



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

September Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM EDT

Location

Virtual ONLY Meeting

Access Information Below

[Meeting Link](#)

Phone: +1 646 931 3860

Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648

Passcode: 965938

1356 Twin Towers East,
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
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I. Opening Items

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

Purpose

Presenter

C. Approve MinutesApprove
Minutes

Mike Dudgeon

Approve minutes for August Board Meeting on August 27, 2025

II. Division Reports**A. Executive Director's Report**

Discuss

Donovan Head

- Strategic Plan Revisions

B. Legal Division

Discuss

Tiffany Leach

- Monitoring Update

C. Research & Evaluation Division

Discuss

Katie Manthey

- SCSC Authorizer Standards Evaluation Summary Report

D. Commissioner Discussion

Discuss

Mike Dudgeon

- Credit Recovery
- Pre-Opening Deferral Limits

III. Action Items**A. Initiate Rulemaking: Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01 through 691-3-.05**

Vote

Michele Neely

B. Initiate Rulemaking: Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-3-.01

Vote

Michele Neely

C. Initiate Rulemaking: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06

Vote

Kristen Easterbrook

D. Initiate Rulemaking: Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers

Vote

Erin Wright

IV. Public Comment**V. Closing Items**

	Purpose	Presenter
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve Minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for August Board Meeting on August 27, 2025

APPROVED



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

August Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday August 27, 2025 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

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Phone: +1 646 931 3860

Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648

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1356 Twin Towers East,
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Directors Present

B. Scafidi, C. Good, M. Dudgeon, S. Sweeney (remote)

Directors Absent

B. Brockway, L. Millan, T. Lowden

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 Aug 27, 2025 at 10:11 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from July Board Meeting on 07-30-25.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from August 8 Governance & Policy Retreat on 08-08-25.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Division Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director noted that the state recently received a third local charter school approval, indicating that Senate Bill 82's efforts are encouraging local charter authorization. The Executive Director announced the September 15 training for state charter schools on the SCSC's new Epicenter platform.

Additionally, the SCSC updated its Charter School Program (CSP) grant transfer application, on the advice of the United States Department of Education. We are currently awaiting a decision.

B. Research & Evaluation Division Report

The SCSC Academic Evaluation Manager provided an overview of state charter school academic trends. The report reviewed College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) results, emphasizing content mastery, progress, and related performance measures in the SCSC's Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF).

The Academic Evaluation Manager identified factors that may impact the state charter school results, including school tenure and data sample sizes. Overall, state charter schools continue to outperform comparison schools/districts. Staff responded to the commissioner questions relevant to SCSC academic support initiatives.

C.

Legal Division Report

The SCSC Senior Associate General Counsel reminded commissioners that the monitoring cycle will start later than usual this year. Monitoring orientation will occur on September 15 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Schools should register to attend this training.

All monitoring tasks must be completed by October 31, giving schools approximately seven weeks to upload the required documentation. Health and safety visits will occur in September and conclude in November. Initial results should be available in February 2026.

D. Finance Division

The Approved Auditor program is underway. The finance team is in touch with auditors to monitor progress. In addition, state charter schools were notified of state-level financial submission deadlines. It appears that all state charter schools have met current submission requirements.

III. State Charter School Performance Report

A. State Charter School Report: Zest Preparatory Academy

The Zest Preparatory Academy Vice Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Director read a portion of a letter from the governing board chair regarding the school's operational and financial circumstances.

Commissioners Scafidi, Sweeny, Vice Chair Good, and Chairman Dudgeon reiterated the importance of submitting the audit on time and ensuring appropriate financial oversight. School representatives responded to the commissioners' questions as follows:

- School representatives affirmed twice that the school's FY25 would be submitted on time.
- School representatives confirmed that the governing board chair would be in monthly contact with the SCSC Director of Finance.
- The School's Finance Chair identified himself as the school's Treasurer. He explained that the Finance committee meets monthly, usually for about 1.5 hours before the board meetings. At a recent board meeting, the board spent a subsequent 30-40 meetings discussing finances after the Finance Committee meeting.
- The CFO reported that the school currently has 30 days of cash on hand and will end August with a net positive.
- School representatives described process changes made recently to improve financial oversight, including a new reconciliation process, recording debt and asset transactions in a register with a schedule, and reviewing transactions. In addition, the board approved a budget review policy, which requires board

approval of financial documents monthly. Further, the school has reconciled back payments with TRS and is implementing a reconciliation process for TRS payments moving forward.

