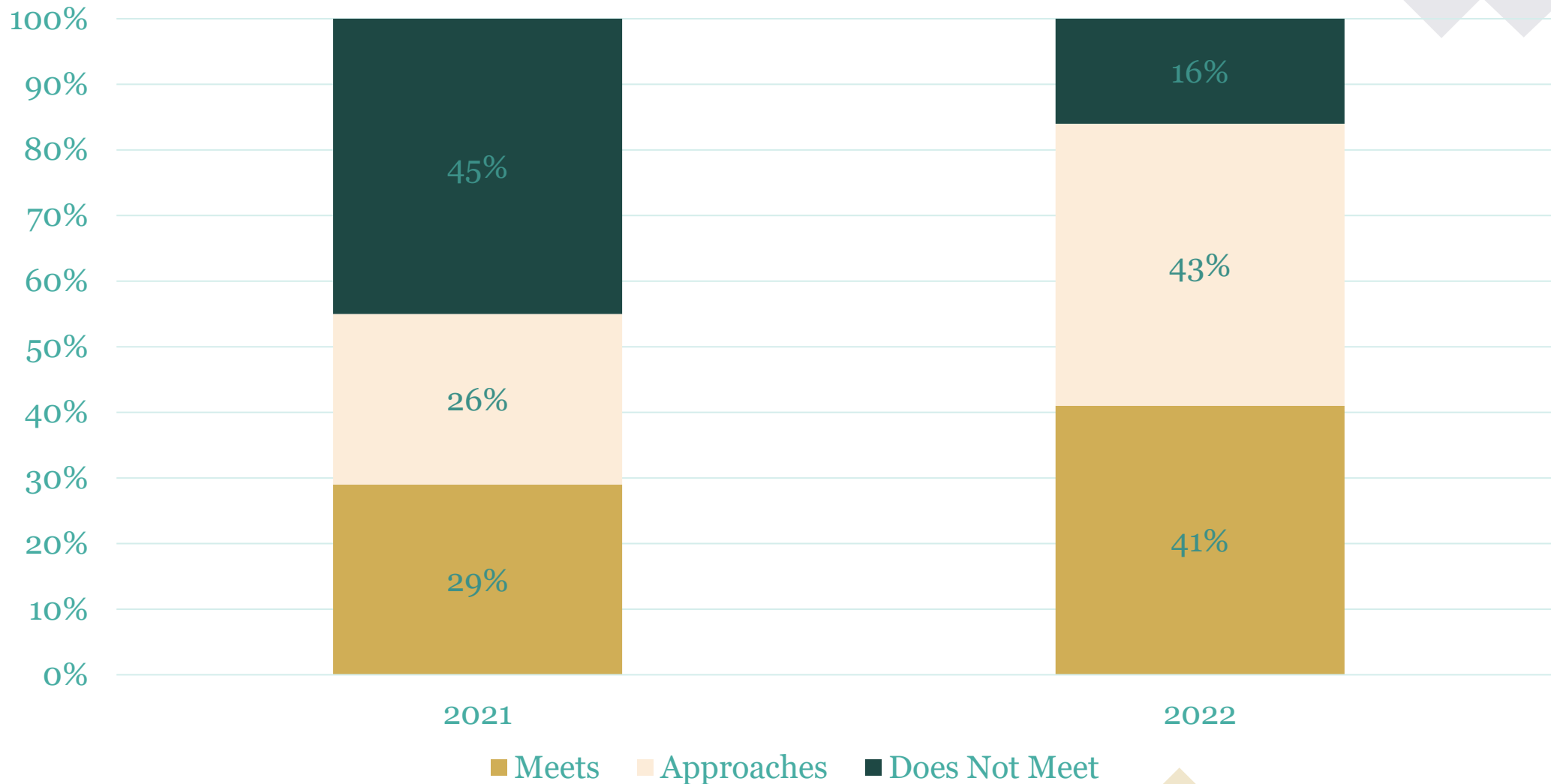
Revisions to state charter law;

