



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

June Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday June 26, 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: 854 3776 1028

Passcode: 381937

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

June 2024 Board Meeting
June 26, 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. April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Mike Dudgeon
III. HB318 Transfer		
A. Updates		Donovan Head
IV. Charter Development		
A. Training	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Training • Upcoming Training 		
<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>		
V. Pre-Opening Schools		
A. Update	FYI	Kristen Easterbrook
VI. Petitions		
A. Update	FYI	Erin Wright
VII. Accountability		
A. Finance	FYI	Carmen Freemire
B. Operations	FYI	Tiffany Leach
C. School Probation Announcements	FYI	Cerrone Lockett

Purpose Presenter

VIII. Action Items

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|------|-----------------|
| A. | Charter Amendment - International Charter School of Atlanta | Vote | Cerrone Lockett |
| B. | Agency Budget Actions | Vote | Carmen Freemire |

IX. Additional Items

X. Public Comment

To sign up for public comment, please complete the [Public Comment Form](#) on the SCSC website by no later than **10:00 a.m. the day before** the scheduled meeting for written comments and no later than **9:00 a.m. the day of** the scheduled meeting for comments made in person.

Please note staff will share written comments submitted via the form with Commissioners ahead of the meeting and will not be read aloud during the meeting.

<https://scsc.georgia.gov/about-us/board-meetings/public-comment>

XI. Executive Session

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------|--------------|
| A. | Personnel | Vote | Mike Dudgeon |
|-----------|-----------|------|--------------|

XII. Closing Items

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------|--------------|
| A. | Adjourn Meeting | Vote | Mike Dudgeon |
|-----------|-----------------|------|--------------|

Coversheet

April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Section: II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes
Item: A. April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for April Board Meeting on April 24, 2024

APPROVED



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

April Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 10:00 AM

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.

Directors Present

B. Brockway, B. Scafidi, J. Cole, M. Dudgeon, T. Lowden (remote)

Directors Absent

C. Good, L. Millan

Guests Present

K. Thompson

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 Apr 24, 2024 at 9:59 AM.

II. Approval of SCSC Meeting Minutes

A. February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the February Board Meeting on 02-28-24.
The minutes were approved by unanimous consent of the board.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. School Spotlight

A. Pataula Charter Academy

Representatives from Pataula Charter Academy were commended on their great work and provided a presentation on school activities.

See the presentation here: [PCA Presentation for SCSC Meeting.pdf](#)

IV. Post Legislative Update

A. Update

The Governor signed a number of charter-related bills, including:

- **HB 318**, which 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.
- **HB 1122**, which provides funding to each state charter school for the beginning salary of one superintendent for schools with over 1,000 students. 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.
- **HB 409**, which permits education service providers (ESPs) to employ charter school staff.

Additionally, the SCSC Director of School Finance gave an update on the Amended FY24 and FY25 Budgets.

V. Charter Development

A. Training

• Past Training:

- In-Person Governance Training Session (2 of 3), The second in-person Governance Training session for FY24 occurred on February 6th in Athens, GA. (100) state charter school board members, and school stakeholders attended the training event.
- In-Person Governance Training Session (3 of 3), The third and final in-person Governance Training session for FY24 occurred on April 17th in Atlanta, GA. (143) state charter school board members, and school stakeholders attended the training event.
- New School Orientation (2 of 2), Data Summary: The second in-person New School Orientation for FY-24 Pre-Opening Schools occurred on March 20th. (2) newly approved state charter school board members attended the training session.

• Upcoming Training

- **GaDOE Training:** The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Office of Federal Programs, is providing a webinar series targeting Charter Local Education Agencies (LEA) in their first three years of operation. The training series is designed to support schools with federal program compliance. All Charter LEAs are invited to attend. All webinars will be recorded. Registration information will be available in the SCSC April Newsletter. GaDOE federal programs sent training information to designated Federal Programs staff at schools.

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

- Two schools are now projected to open this fall; since the last board meeting, one of the pre-opening schools has deferred opening to Fall 2025.
- March enrollment milestone update: One of the two schools met the 65% target enrollment for Year 1, and one did not.

- Facility milestone update: One school is on track to obtain the certificate of occupancy by July 1; the other pre-opening school estimates having the CO by August 1.

VII. Petitions

A. Update

- The FY24 start-up petition portal closed on March 15th. The SCSC received 11 petitions, including one virtual school, two hybrid schools, and eight brick-and-mortar schools. After reviewing the petitions for legal and technical compliance, one petition was removed from consideration due to its failure to support the selection of a statewide attendance zone.
- The hybrid and brick-and-mortar schools propose to be located in areas such as Richmond County, Henry County, Muscogee County, Savannah-Chatham, Bibb County, Douglas County, and Athens-Clarke. A spreadsheet located in Commissioner folders provides a specific breakdown of the petitions received.
- SCSC staff are reviewing the substance of the remaining 10 petitions, with the goal of scheduling interviews in June. Thank you to the Commissioners who have shared their availability for interviews.
- In March, the SCSC received a transfer petition from 7 Pillars Academy, a local charter school in Clayton County. After reviewing the school's academic performance, the SCSC determined that the school's track record did not meet SCSC performance standards, and we advised the school that the SCSC would not consider its petition.
- Finally, the SCSC has received one replication petition from Atlanta Classical Academy that we are reviewing. Staff will make a recommendation later in this meeting to extend the replication petition deadlines.

VIII. Accountability

A. Finance

We have entered the final financial quarter of FY24. The SCSC is well-positioned to end the year with a surplus. We have awarded contracts for 4 auditors in the Approved Auditor Program for FY24. The SCSC pays for the audits when schools choose one of the auditors selected for this program.

B. Operations

- Monitoring Corrective Action Plan (CAP) responses were sent to schools on March 22; these serve as the final FY24 fiscal and operations monitoring results. The monitoring survey opened on April 15, 2024, and will close on May 12, 2024.

C. Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) Presentation

SCSC Staff presented FY23 CPF results. See the presentation here:

[2022-2023 Accountability Presentation.pdf](#)

D. Schools Placed on Probation

- **Atlanta Unbound Academy:** The probationary term is extended to December 2024. The school will be removed from probation once it moves into its permanent facility.
- **Destinations Career Academy Charter School (DCA):** The school is being placed on probation for failing to meet SCSC standards in academics and operations during the 2022-2023 school year. DCA has a three-year charter term. Thus, its renewal will rely on data from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The school's 2022-23 data does not meet the SCSC's standards for renewal. The initial term of probation is through December 2024.
- **SLAM:** As a reminder, the SCSC voted to renew SLAM Academy for a two-year probationary charter term. Thus, staff will continue to monitor this school's performance throughout the probationary charter term.

IX. State Charter Schools Foundation

A. Foundation Update Presentation

SCSF President Michele Neely provided an update on the State Charter Schools Foundation.

See the presentation here: [SCSF Update for Commissioners April 24 2024.pdf](#)

X. Action Items

A. Charter Amendment - Ivy Preparatory Academy

B. Brockway made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation that the SCSC board of commissioners approve an amendment to the Ivy Preparatory Academy charter contract to extend the contract term by two years.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

Ronnie Banyard (Board Chair), Kristie Battle (Board Treasurer), Mrs. Laticia Sharp (CFO), and Dr. Charcia Nichols (School Leader) gave public comment in support of the recommendation.

View the recommendation here:

[Ivy Prep Contract Extension Amendment.pdf](#)

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

B. Extension of Replication Petition Deadlines

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the SCSC staff recommendation 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.

J. Cole seconded the motion.

View the recommendation here:

[Replication Timeline Amendment.pdf](#)

[FY24 Replication Petition Extended Timeline.pdf](#)

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

Roll Call

L. Millan Absent

C. Good Absent

XI. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Students, staff, parents, and community members spoke in support of the 7 Pillars Career Academy transfer petition.

A representative from the Clayton County Board of Education spoke in opposition to the 7 Pillars Career Academy transfer petition.

XII. 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 12:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Dudgeon

Coversheet

Charter Amendment - International Charter School of Atlanta

Section: VIII. Action Items
Item: A. Charter Amendment - International Charter School of Atlanta
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: ICS Atlanta Mission Specific Goals Amendment.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Amendment – International Charter School of Atlanta (Mission Specific Goals)

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the International Charter School of Atlanta’s charter contract to amend the school’s mission specific goals.

Rationale

International Charter School of Atlanta, Inc. is requesting to amend its mission-specific goals to better align with its academic program. After a strategic planning review by the board and school leadership, it was determined that third grade is a better year to assess if specific intervention with second language support is required as students transition from the lower campus to the upper campus between the third and fourth grades.

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

Coversheet

Agency Budget Actions

Section: VIII. Action Items
Item: B. Agency Budget Actions
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Action Item - Budget Recommendation.pdf
FY2025 Budget Presentation Final.pdf
FY25 Budget Narrative_Final.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Adoption of SCSC FY2025 Administrative Withhold
Adoption of SCSC FY2025 Operational Budget
Approval of Return of FY2024 Administrative Withhold Funds

Recommendation

Adoption of SCSC FY2025 Administrative Withhold Recommendation: It is recommended that the SCSC direct the Georgia Department of Education to withhold 1.8% of state funding allocated to state charter schools as authorized by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089(b) for the administrative expenses of the SCSC. It is further recommended that the withhold for state charter schools in the first year of operation shall be .8%.

Adoption of SCSC FY2025 Operational Budget Recommendation: It is recommended that the SCSC adopt the SCSC FY25 Operational Budget as prepared by SCSC staff with a total budget amount of \$8,424,494.

Approval of Return of FY2024 Administrative Withhold Funds Recommendation: It is recommended that the SCSC direct the Georgia Department of Education to return the unexpended portion of the SCSC's FY24 1.73% administrative withhold, including additional funding provided by the Amended FY 2024 allotment, to state charter schools after the completion of the SCSC's FY 2024 budgeted expenses. It is further recommended that upon approval from the Chairman, SCSC staff may specifically designate the use of returned funds for state charter schools not meeting Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) standards.

Rationale

Adoption of Administrative Withhold



Although O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089(b) authorizes the SCSC to withhold up to 3% of state funding allocated to state charter schools, the SCSC has historically operated on a reduced budget to allow state charter schools to allocate more funding to instructional expenses.

The SCSC proposes to reduce the withhold to 1.8% for existing state charter schools and .8% for schools in their first year of operation. In addition, the SCSC will receive a transfer of state funds in the amount of \$265,501 from the Georgia Department of Education's (GADOE) budget to partially fund positions that were transferred to the SCSC when House Bill 318 was passed for FY2025. The withhold and transfer of state funds from the GADOE will yield SCSC revenue of \$8,424,494 million.