- Regarding facility planning, the school's Executive Director shared that the school has been working with its new back office provider to develop facility plans for this and next year. The CFO explained that the school's priority was to stabilize its financial circumstances. It is working with contractors to review a number of facility scenarios.

The school was commended on its use of contractors but reminded of its obligations to oversee its financial situation. School representatives explained that they understood the importance of the school's current situation and its oversight obligations. Commissioners will visit the school on October 1. The school's Executive Director welcomed the visit.

IV. Action Items

A. Renewal Petition Timeline

C. Good made a motion to approve the staff recommendation as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

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

B. New School Petition Timeline & Priorities

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the staff recommendation, as presented.

C. Good seconded the motion.

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

C. Charter Petition Approval: The Academy for Innovation in Medicine

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the staff recommendation, as presented.

C. Good seconded the motion.

Dr. Christy Beam, the Founder of The Academy for Innovation in Medicine, discussed the school's goals and thanked its partners, supporters, the commission, and its staff for believing in the school's vision.

Lauren Wright, a Grady Health Systems Director, shared current and future support for the program and described the opportunities the students will be provided through the school's partnership with Grady Health Systems. In response, Commissioner Scafidi expressed thanks for Grady Healthcare Systems' partnership with the school.

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

V. Public Comment

A. Cherise Johnson

The commentator explained her disagreement with standardized testing and urged commissioners to find another way to evaluate student academic performance.

VI. 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 11:24 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon

Documents used during the meeting

- 2024-2025 Academic Update.pdf
- Monitoring Timeline.pdf
- Renewal Cycle Timeline Rec 2025.pdf
- FY26 Petition Timeline and Priorities Rec.pdf
- Action Item - Petition Approval (AIM).pdf

Coversheet

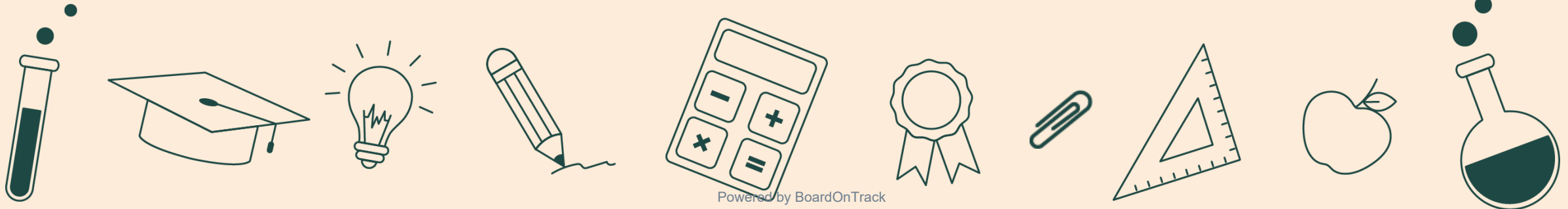
Research & Evaluation Division

Section:	II. Division Reports
Item:	C. Research & Evaluation Division
Purpose:	Discuss
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	2025 Results_Authorizer Standards.pdf



Georgia Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

SCSC Evaluation 2025



Standards Overview



Fifteen (15) standards grouped within five core categories:

- 1. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity**
- 2. The Petition Process**
- 3. Performance Contracting**
- 4. Oversight and Evaluation**
- 5. Renewal and Termination**

Georgia's Code of Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizers requires an evaluation annually.

A National Review of Authorizer Evaluation Practices found:



- A majority (64%) of states that require an authorizer evaluation, conduct reviews on a less consistent basis than annually (every 3 years is the average).
- There is considerable variability in the level of depth that authorizer evaluations measure
- While the Georgia authorizer evaluation tool adds immense value to the charter sector, it is also a resource and time-intensive process.