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



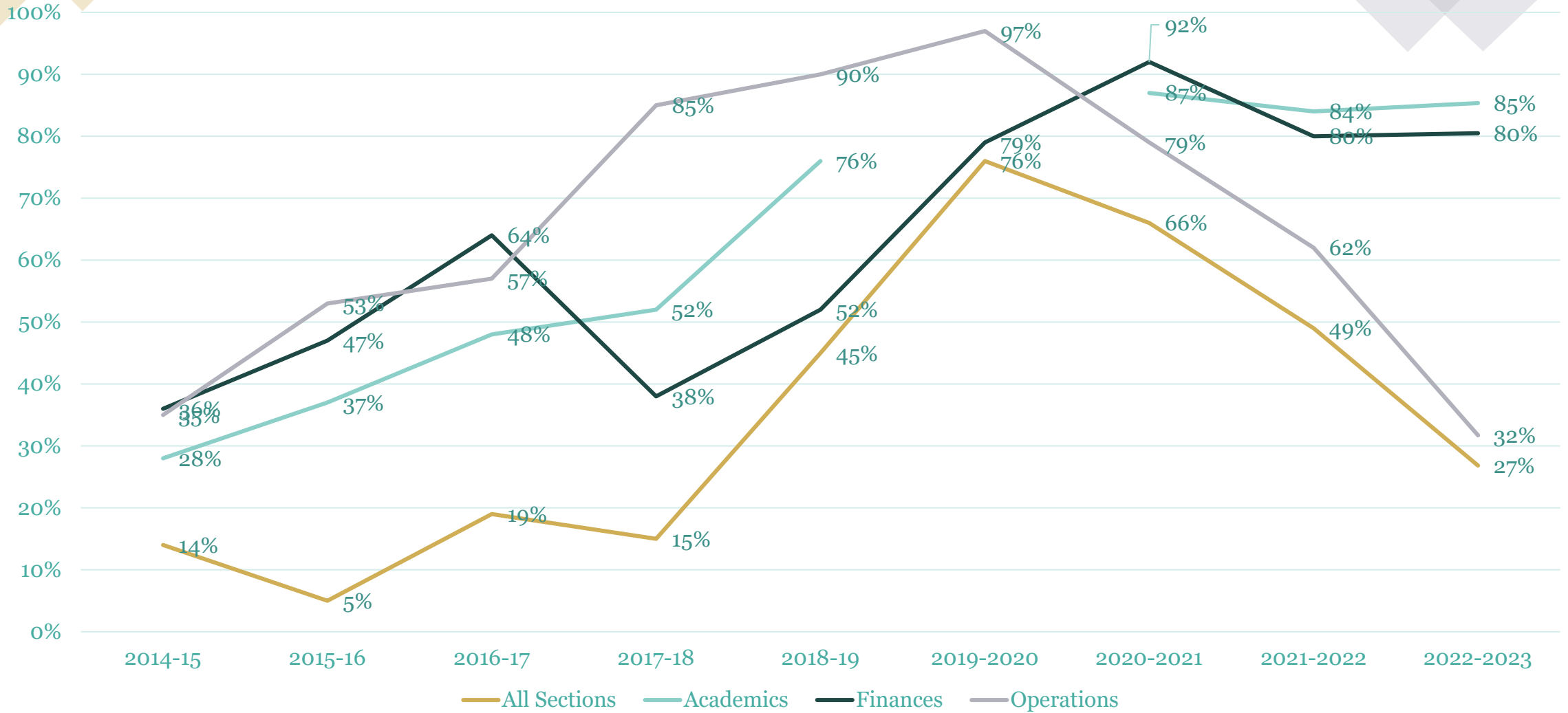


13 of 41 (32%) state charter schools
are meeting operational standards for
the 2022-2023 school year



Overall Performance

All Sections of the CPF Performance Over Time

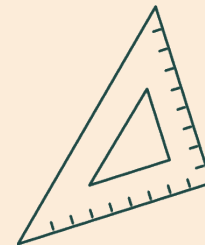
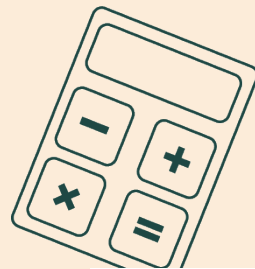