Reduction of the withhold allows additional funds to remain with schools, thereby aiding schools to offer additional instructional programs and services to their students.

Adoption of Operational Budget

The SCSC budget as prepared by SCSC staff allows the agency to fulfill its statutory charges as an independent charter school authorizer while conducting all business according to high standards of transparency, accessibility, objectivity, and innovation. Due to conservative budgeting and diligent work by staff, revenue contemplated by the decreased withhold percentage will not compromise the SCSC's ability to sufficiently perform its duties as required by law.

Return of Administrative Withhold Funds

Annual SCSC operations are solely funded through an administrative withhold fee deducted from the annual operating budgets of state charter schools. Therefore, the SCSC adopted an operating budget for FY2024 based on a 1.73% administrative withhold for existing schools and a 0.73% administrative withhold for first-year schools. As a steward of taxpayer funds, the SCSC endeavors to be fiscally responsible and efficient. As a result of this diligence, the SCSC will be able to satisfactorily perform its duties utilizing only a portion of the eligible withhold. Therefore, the SCSC would like to return the remaining funds to schools to assist them in furthering their respective missions and better serving their students. Funds will be returned on a proportionate share basis. From time to time, SCSC staff may recommend to the Chairman that a portion of the returned funds be designated for a specific use tailored to deficiencies identified by a school's CPF performance. Specific allocation of resources will assist schools in correcting deficiencies and incentivize future compliance. Because these funds do not lapse, state charter schools can utilize this money for the 2024-2025 school year.



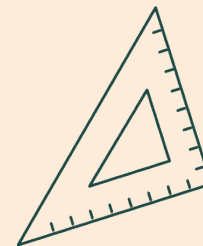
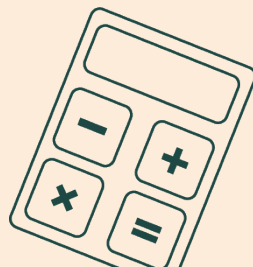
Strategic Plan Alignment

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



Fiscal Year 2025: Proposed Budget

June 26, 2024



Vision

Innovative and superior charter schools advancing education in every community.

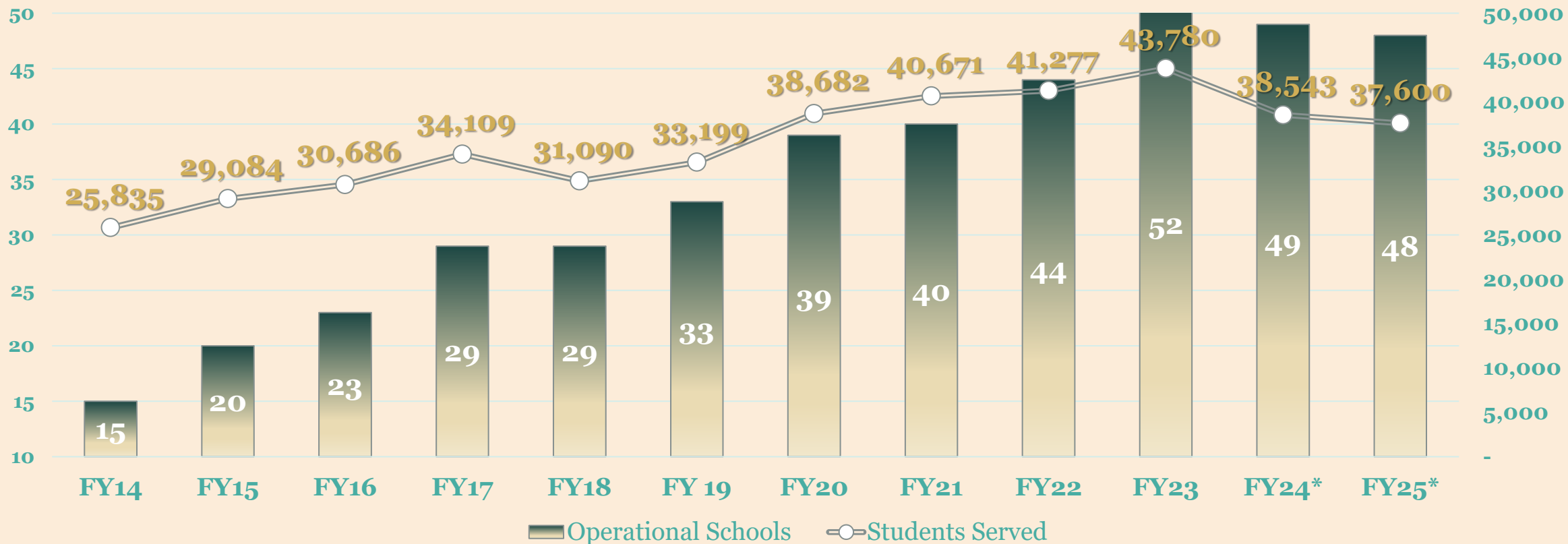
Mission

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.



FY 2025

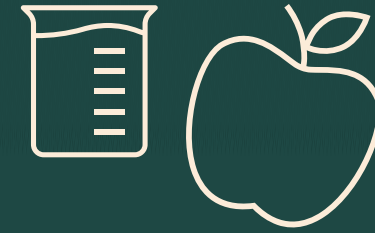
Operational SCSC Schools & Students Served



FY 2025 Budgeted Revenue

3% Withhold Limit— Voluntarily Reduce to

- **1.8% for established schools**
- **0.8% for first-year schools**



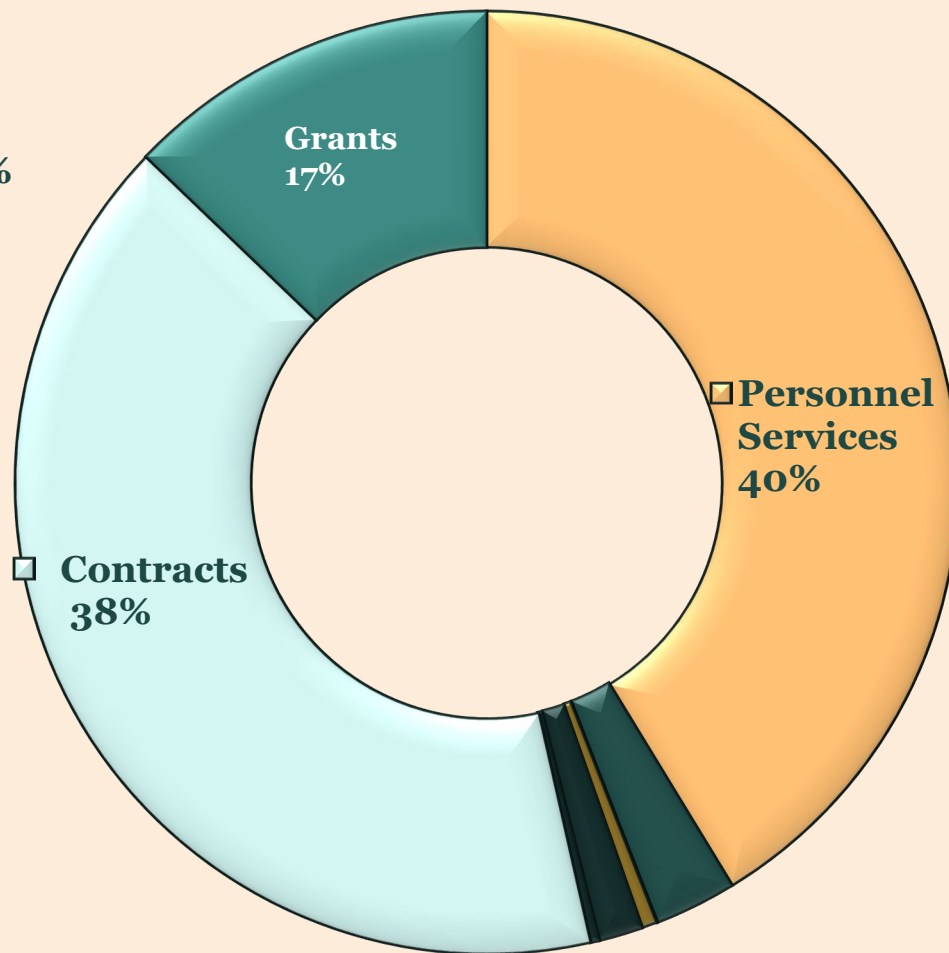
**FY 2025 Revenue
Withhold Revenue
\$8,158,994**

**From GADOE for HB 318
\$265,501**

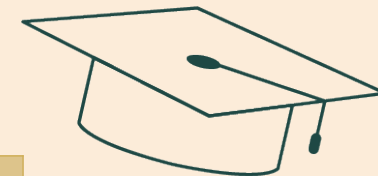
**Total
\$8,424,494**

FY 2025 Budgeted Expenditure by Class

- Regular Operating Expenses - 3%
- Real Estate Rentals - 2%
- Telecommunications - <1%
- IT - <1%
- Equipment - <1%



FY 2025 Budgeted Expenditures Overview



Personnel Services	\$ 3,381,806
Regular Operating Expenses	\$ 212,932
Equipment	\$ 3,500
Computer Charges	\$ 39,900
Real Estate Rentals	\$ 127,599
Telecommunications	\$ 27,796
Contracts	\$ 3,202,101
Grants	\$ 1,428,860
Total	\$ 8,424,494

FY 2025 Expenditure Overview: Personnel Services

- **FY 2025: \$3.3 million (40%)**
- **FY 2024: \$2.9 million (41%)**

- **FY2025 Changes:**
 - Three additional staff positions due to HB 318
 - Applicable salary adjustments
 - Adjustment to hourly rate for interns



FY 2025 Expenditure Overview: Contracts

- **FY 2025: \$3.2 million (38%)**
- **FY 2024: \$2.9 million (40%)**

Suite of School Supports Include:

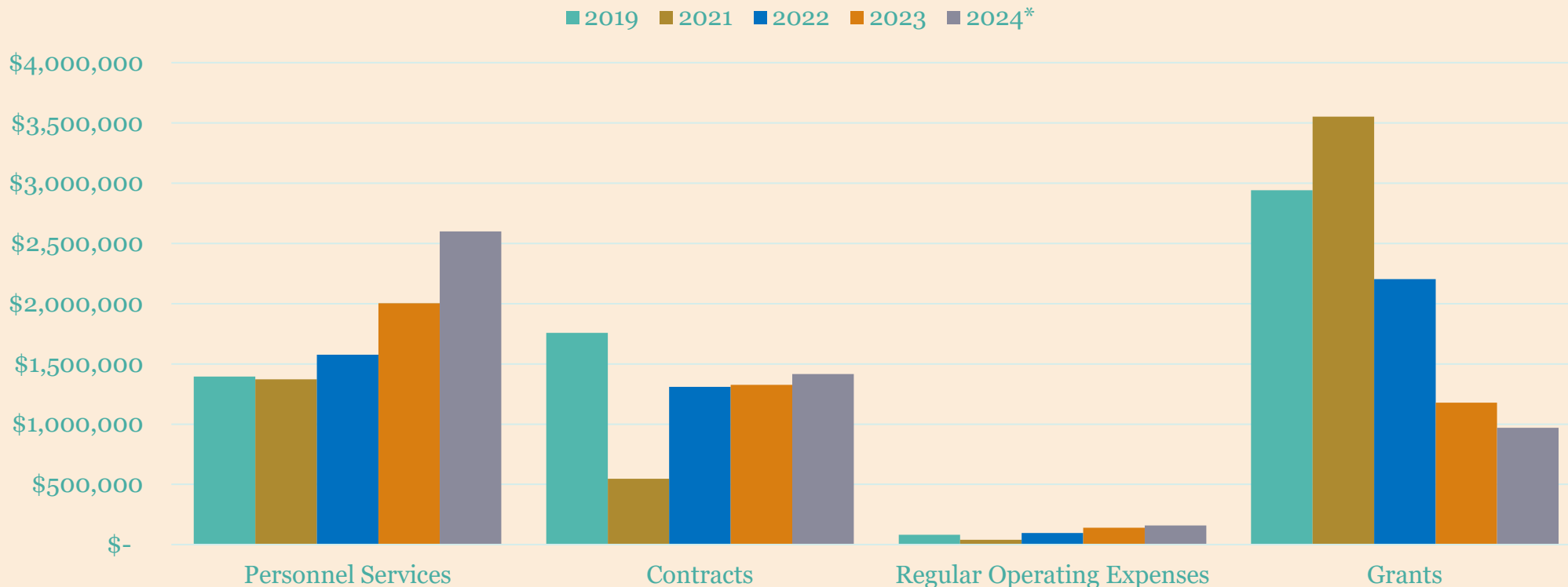
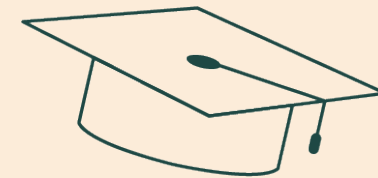
- Facilities Support
- Financial Management Training
- Governance Support
- Implementation Support
- Independent Financial Audits
- Leadership Advisor Program
- Petitions Support

Other Budgeted Contracts :

- IT Services
- Annual Authorizer Evaluations
- Pilot Local Authorizer Evaluation
- SCSF Contract
- Value-added impact Scores
- Document and Process Management system



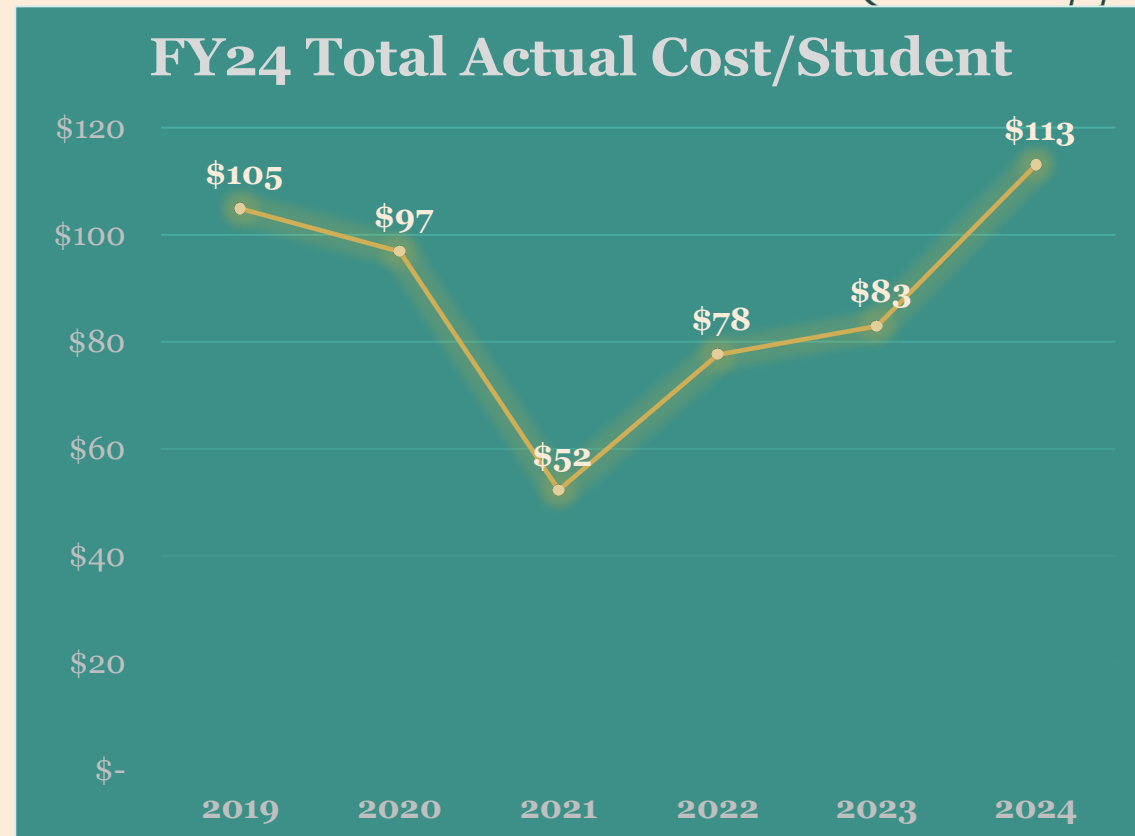
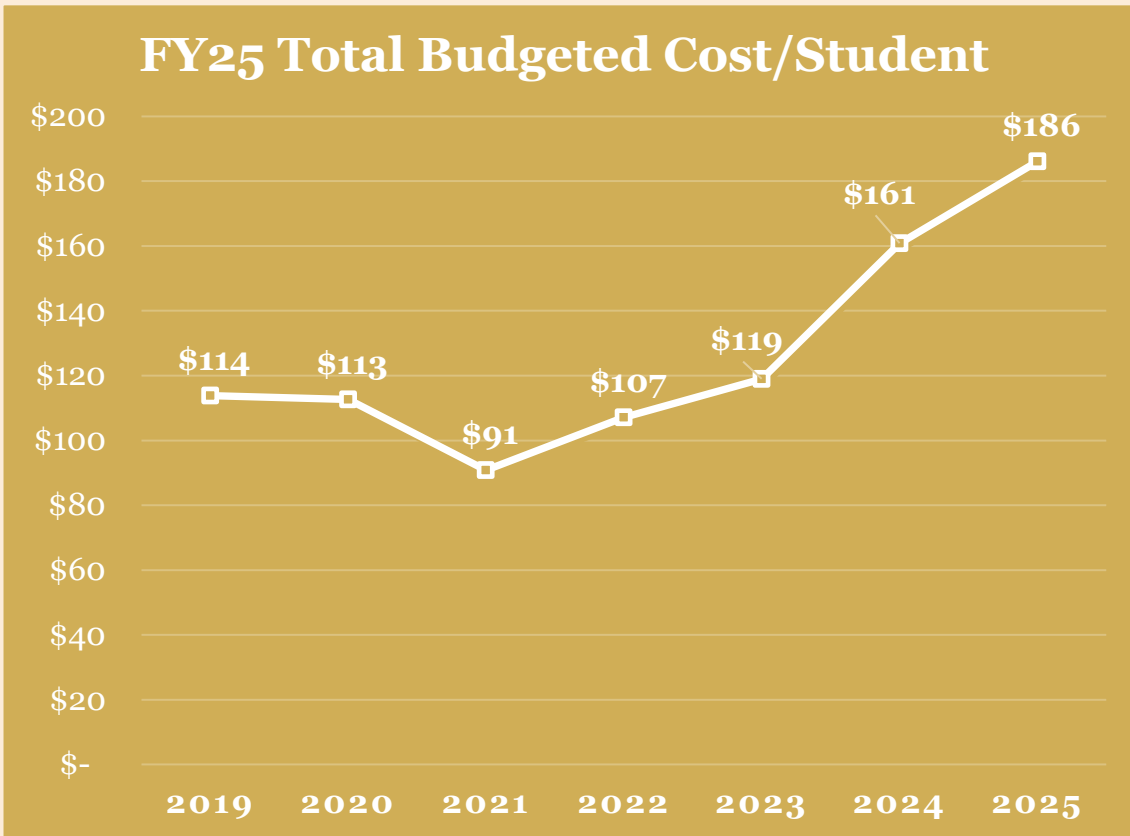
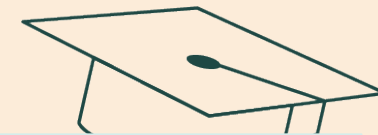
SCSC Expenditure Comparison by Fiscal Year