A Streamlined Approach

Considering the breadth of the Georgia Charter School Authorizer Evaluation, industry averages, and the SCSC's past high performance, **NACSA recommends that if a Georgia Authorizer receives two consecutive years of an Overall Exemplary rating, then it should be considered eligible to participate in the Streamlined Evaluation process.**

The SCSC was rated Exemplary in its previous two evaluations; thus, we worked with NACSA to develop a streamlined review process, which was used for the SCSC's 2025 evaluation.

Evaluation Process Comparison

- Authorizers should only participate in the Streamlined Evaluation process for three (3) consecutive years. After which, they should participate in the Comprehensive Evaluation process again.
- If an Authorizer receives an Adequate or Needs Improvement overall rating on the Streamlined Evaluation, they should be required to participate in the Comprehensive Evaluation the following year.

COMPONENT	COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION	STREAMLINED EVALUATION
Kick Off & Orientation	✓	Optional
Determination of Standards	✗	✓
Authorizer Surveys	✓	✓ Only for relevant standards
School Surveys	✓	✓ Only for relevant standards
Document Review	✓	✓ Only for relevant standards
Authorizer Interviews & Site Visit	✓ In person	✓ Virtual with only relevant staff
Rubric Completion & Overall Rating Assigned	✓	✓

Standards Determination



The following standards will be included in the streamlined evaluation:

- 1. Any Standard that was not individually rated Exemplary in the previous evaluation**
- 2. Any Standards related to practices where the authorizing office made meaningful changes to its processes**
- 3. Any Advanced Criteria may be evaluated to receive feedback and recommendations on designated practices**
 - Advanced criteria are aligned to national best practice. They do not impact the overall scoring but are instead meant to provide a deeper level of insight into areas for growth.

Standards Determination 2025

Of the 15 Standards, two were required and the SCSC selected seven more for review:



Standard	Review Required (previously rated AD)	Full Standard Review	Advanced Criteria Review Only
1: Human Resources		✓	
4: Petition Review	✓	✓	
6: Pre-Opening			✓
7: Performance Standards			✓
10: Compliance Monitoring			✓
11: Intervention		✓	
12: Upholds Charter School Autonomy	✓	✓	
13: Renewal Process			✓
15: Closure			✓



What NACSA had to say...

“The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia is a quality authorizer, with a strong culture of commitment, leadership, and judgment. **The Commission was rated Exemplary on its 2025 evaluation**, with demonstrated strengths in most standards that were either carryover ratings from the last Comprehensive Evaluation or re-evaluated during the Streamlined process.”

Required Standards Review

Standard	Areas of Strength	Areas for Growth
4: Petition Review	100% of petitioner respondents agreed that they were provided access to petition evaluation information and had sufficient understanding of what was required to have their application approved.	The standard requires, NACSA recommends, and the SCSC is in the process of developing a standard petition evaluation rubric.
12: Upholds Charter School Autonomy	96% (25/26) of respondents agreed with the following statement: “My authorizer does not interfere with my school’s autonomy in school governance, instructional program implementation, personnel, or budgeting.” This is up from 70% (7/10) in the year prior. Updates to the monitoring handbook and required LEA Legal Obligations document have been helpful.	The pace of change can be both a strength and area for growth. The SCSC should be mindful to balance of the number of changes schools will experience in any given time frame with the desire for continuous improvement.

Optional Standards Review

Standard	Criteria Reviewed	New Updated Process
7: Performance Standards	The authorizer reviews financial data and determines, based on the circumstances of each school, whether the school presents a low, medium, or high risk for financial failure.	✓ High Risk Financial Monitoring
10: Compliance Monitoring	The authorizer knows, at any given time, how a school is doing.	✓ Portfolio Review Tracker
11: Intervention	The authorizer has an intervention protocol that determines when it may intervene and what consequences are possible. The intervention protocol includes actions that result from annual reviews using the performance framework and interventions required outside of “normal” monitoring findings. This protocol is clearly communicated to schools.	✓ Annual School Performance Review Process

Optional Standards Review

Standard	Area of Strength	Area for Growth
1: Human Resources	The SCSC demonstrates that it listens to feedback from schools, as evidenced by the intentional hiring of new staff who have school level experience. Additionally, there is a clear alignment among staff regarding organizational goals, priorities, and values.	Authorizer staff survey responses to the question “What are your greatest needs for improvement? “ include: • Better organization and tracking of documents related to each school’s history, and • Establishing systems for collecting and sharing information internally and externally The implementation of Epicenter will: • allow for process management and information sharing efficiencies, • provide staff time to shift from administrative tasks to more strategic initiatives, and • establish operational stability to ensure future success.