	2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022			2022-2023			2023-2024										
School	ACA	FIN	OPS	State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia - April Board Meeting - Agenda - Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM																			OPS	ACA	FIN	OPS	ACA	FIN	OPS
International Charter Academy of Georgia				98	75	87	NA	95	92	Meets	95	82	Meets	80	84	Meets	95	92	Year 6 of First Term- Renewal 2024										
SLAM Academy of Atlanta				98	65	89	NA	80	90	Meets	95	87	DNM	45	59	APP	60	77											
Cherokee Charter Academy				62	75	98	NA	80	87	DNM	95	78	APP	80	82	Meets	55	73											
Coweta Charter Academy				98	60	100	NA	70	90	Meets	80	83	Meets	75	83	Meets	75	73	Year 6 of Second Term - Renewal 2024										
Fulton Leadership Academy				62	45	98	NA	55	90	Meets	95	68	APP	60	71	APP	60	86											
Pataula Charter Academy				98	95	100	NA	90	96	Meets	95	98	Meets	95	94	Meets	90	96											
International Academy of Smyrna	98	30	89	98	40	100	NA	50	91	Meets	70	86	Meets	75	78	Meets	50	78	Year 4 of Second Term- Renewal 2024										
Georgia Cyber Academy	0	75	100	60	85	94	NA	85	100	Meets	100	87	Meets	100	93	Meets	80	79											
Utopian Academy for the Arts	98	50	87	98	40	99	NA	80	89	Meets	95	82	Meets	90	75	APP	80	66											
Cirrus Academy Charter School	0	40	85	62	45	79	NA	75	88	DNM	85	79	Meets	95	78	Meets	80	64	Year 2 of 2nd Term - Renewal 2024										
Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood	98	45	87	98	45	82	NA	50	94	Meets	65	82	Meets	50	77	Meets	65	92	r 2 of 2nd 3 year term - Renewal 2024										
DuBois Integrity Academy	98	70	80	100	80	100	NA	80	94	Meets	85	98	Meets	85	91	Meets	95	67											
International Charter School of Atlanta	98	65	80	98	100	100	NA	95	98	Meets	95	98	Meets	95	87	Meets	100	80	Year 4 of Second Term- Renewal 2025										
Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics	98	95	74	98	90	88	NA	85	77	Meets	100	84	Meets	95	72	Meets	100	72											
Odyssey Charter School	98	90	100	98	95	100	NA	90	96	Meets	100	89	Meets	95	81	Meets	95	65											
Academy for Classical Education							NA	80	87	Meets	95	89	Meets	95	81	Meets	95	78											
Ethos Classical Charter School							NA	85	87	Meets	85	85	Meets	95	80	Meets	100	71	Year 5 of First Term- Renewal 2025										
Baconton Community Charter School							NA	95	84	Meets	100	81	Meets	95	80	Meets	100	72											
Spring Creek Charter Academy							NA	80	96	APP	100	98	Meets	90	94	Meets	90	92											
Atlanta Unbound Academy							NA			Meets	100	71	Meets	95	88	Meets	85	62											
DELTA STEAM Academy							NA			Meets	100	66	Meets	85	72	Meets	85	57	Year 4 of First Term - Renewal 2025										
Furlow Charter School							NA			Meets	100	80	Meets	100	91	Meets	100	80											
Georgia Fugees Academy							NA			APP	100	80	DNM	80	80	Meets	45	58											
Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence							NA			Meets	85	75	Meets	95	87	Meets	100	72											
Liberty Tech Charter School	98	95	88	98	100	100	NA	95	85	Meets	100	94	Meets	95	98	Meets	100	92	Year 3 of 2nd Term- Renewal 2026										
Atlanta SMART Academy							NA						DNM	90	50	Meets	90	68	Year 3 of First Term - Renewal 2026										
Northwest Classical Academy							NA						Meets	100	69	Meets	100	74											
Brookhaven Innovation Academy	98	60	91	98	50	74	NA	50	87	Meets	95	93	Meets	95	90	Meets	90	73											
Southwest Georgia STEM	2	50	66	60	65	53	NA	95	88	Meets	100	87	Meets	95	87	Meets	85	92											
Statesboro STEAM Academy	62	65	88	100	75	83	NA	90	96	Meets	85	76	Meets	100	77	Meets	95	59	Year 2 of Second (or subsequent term) - Renewal 2027										
Atlanta Heights Charter School	Meets	75	100	96	85	100	NA	85	86	Meets	65	78	Meets	60	82	Meets	75	52											
Georgia Connections Academy	96	70	88	60	85	86	NA	95	98	Meets	100	96	Meets	100	79	Meets	100	80											
Amana Academy West Atlanta																Meets	85	66											
DeKalb Brilliance Academy																NA	85	61	Year 2 of First Term - Renewal 2027										
Destinations Career Academy of Georgia (Virtual)																DNM	95	69											
Resurgence Hall Middle Academy																Meets	95	92											
Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys	62	70	76	100	85	91	NA	85	94	Meets	85	84	Meets	85	92	Meets	85	79											
Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls	2	60	78	100	85	91	NA	95	94	Meets	85	84	Meets	85	92	Meets	85	82											
Resurgence Hall Charter School	98	85	84	100	80	100	NA	90	98	Meets	95	87	Meets	80	73	Meets	95	96	Year 1 of Second (or subsequent) Term- Renwal 2028										
SAIL – School for Arts-Infused Learning	98	15	93	96	55	92	NA	75	89	Meets	90	78	DNM	65	78	APP	95	74											
Scintilla Charter Academy	0	60	100	2	75	100	NA	80	94	Meets	95	82	Meets	95	86	Meets	95	75											
Liberation Academy																													
Miles Ahead Charter School																													
PEACE Academy Charter																													
Sankofa Montessori																			Year 1 of First Term - Renewal 2028										
The Anchor School																													
The Rise School																													
Utopian Academy for the Arts Trilith								Powered by BoardOnTrack																					
Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School																													