**2024 includes June projected expenditures.*

SCSC

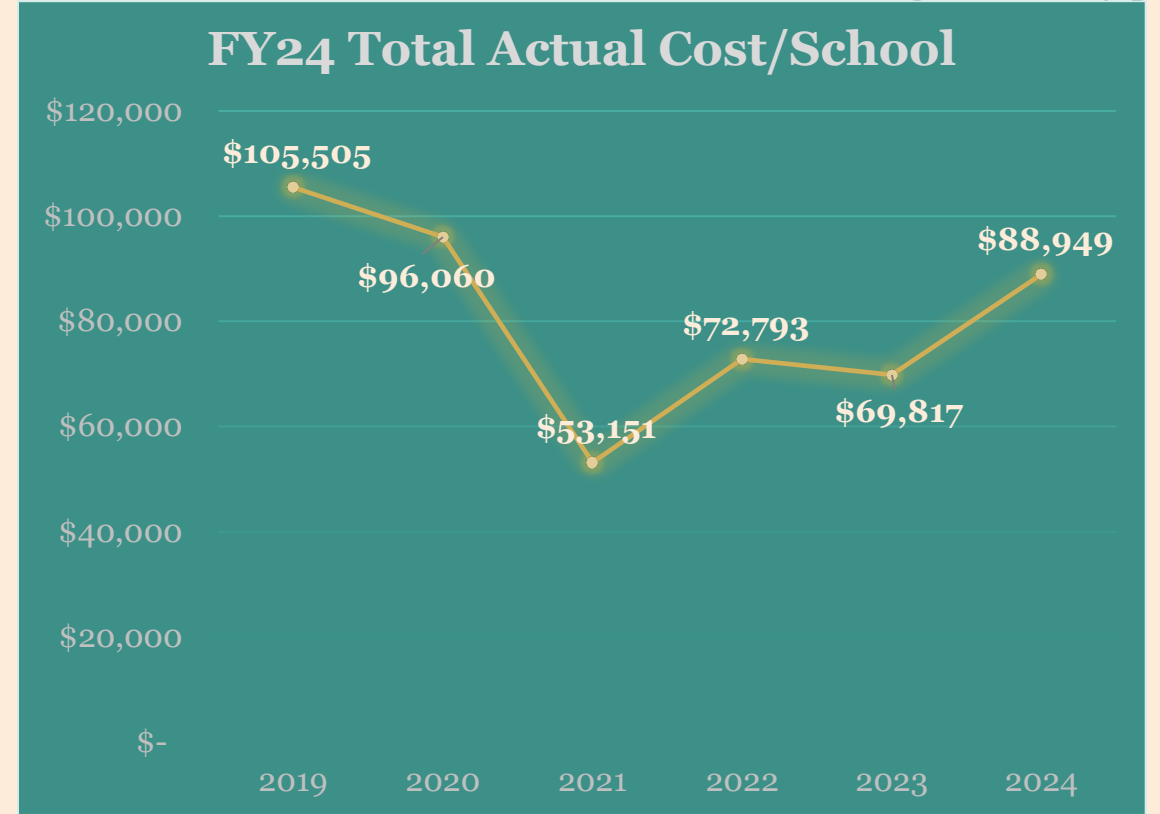
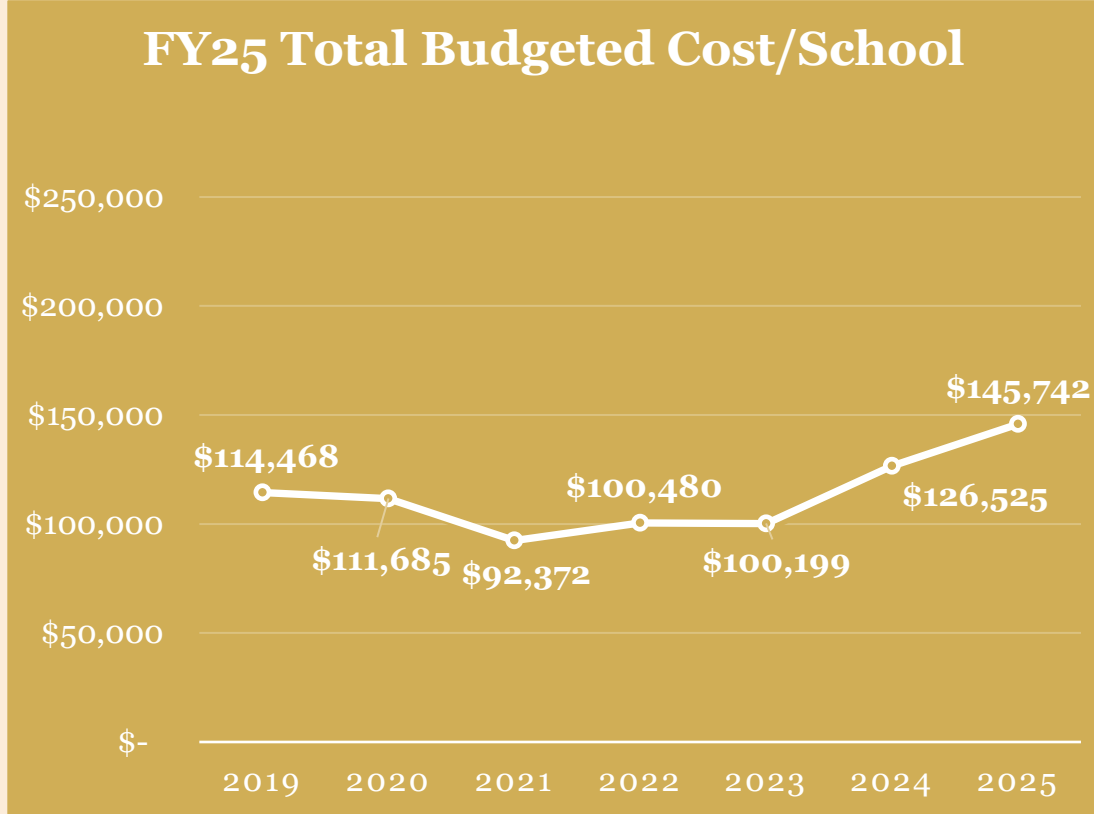
Cost per Student



**Actual costs for FY24 utilize July – May actuals and June projections*



Cost per School



^Actual costs for FY23 utilize July – May actuals and June projections



FY 2025 SCSC Budget Recommendation

SCSC Administrative Withhold for FY 2025

- 1.8% for Established Schools
- 0.8% for Schools in First Year of Operation

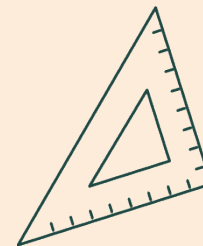
Requesting approval of the FY 2025 Operational Budget

- \$8,424,494

Return of FY2024 Administrative Withhold

- Following end of FY24
- Proportionate share basis





FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET PROPOSAL

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia



*SCSF Art of Connections 2024 - Middle School Winner:
Emma T, 6th Grade
Liberty Tech Charter School
"Serenity"*



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OVERVIEW

The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) is Georgia's state-level, independent charter school authorizing board. The SCSC was established via constitutional referendum in 2012 after the passage of House Bill 797.

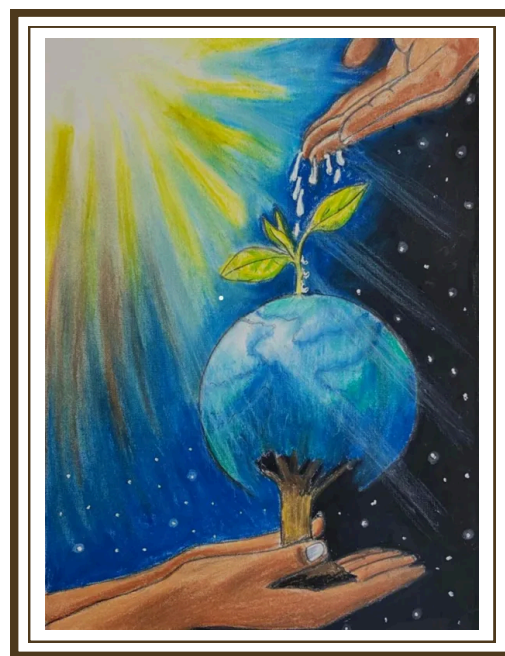
To achieve our vision, mission, and carry out our statutory charges, the SCSC conducts all business according to high standards of **Transparency, Accessibility, Objectivity, and Innovation.**

MISSION

The mission of the SCSC is to improve public education throughout the state by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities that they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.

VISION

Innovative and superior charter schools advancing education in every community.



SCSF Art of Connections 2024 - Elementary School Winner:
Liam J, 5th Grade
Georgia Cyber Academy
"Save the Planet"

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.
2. Expand high-quality middle and high charter school choice.
3. Increase the number of academically superior state charter schools.
4. Promote pre-opening success for approved state charter schools.
5. Empower all state charter schools to leverage autonomy, flexibility, and resources to meet the needs of their community.
6. Develop and maintain a strong internal foundation that aligns with and supports the SCSC's mission and vision.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The SCSC is funded through an administrative withhold of state charter school state education funds, including Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula funds, state charter schools supplement formula funds, and state categorical grants. Statutorily, the SCSC is authorized to withhold up to 3% of state charter school earnings to fund agency operations. Since its inception, the SCSC has voluntarily reduced the withhold amount to 2% or less. Any unused agency funds has been returned to schools at the close of the fiscal year through a “Give Back Grant.”

The SCSC staff requests approval from SCSC commissioners for the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget and accompanying withhold amount. Budget revenue is projected utilizing a 1.8% withhold for established schools and a 0.8% withhold for schools in their first year of operation.

During the legislative session for FY2025, House Bill 318 (HB 318) was passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Kemp. It reestablishes the Georgia Department of Education’s (GaDOE) Office of Charter School Compliance under the SCSC. The SCSC will receive a transfer of state funds at the beginning of FY2025 in the amount of \$265,501 from the GADOE budget to partially fund positions that were transferred to the SCSC.

Budgeted funds are allocated for the programs and services that most effectively support state charter schools and fulfill the SCSC vision and mission. All projected expenditures reflect the actual historical and anticipated expenses of the agency including the new responsibilities the SCSC will assume from the passage of HB 318.

The SCSC Budget Adoption and Budget Amendment are governed by the SCSC Internal Policy Manual. A copy of the Budget Policy is attached as Appendix A.

PERSONNEL SERVICES

Representing 40% of the proposed FY2025 budget, approximately \$3.4 million is allocated to Personnel Services. This amount represents an increase of 15% from the amount budgeted for FY2024, which was about \$2.9 million. This difference reflects the addition of three new positions for the assumption of duties from HB 318, which are partially covered by the transfer of state funds from the GADOE, one budgeted vacancy, and applicable salary adjustments for staff (e.g., cost of living, merit-based salary increases, etc.).

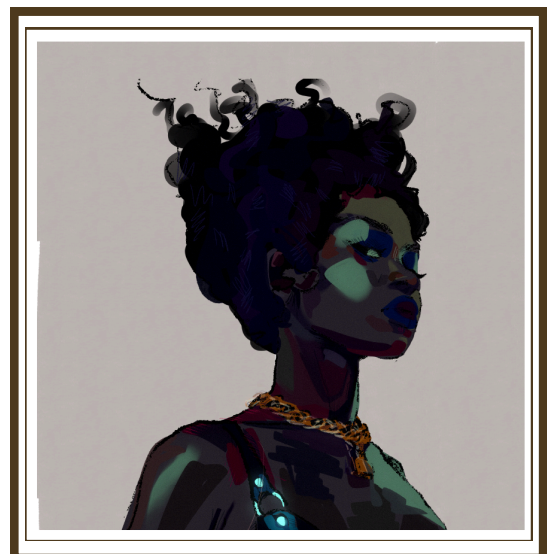
Personnel Services include salaries and benefits for full-time SCSC staff, including the SCSF President, payment for part-time interns, commissioner per diem as applicable, and all other human resource-related expenses.