Three Main Takeaways:



- Development of a Streamlined Evaluation Process for eligible Authorizers
- The SCSC is rated Exemplary for the third year in a row
- New processes were established that improved agency operations and, the implementation of an information management system (Epicenter) will greatly benefit the SCSC.



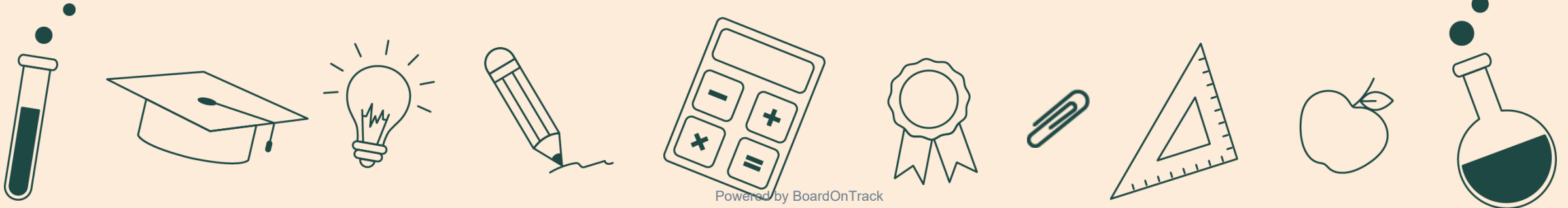
“School survey responses throughout the evaluation were strong and positive, underscoring the positive relationship the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia has established with schools in its portfolio.”

-NACSA



Questions?

For more information, visit the SCSC website:
[Charter School Authorizing Standards](#)



Coversheet

Initiate Rulemaking: Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01 through 691-3-.05

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	A. Initiate Rulemaking: Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01 through 691-3-.05
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Repeal Grant Rules Sept 2025.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Initiate rulemaking procedures.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 to repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01, 691-3-.02, 691-3-.03, 691-3-.04, 691-3-.05, related to SCSC grants

Rationale

Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01, 691-3-.02, 691-3-.03, 691-3-.04, 691-3-.05

Staff recommends initiating rulemaking procedures to repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01, 691-3-.02, 691-3-.03, 691-3-.04, 691-3-.05, related to SCSC grants. The current grant rules contain outdated instructions and information and do not align with current SCSC strategic goals.

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

691-3-.01 State Charter School Governing Board Training Reimbursement Grant

1. Purpose. The purpose of this grant is to provide reimbursement to state charter schools for costs associated with traveling to and from governing board training required by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f).

2. Terms and Conditions. Grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis to state charter schools for costs associated with traveling to and from governing board training provided in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2083(b)(12) and required by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f). Only expenses eligible for reimbursement under the State Travel Policy established by the State Accounting Office will be reimbursed under this grant. The applicant must ensure that all expenses submitted to the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) are consistent with the State Travel Policy. The SCSC will make a form available to eligible applicants that the applicant must utilize to report eligible expenses.

3. Eligible Recipients. All state charter schools with governing board members traveling to and from governing board training required by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f) are eligible to apply.

4. Criteria for Award. Applications will be reviewed for compliance with application requirements and the State Travel Policy. Funding will be awarded for all eligible expenses that are submitted in compliance with application requirements and the State Travel Policy. All grant awards and amounts will be determined and awarded by the Executive Director of the SCSC.

5. Directions and Deadlines for Applying. Requests for information and applications should be directed to the Business and Operations Manager, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, 1470B Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive,

Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Specific deadlines will be included in the associated application package.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2082; 20-2-2083; 20-2-2084

691-3-.02 State Charter School Staff Training Reimbursement Grant

1. Purpose. The purpose of this grant is to provide reimbursement to state charter schools for costs associated with travel by its staff and consultants to and from trainings provided by the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC).