Next Steps:



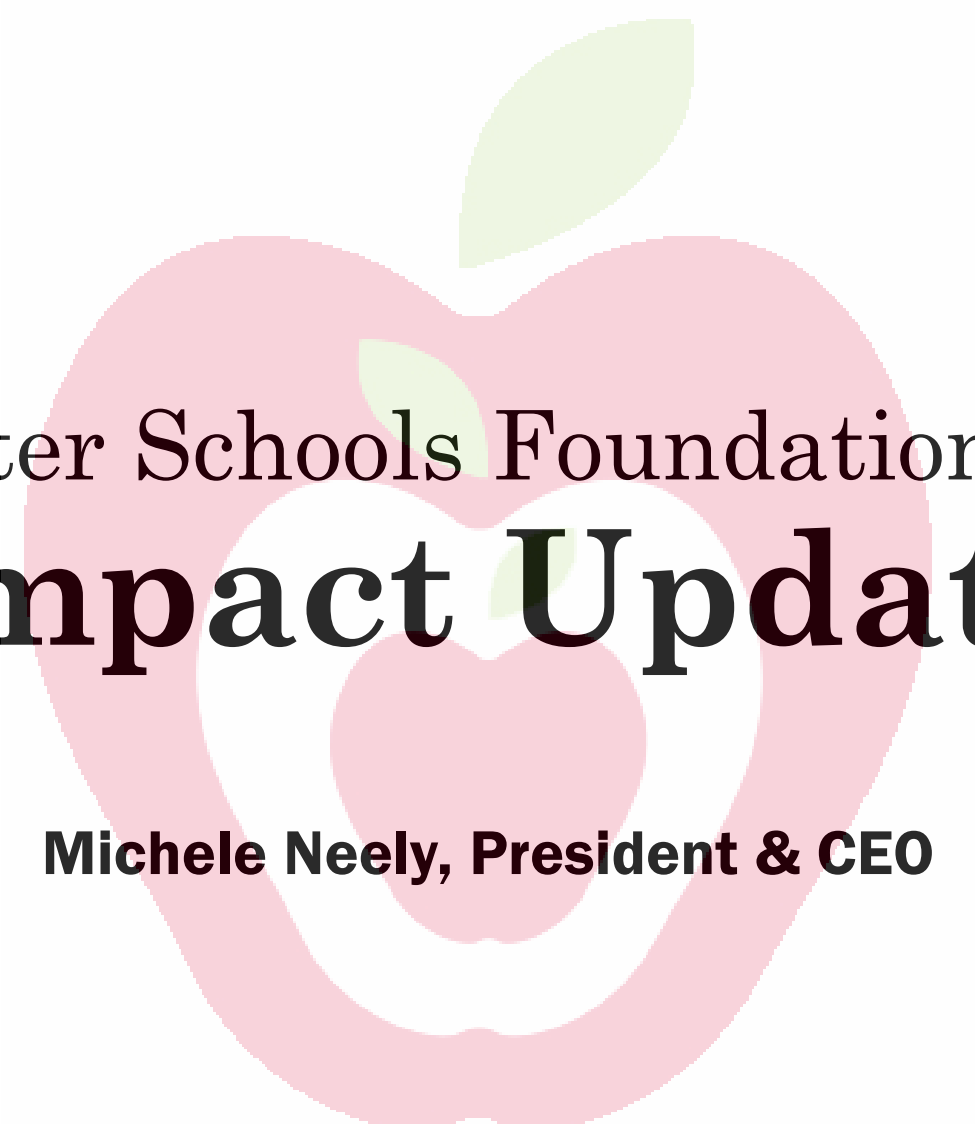
- The 2023-2024 CPF will include the updates adopted at the July 2023 SCSC meeting
- Any additional proposed updates will be shared in the upcoming months
- Performance Reviews → Probation Identification



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

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