CONTRACTS

Approximately 38%, or \$3.2 million, of the proposed FY2025 budget is dedicated to Contracts, which represents a 12% increase from FY2024. The cause for the increase is due to the assumption of new responsibilities from HB 318 which necessitated the addition of new initiatives. The SCSC anticipates that the Governor and General Assembly will include state funds for HB 318 requirements during the next legislative session. Therefore, since the SCSC has not received funding from activities related to HB 318, contracts involving HB 318 requirements will not begin until anticipated funding is received. Currently, costs for these contracts are included in the budget for informational purposes only.



SCSF Art of Connections 2024 - High School 2nd Place:
Nicole P, 12th Grade
Georgia Connections Academy
"Wavelength"

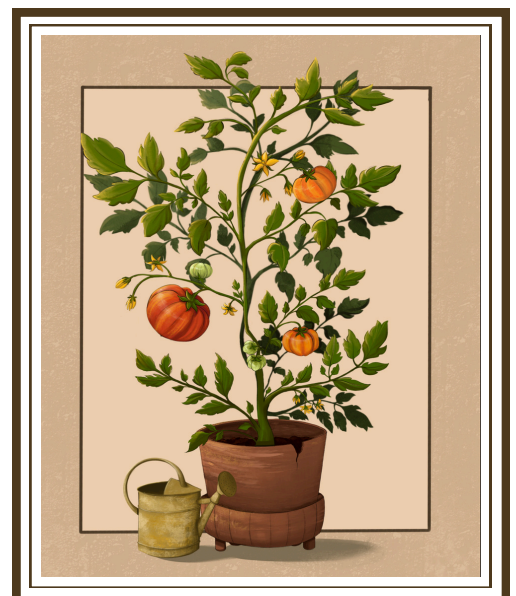


SCSF Art of Connections 2024 - High School 3rd Place:
Madison B, 10th Grade
Georgia Cyber Academy
"Colored Stone"

The Contracts section of the budget includes contracts for all agency projects, research, training resources, and services offered to schools and related per diem and fees. Each year, the SCSC critically analyzes the support and services provided to our schools to ensure they are delivering increased academic, financial, and operational performance. Through diligent negotiation and cost savings in other areas, the SCSC continues offering robust opportunities for training and support to state charter schools.

Services that will be offered to SCSC schools in FY2025 include, but are not limited to:

- **Facilities Support** – This support will assist newly approved schools with obtaining a facility and guide schools through the facility approval process. The SCSC has offered facilities support since FY2020 and found it to be extremely helpful for schools in the pre-opening process.
- **Financial Management Training** – Schools have the option to receive financial management training on subjects such as financial policies, budgeting, and payroll administration.
- **Governance Support** – SCSC schools that need additional support in establishing and implementing effective governance practices will receive a Governance Support Specialist who will assist the school's governing board to identify and implement sound governing practices.
- **Implementation Support** – Charter school experts will assist newly approved schools in completing the SCSC's Pre-Opening Checklist and serve as an advisor and resource to the school in its planning year.
- **Independent Financial Audits** – The SCSC will continue to identify high-quality auditors to provide annual financial audits to schools that choose to participate in the approved auditor program.
- **Leadership Advisor Program** – Educational leadership experts mentor school leaders to develop and implement an individualized growth plan designed to meet the specific needs of the school. The growth plan will build upon the school leader's strengths and mitigate weaknesses to cultivate quality leadership practices aimed at increasing student achievement and improving operational efficiency.



SCSF Art of Connections 2024 - High School Winner:
Virginia H, 11th Grade
Georgia Connections Academy
"Harvest"

- **Petitions Support** - Annual services related to petition reviewers and due diligence.

In addition to school services, the FY2025 Contracts amount also includes:

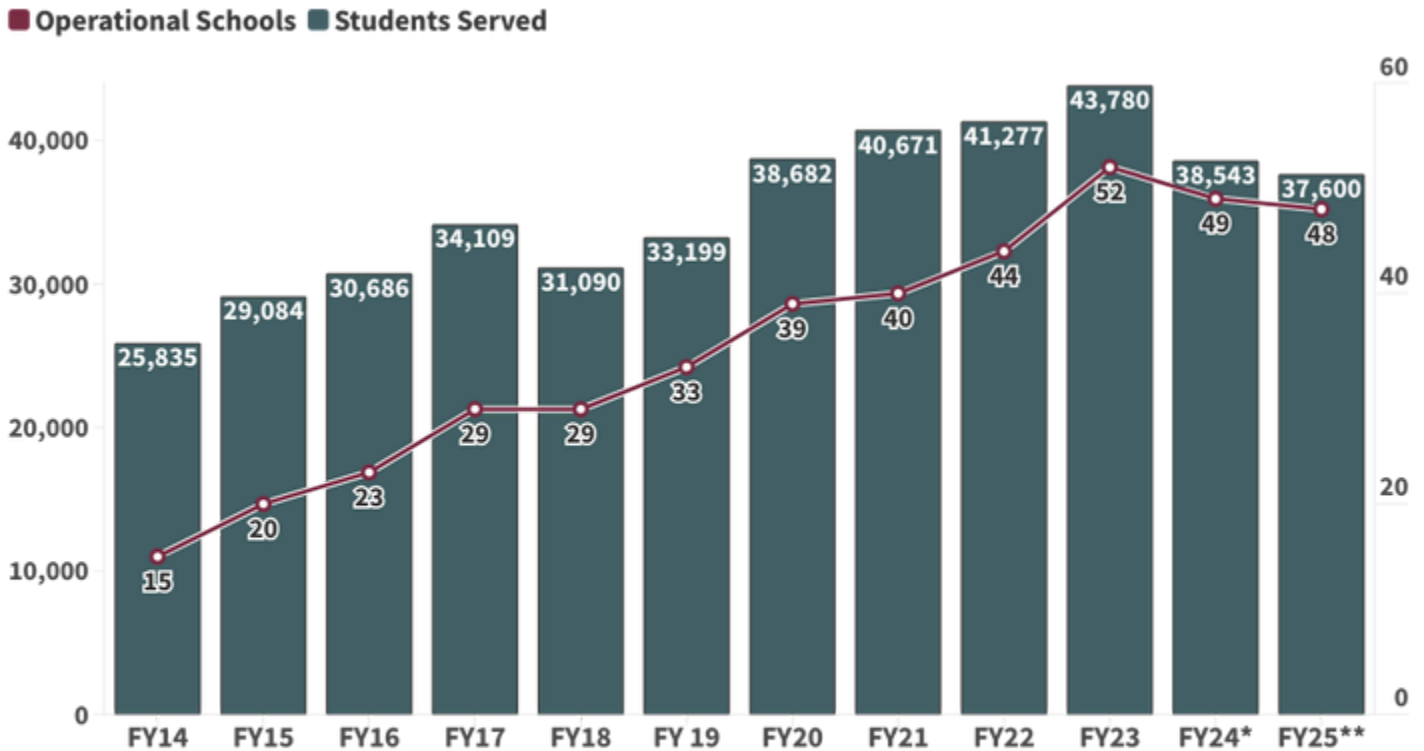
- **IT Services** - Provided in lieu of services previously received through GTA.
- **Annual Authorizer Evaluation** - To conduct the SCSC's evaluation in accordance with the [Georgia Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizing](#).
- **Pilot Local Authorizer Evaluation** - To conduct the initial evaluation of local charter authorizers in accordance with the Georgia Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizing and provide for related training.
- **State Charter Schools Foundation (SCSF)** - For regular operating costs and contracts for SCSF services to the SCSC.
- **Value-added impact Scores** - For our research partners to calculate value-added impact scores for state charter schools.
- **Document and Process Management system** - to increase organizational efficiency and support agency growth.



*The Art of Connections 2024 Jr. Elementary School Winner:
Leo W, Kindergarten
Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence
"Chinese Year"*

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – BUDGETED REVENUE

Graph 1: Operational SCSC Schools & Students Served



- Notes**
1. An *operational school* is any school that received a CPF score in a given year; *students served* is based on actual October FTE, except latest FY which is based on May projections.
 2. *FY24 - GOAL Academies created which reduced the total of state charter schools.
 3. **FY25 - Two state charters closed at the end of 2023-2024 school year and one transferred as a locally approved charter school.

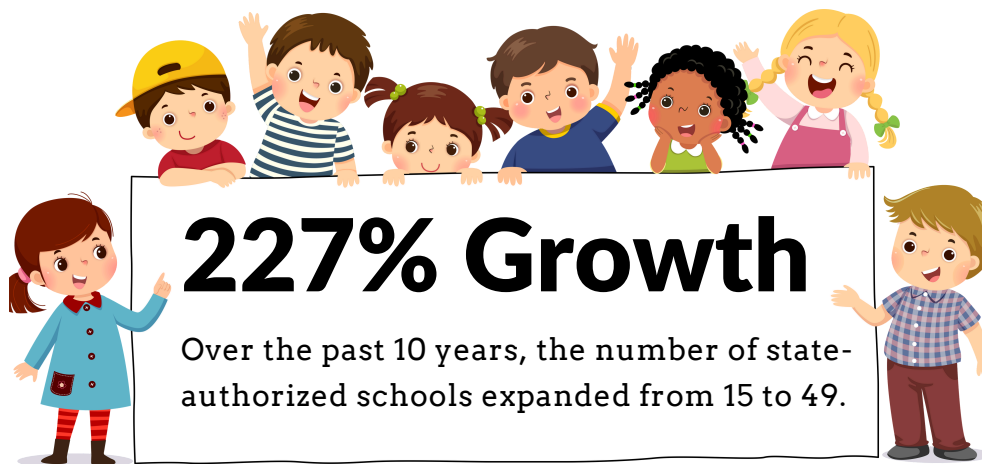


Chart 1: SCSC Revenue for FY25 by Source (A-I)