2. Terms and Conditions. Grants are awarded on a reimbursement basis to state charter schools for costs associated with travel by its staff and consultants to and from trainings provided by the SCSC. Only expenses eligible for reimbursement under the State Travel Policy established by the State Accounting Office will be reimbursed under this grant. The applicant must ensure that all expenses submitted to the SCSC are consistent with the State Travel Policy. The SCSC will make a form available to eligible applicants that the applicant must utilize to report eligible expenses.

3. Eligible Recipients. All state charter schools with staff or consultants traveling to and from trainings provided by the SCSC are eligible to apply.

4. Criteria for Award. Applications will be reviewed for compliance with application requirements and the State Travel Policy. Funding will be awarded for all eligible expenses that are submitted in compliance with application requirements and the State Travel Policy. All grant awards and amounts will be determined and awarded by the Executive Director of the SCSC.

5. Directions and Deadlines for Applying. Requests for information and applications should be directed to the Business and Operations Manager, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, 1470B Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Specific deadlines will be included in the associated application package.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2082; 20-2-2083; 20-2-2084

691-3-.03 STATE CHARTER SCHOOL ASSET REDISTRIBUTION

1. Purpose. The purpose of this grant is to redistribute assets purchased by state charter schools that will close prior to disposition of the assets in accordance with state or federal regulations. Pursuant to federal regulations, 34 C.F.R. § 74.34, certain assets purchased with federal grant funding must be redistributed to eligible subgrantees. In accordance with a school's charter contract, assets purchased with nonfederal funds revert to the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC). This grant will provide a fair and equitable process for redistributing the assets purchased by state charter schools.

2. Terms and Conditions. Recipients must meet the federal definition of a charter school prior to receiving redistributed assets purchased with federal funds. The recipient charter school must continue to meet the federal definition of a charter school for at least one school year beyond the asset award. Recipients must utilize awarded assets in accordance with the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and dispose of assets as specified in EDGAR. All recipients must conduct charter school programs in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

3. Eligible Recipients. All charter schools in Georgia that are operating at the assets will be awarded are eligible to apply.

4. Criteria for Award. Awards will be made based on the applicant's need and to charter schools in the following order of priority: 1) state charter schools; 2) current CSP grant awardees; 3) past CSP grant awardees and 4) other existing charter schools. Available assets will vary depending on the assets purchased by the closing charter school. All awards will be determined and awarded by the SCSC or its designee.

5. Directions and Deadlines for Applying. Requests for information and applications should be directed to the Business and Operations Manager, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, 1470B Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Specific deadlines will be included in the associated application package.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2082; 20-2-2083; 20-2-2084

691-3-.04 NORM-REFERENCED ASSESSMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT

1. Purpose. This grant will provide financial assistance to state charter schools that are required to administer a nationally norm-referenced assessment to offset the cost of purchasing and administering the assessment. This grant is intended to be used for nationally norm-referenced assessments that are part of the school's schoolwide assessment program and is not intended for costs related to assessments administered to individual students to determine the need for differentiated instruction or compensatory services.

2. Terms and Conditions. This application is only for state charter schools that are required to administer a nationally norm-referenced assessment as a result of its charter contract. All recipients must conduct charter school programs in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Funding will be provided to schools that receive an award on a reimbursement basis. To receive funding that it has been awarded, a school must provide the SCSC an invoice from the assessment provider that the school has a legal obligation to remit funding to the assessment provider for products or services provided in relation to the administration of a nationally norm-referenced assessment in the current school year. Grant awards may be expended only on nationally norm-referenced assessments recognized by the SCSC and identified in the grant application.

3. Eligible Recipients. All state charter schools that are required to administer a nationally norm-referenced assessment as a result of its charter contract are eligible to apply.

4. Criteria for Award. Awards under this grant will be made on a formula basis. Each school eligible for an award will receive a pro-rata level of assistance calculated by dividing the total funding

available under this grant by the overall cost of the nationally norm-referenced assessment administration for eligible schools.