School	FY24 Actuals	FY25 Projected	FY24-FY25 \$ Change
Academy for Classical Education	\$408,924	\$463,795	\$54,871
Amana Academy West Atlanta	\$50,673	\$57,850	\$7,177
Atlanta Heights Charter School	\$161,205	\$182,354	\$21,149
Atlanta Smart	\$51,479	\$56,965	\$5,486
Atlanta Unbound	\$62,244	\$54,732	-\$7,512
Baconton Community Charter School	\$201,407	\$215,505	\$14,098
Brookhaven Innovation Academy	\$127,296	\$144,881	\$17,585
Cherokee Charter Academy	\$126,984	\$0	-\$126,984
Cirrus Academy Charter School	\$106,345	\$125,322	\$18,977
Coweta Charter Academy	\$153,719	\$171,018	\$17,299
DeKalb Brilliance Academy	\$58,838	\$67,116	\$8,278
Delta STEAM Academy	\$74,452	\$87,121	\$12,669
Destinations Career Academy of Georgia	\$86,221	\$99,690	\$13,469
DuBois Integrity Academy	\$291,464	\$329,159	\$37,695
Ethos Classical	\$118,020	\$139,370	\$21,350
Fulton Leadership Academy	\$58,248	\$0	-\$58,248
Furlow Charter School	\$135,485	\$147,677	\$12,192
Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys	\$81,993	\$89,570	\$7,577
Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls	\$82,548	\$90,064	\$7,516
Georgia Connections Academy	\$1,033,810	\$1,160,037	\$126,227
Georgia Cyber Academy	\$1,786,952	\$1,932,364	\$145,412
Georgia Fugees Academy Charter School	\$46,702	\$49,046	\$2,344
Georgia School of Innovation & the Classics	\$200,165	\$227,922	\$27,757
International Academy of Smyrna	\$71,267	\$85,502	\$14,235
International Charter School of Atlanta	\$183,540	\$205,857	\$22,317

Chart 1: SCSC Revenue for FY25 by Source (I-Z)

School	FY24 Actuals	FY25 Projected	FY24-FY25 \$ Change
International Charter Academy of Georgia	\$53,210	\$59,284	\$6,074
Ivy Prep Academy at Kirkwood	\$99,871	\$114,604	\$14,733
Liberation Academy	\$17,542	\$22,702	\$5,160
Liberty Tech Charter School	\$98,104	\$112,909	\$14,805
Miles Ahead	\$38,741	\$47,050	\$8,309
Northwest Classical Academy	\$167,527	\$193,820	\$26,293
Odyssey School	\$83,054	\$96,934	\$13,880
Pataula Charter Academy	\$128,761	\$146,950	\$18,189
PEACE Academy	\$28,540	\$37,458	\$8,918
Resurgence Hall	\$87,976	\$98,490	\$10,514
Resurgence Hall Middle Academy (Replication)	\$29,135	\$35,618	\$6,483
SAIL - School for Arts-Infused Learning	\$120,485	\$134,510	\$14,025
Sankofa Montessori	\$19,976	\$23,901	\$3,925
Scintilla Charter Academy	\$158,520	\$197,123	\$38,603
SLAM Academy of Atlanta	\$39,071	\$45,026	\$5,955
Southwest Georgia STEM Charter	\$106,384	\$122,374	\$15,990
Spring Creek Charter Academy	\$88,816	\$115,847	\$27,031
Statesboro STEAM	\$42,094	\$32,302	-\$9,792
The Anchor School	\$17,734	\$21,277	\$3,543
The Rise School	\$97,187	\$127,490	\$30,303
Utopian Academy for the Arts	\$77,152	\$0	-\$77,152
Utopian Academy for the Arts Trillith	\$15,772	\$35,408	\$19,636
Yi Hwang Academy of Language Excellence	\$85,819	\$100,618	\$14,799
Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School	\$30,135	\$35,456	\$5,321
Excelsior Village Academies	\$0	\$9,462	\$9,462
Rocky Creek (GSIC Replication)	\$0	\$9,464	\$9,464
Total	\$7,491,587	\$8,158,994	\$667,407

FISCAL YEAR 2025 – BUDGETED EXPENSES

Graph 2: Budgeted Expenditures by Class

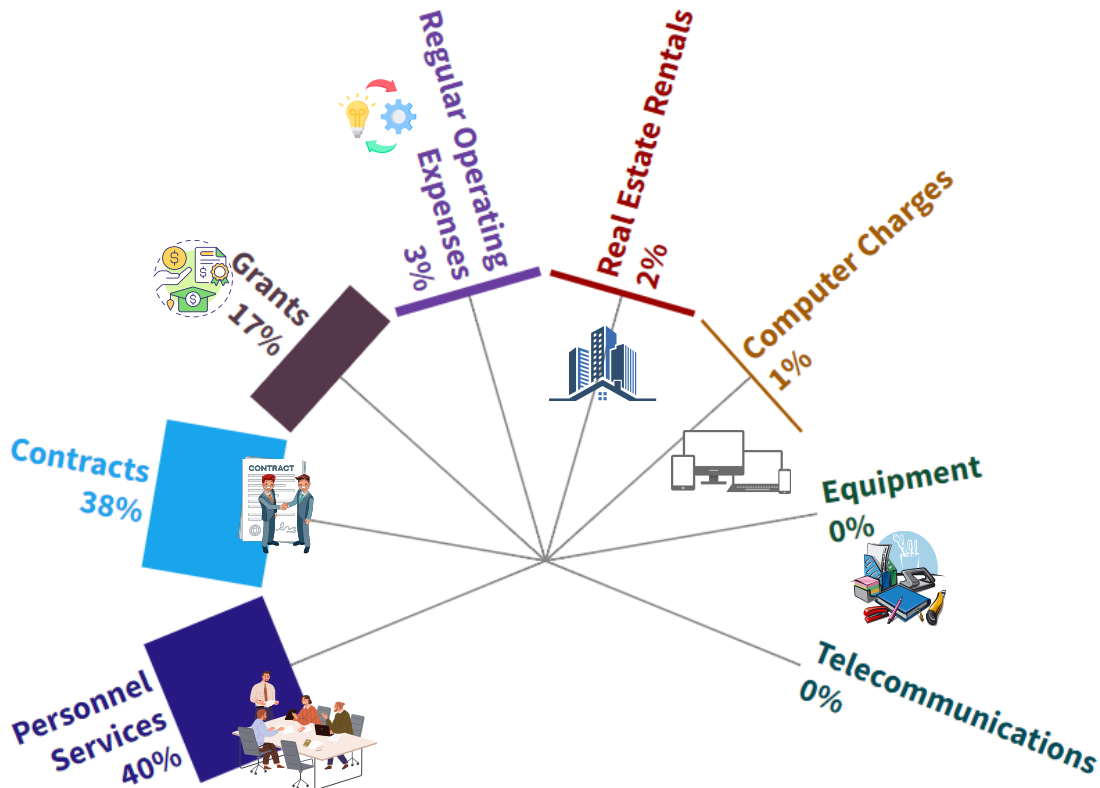
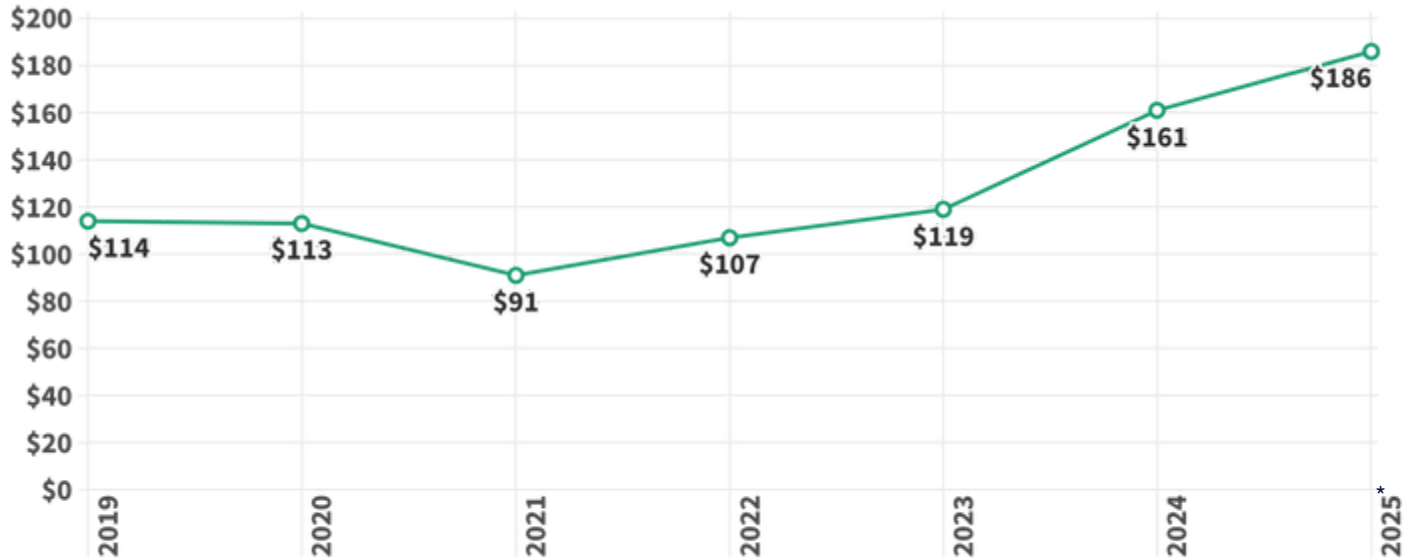


Chart 2: Budgeted Expenditures by Class

Expenditure Areas	FY25 Budget	FY24 Budget	Change (\$)
Personnel Services	\$3,381,806	\$2,938,341	\$443,465
Contracts	\$3,202,101	\$2,871,626	\$330,475
Regular Operating Expenses	\$212,932	\$164,800	\$48,132
Grants	\$1,428,860	\$969,985	\$458,875
Real Estate Rentals	\$127,599	\$127,599	\$0
Computer Charges	\$39,900	\$22,000	\$17,900
Telecommunications	\$27,796	\$25,372	\$2,424
Equipment	\$3,500	\$50,000	-\$46,500
Total Expenditures	\$8,424,494	\$7,169,723	\$1,254,771

HISTORICAL TRENDS

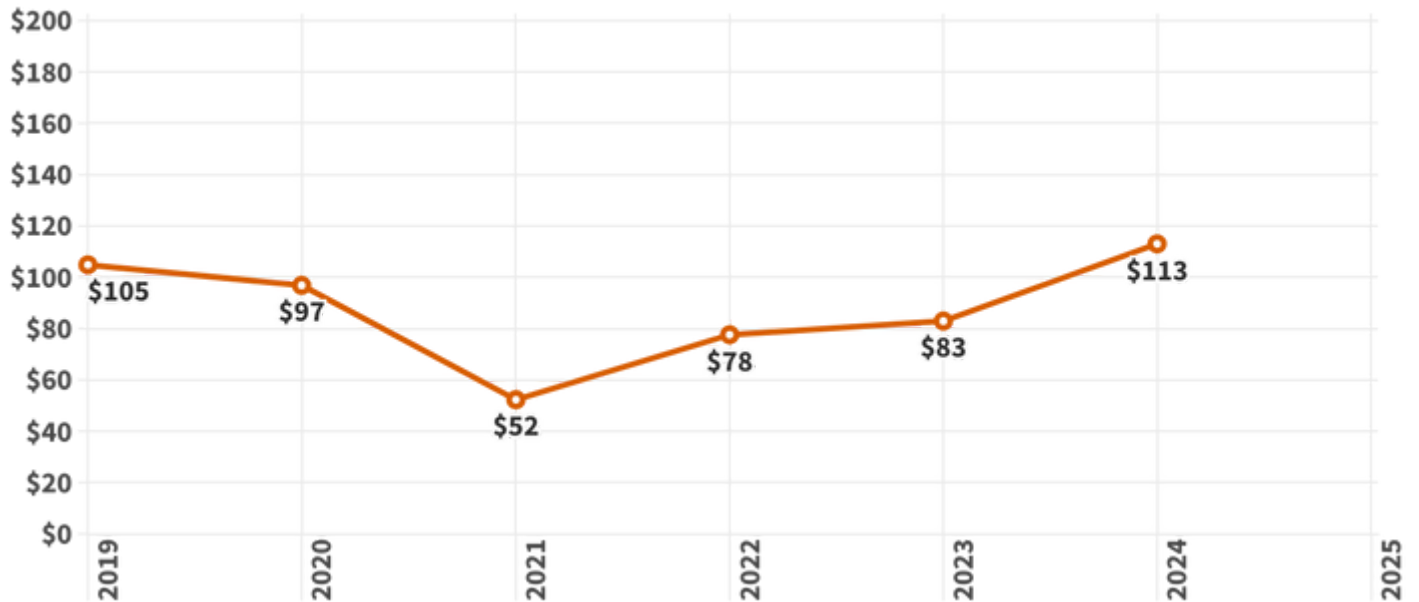
Graph 3: Total Budgeted Cost/Student by Fiscal Year



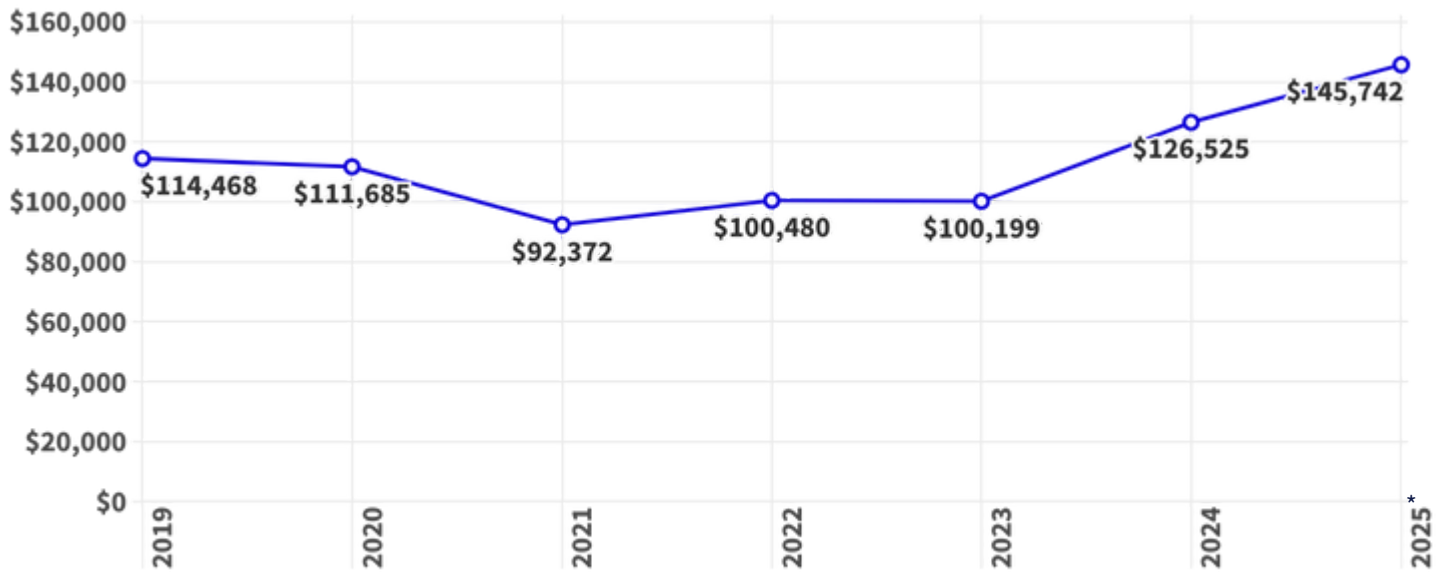
Note

* Includes costs from HB 318, without HB 318 amount is \$147 per student.

Graph 4: Total Actual Cost/Student by Fiscal Year



Graph 5: Total Budgeted Cost/School by Fiscal Year



Note

*Includes costs from HB 318, without HB 318 amount is \$115,371 per school.

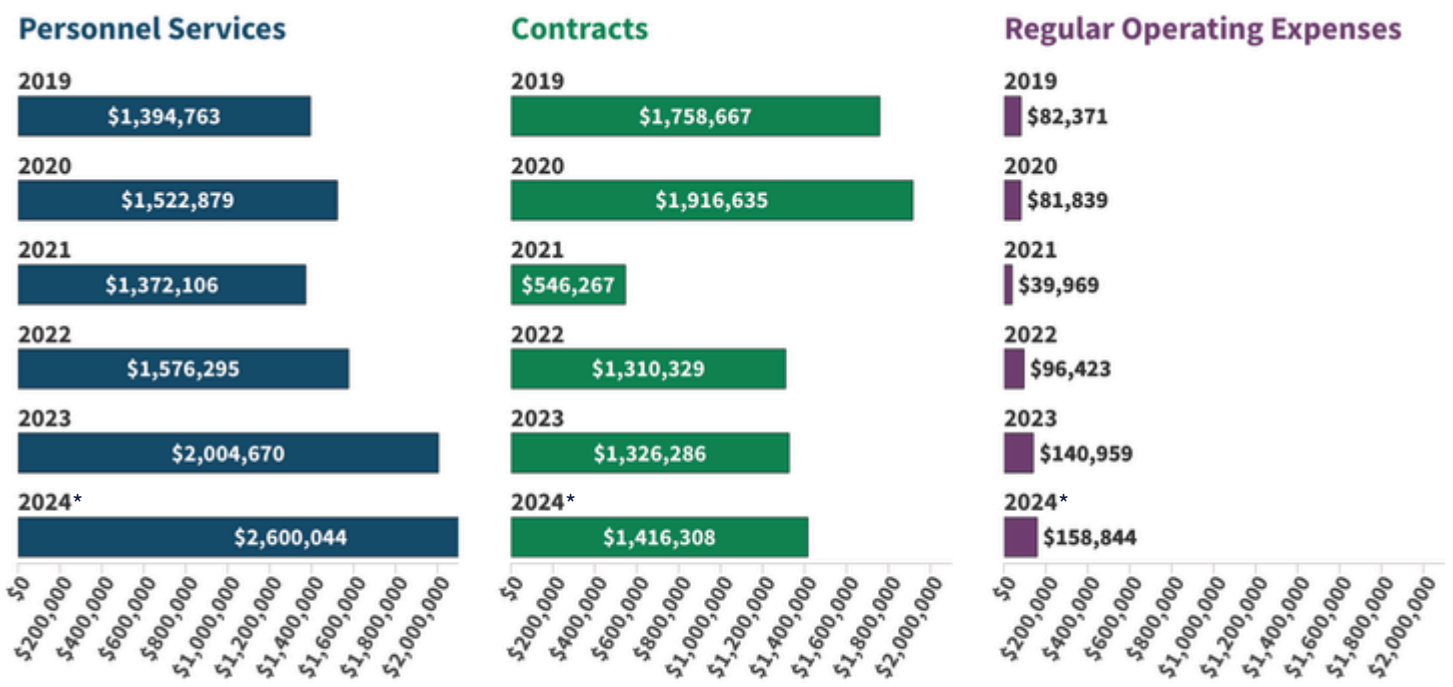
Graph 6: Total Actual Cost/School by Fiscal Year



Note

*Includes June projected expenditures

Graph 7: Top Three SCSC Operational Expenditure Comparison by Fiscal Year



Note
*FY2024 includes June projected expenditures.

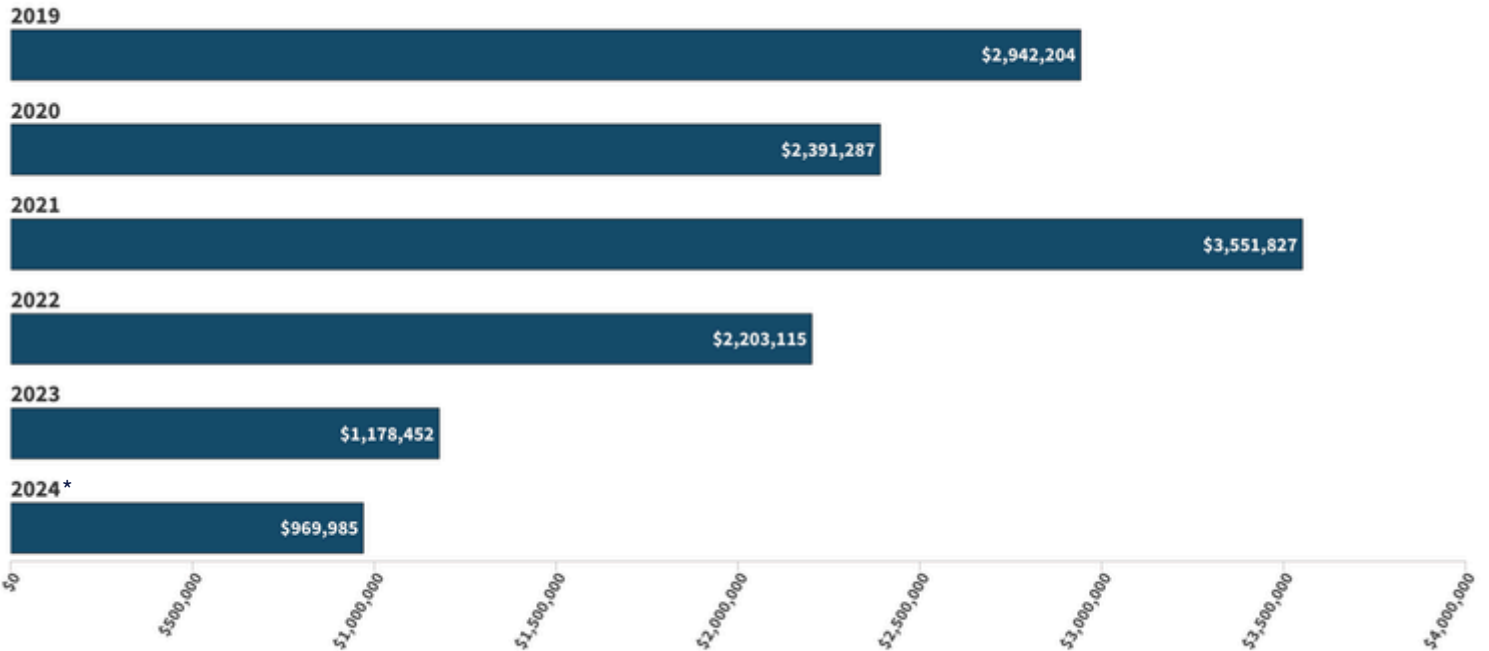
Chart 3: All SCSC Operational Expenditure Comparison by Fiscal Year

Expenditures	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Personnel Services	\$1,394,763	\$1,522,879	\$1,372,106	\$1,576,295	\$2,004,670	\$2,600,044
Contracts	\$1,758,667	\$1,916,635	\$546,267	\$1,310,329	\$1,326,286	\$1,416,308
Regular Operating Expenses	\$82,371	\$81,839	\$39,969	\$96,423	\$140,959	\$158,844
Real Estate Rentals	\$96,140	\$98,993	\$82,988	\$86,259	\$98,523	\$127,599
Computer Charges	\$0	\$0	\$12,996	\$11,071	\$1,865	\$0
Telecom	\$135,469	\$126,008	\$64,447	\$122,520	\$49,329	\$19,414
Equipment	\$14,250	\$0	\$7,257	\$0	\$8,847	\$36,304

Note
*Includes June projected expenditures.

Graph 8: SCSC Give-Back Grant Expenditure Comparison by Fiscal Year

Grants



Note

*Includes June projected expenditures.

APPENDIX A

Annual Budget: Policy 2.1

Article I

Purpose

The SCSC is committed to adopting and implementing an annual budget that allows the agency to fulfill its statutory duties while maximizing efficiency.

Article II

Policy

1. **Administrative Withhold.** As provided by OCGA § 20-2-2089(b), the SCSC is authorized to direct the Georgia Department of Education to withhold up to 3% of state earnings for state charter schools for the current fiscal year to allow the agency to perform its duties required by law. To maximize resources for state charter schools, the SCSC will utilize the smallest percentage of administrative withhold that allow the SCSC to effectively meet its statutory obligations. Except as provided by the Emergency School Operations Fund Policy, if the SCSC does not utilize the entire amount of funding withheld during the fiscal year, the Executive Director shall request that the SCSC direct the Georgia Department of Education to return any funding remaining in the SCSC administrative budget to state charter schools on the same pro rata basis as its collection upon satisfaction of the SCSC's expenses for the fiscal year.

2. **Preparation of the Annual Budget.** Prior to the conclusion of the current fiscal year, the Executive Director shall utilize the initial QBE allotment sheets for each state charter school to estimate the funding available for SCSC operations. Thereafter, the Executive Director shall prepare an annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year that details proposed expenses at class and account levels that will guide the agency in fulfilling its mission, strategic plan, and statutory charge. In preparing the annual budget, the Executive Director may propose to utilize an administrative withhold that is less than the permitted 3%. The Executive Director, or his or her designee, shall present the draft budget to the SCSC for its approval prior to the start of the upcoming fiscal year. The budget presentation must expressly state that the budget is presented consistent with the terms of this Policy.

3. **SCSC Approval.** The SCSC shall approve the SCSC annual budget by majority vote prior to the start of the upcoming fiscal year. In the event the SCSC does not approve the budget prior to the start of the fiscal year, the Executive Director shall make only those expenditures and contractual arrangements that are necessary to continue the operations of the SCSC without interruption.

4. **Budget Amendments.** The Executive Director may redirect funding for budgeted items at the account level; provided however that such changes shall not exceed the budgeted class level amount by more than 10% each year without prior written approval from the SCSC Chair. In the discretion of the SCSC Chair, he or she may solely approve budget amendments that exceed 10% of the budgeted class amount or he or she may require a vote by the SCSC to approve the amendment request. The language of this subsection shall be included in the Executive Director's presentation of the draft budget to the SCSC.

5. **Compliance with Law.** The SCSC shall administer its budget in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations, including, but not limited to, budget directives issued by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

APPENDIX B

State Chart of Accounts and Other Accounting Identifiers

This worksheet shows the relationship between account and class
(Common Classes)

300 - PERSONAL SERVICES

501000 REGULAR SALARIES

502000 ANNUAL LEAVE PAY

503000 OTHER SUPPLEMENTAL PAY

510000 REGULAR SALARIES (GDOL ONLY)

511000 OVERTIME

512000 PERMANENT HOURLY LABOR

513000 TEMPORARY/CASUAL LABOR

514000 FICA

515000 RETIREMENT

516000 HEALTH INSURANCE

517000 PERSONAL LIABILITY OF EMPLOYEES

518000 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

519000 WORKER'S COMPENSATION

520000 ASSESSMENTS BY MERIT SYSTEM

522000 DRUG TESTING

523000 EMPLOYEE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

524000 OTHER

301 - REGULAR OPERATING EXPENSES

610000 COST OF GOODS SOLD/PURCHASES FOR RESALE

611000 POSTAGE

612000 MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES

613000 PUBLICATIONS, PRINTING AND MEDIA

614000 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

615000 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

616000 EQUIPMENT ON INVENTORY BUT NOT CAPITALIZED

617000 WATER & SEWAGE

618000 ENERGY

619000 RENTS OTHER THAN REAL ESTATE

620000 INSURANCE AND BONDING

621000 BAD DEBT

622000 FREIGHT

623000 CYBER INSURANCE PAYMENTS

625000 DISCOUNTS LOST
626000 PROCUREMENT CARD PURCHASES
627000 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES
640000 TRAVEL OF EMPLOYEES
661000 COMPUTER BILLINGS - GTA
662000 COMPUTER BILLINGS - OTHER
663000 SOFTWARE
671000 TELECOMMUNICATIONS - DATA
672000 TELECOMMUNICATIONS - OTHER
740000 DEPRECIATION
741000 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCES - GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONLY
742000 PER DIEM DIFFERENTIAL - GENERAL ASSEMBLY ONLY
303 - MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES
701000 MOTOR VEHICLES NOT CAPITALIZED
722000 MOTOR VEHICLES
304 - EQUIPMENT
720000 EQUIPMENT
821000 COMPUTER/TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
713000 CAPITAL LEASE/ INSTALLMENT PURCHASE - PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS
716000 CAPITAL LEASE/ INSTALLMENT PURCHASE - INTEREST PAYMENTS
305 - IT EXPENDITURES
814000 [IT EXPENDITURE] SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS
815000 [IT EXPENDITURE] REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE
816000 [IT EXPENDITURE] EQUIPMENT UNDER CAPITALIZATION THRESHOLD
819000 [IT EXPENDITURE] RENTS (OTHER THAN REAL ESTATE)
823000 [IT EXPENDITURE] SOFTWARE (CAPITALIZED)
863000 [IT EXPENDITURE] SOFTWARE (NOT CAPITALIZED)
858000 [IT EXPENDITURE] CENTRALIZED ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FEES
864000 [IT EXPENDITURE] SOFTWARE (NOT CAPITALIZED)
306 - REAL ESTATE RENTALS
648000 REAL ESTATE RENTALS
680000 AUTHORITY LEASE RENTALS
848000 [IT EXPENDITURE] REAL ESTATE RENTALS
307 - VOICE/DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICES
865000 [IT EXPENDITURE] INFRASTRUCTURE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TO PAY GTA INVOICES)
871000 [IT EXPENDITURE] VOICE/DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICES (TO PAY GTA INVOICES)

872000 [IT EXPENDITURE] VOICE/DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICES (VENDORS OTHER THAN GTA)
873000 [IT EXPENDITURE] VOICE/DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICES - GTA USE ONLY
309 - CAPITAL OUTLAY
720000 EQUIPMENT
721000 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT
722000 MOTOR VEHICLES
723000 LAND
724000 BUILDINGS
725000 IMPROVEMENTS OTHER THAN BUILDINGS
726000 WORKS OF ART AND HISTORICAL TREASURES
727000 LIBRARY COLLECTIONS
728000 CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS
729000 WATER, TIMBER & OTHER RIGHTS
730000 PATENT, TRADEMARK & COPYRIGHT
733000 INFRASTRUCTURE
824000 [IT EXPENDITURE] BUILDINGS - IT
864000 [IT EXPENDITURE] SOFTWARE M&S NETWORK
312 - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES
651000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
652000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - EXPENSES
653000 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - PRIVATE
654000 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - STATE ORGANIZATIONS
851000 [IT EXPENDITURE] PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL SERVICES - COMPUTER/IT
852000 [IT EXPENDITURE] PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL SERVICES - COMPUTER/IT - EXPENSES
314 - TRANSFERS
750000 TRANSFERS OUT
315 - GRANTS AND BENEFITS
690000 DIRECT BENEFITS
695000 PENSION BENEFITS
696000 REFUND OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
705000 TUITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS
707000 GRANTS
700000 CLAIMS AND JUDGMENTS
703000 LOTTERY PRIZES
709000 SPECIAL ITEMS
710000 EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES

712000 BOND PRINCIPAL
714000 OTHER DEBT PRINCIPAL
715000 INTEREST - BONDS
717000 INTEREST - OTHER DEBT
718000 OTHER DEBT SERVICE CHARGES