5. Directions and Deadlines for Applying. Requests for information and applications should be directed to the Business and Operations Manager, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, 1470B Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Specific deadlines will be included in the associated application package.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2082; 20-2-2083; 20-2-2084

691-3-.05 EMERGENCY SCHOOL OPERATIONS FUND GRANT

1. Purpose. The SCSC may provide grants to state charter schools from the Emergency School Operations Fund to assist schools in resolving exceptional and unforeseen budget shortfalls arising from matters external or dynamic events outside the school's control. Matters outside of the school's control that may lead to use of the Emergency School Operations Fund include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, acts of terror or war, or other acts or interference by third parties in the school's operation. The Emergency School Operations Fund is not to be used to assist schools experiencing budget shortfalls that result from a failure to account for routine school operations, accounting mistakes, general errors in judgment, or a lack of understanding regarding the state charter school funding formula.

2. Terms and Conditions. Grant awards from the Emergency School Operations Fund shall only be expended to offset exceptional and unforeseen budget shortfalls arising from matters outside of the school's control. The state charter school shall ensure that all expenditures of grant awards adhere to the Budget Narrative submitted with its application and the changes, if any, required by the SCSC as a condition of grant approval. If an awardee must deviate from the Budget Narrative submitted and approved by the SCSC by 10% or more in one or more object-level expenditures, the awardee must obtain prior written approval from the SCSC Executive Director. All grant awards shall be expended in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and restrictions regarding state funding, including, but not limited to, being expended only for the educational purposes of the state charter school in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-411.

3. Eligible Recipients. All state charter schools that are currently operating are eligible to apply.

4. Criteria for Award. Grant applications will be reviewed by at least two separate readers who rate the application in accordance with the rubric in Attachment A. An applicant will be evaluated based on the need established in the application narratives; the effort demonstrated by the school to reduce its budget deficit by other means; the degree to which the budget shortfall was caused by actions outside of the school's control; the school's history of academic, operational, and financial performance; and adherence to the technical requirements of the application. Applicants must receive an average score of 80 out of 100 to receive funding from the Emergency School Operations Fund.

5. Directions and Deadlines for Applying. Requests for information and applications should be directed to the Business and Operations Manager, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, 1470B Twin Towers East, 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Specific deadlines will be included in the associated application package.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2082; 2091.

Coversheet

Initiate Rulemaking: Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-3-.01

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	B. Initiate Rulemaking: Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-3-.01
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Promulgate Grant Rule Sept 2025.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Initiate rulemaking procedures.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 to promulgate SCSC Rule 691-3-.01 Academic, Governance, and Operational Support Grants.

Rationale

Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-3-.01

Staff recommends initiating rulemaking procedures to promulgate SCSC Rule 691-3-.01 Academic, Governance, and Operational Support Grants. The proposed rule aligns with current SCSC strategic goals.

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

691-3-.01 Academic, Governance, and Operational Support Grants

(1) **Purpose.** The purpose of grant opportunities offered by the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) is to support academic, governance, and operational compliance and excellence at state charter schools. The specific purpose of a grant opportunity must relate to one or more of the following:

(a) To provide financial support to schools facing unforeseen emergency circumstances, including, but not limited to, natural disaster, acts of terror or war, pandemic, or other exceptional events precipitated by external events causing financial hardship;

(b) To provide financial support to schools to implement programs or systems intended to increase academic outcomes for students;

(c) To provide financial support to schools for governance consulting, coaching, and training that supplements governance training required by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f);

(d) To provide financial support to new, replicating, and expanding schools for consulting and related services to secure an appropriate facility, complete facility improvements, and/or identify financing opportunities;

(e) To provide financial support to schools that have surrendered their charter contract or whose charter contract has been terminated by the SCSC Board of Commissioners to continue operations, services for students, or other essential services as identified by the SCSC staff or Board of Commissioners through the end of a school year or other time period determined by the SCSC to minimize harm to students;

(f) To provide financial support to schools to implement programs or systems designed to improve student and/or faculty and staff health and safety and/or faculty and staff retention; or

(g) To reimburse or provide financial support to schools for other purposes identified by the SCSC Board of Commissioners to meet goals of the SCSC strategic plan or address school needs.

(2) **Terms and Conditions.** The SCSC Board of Commissioners shall approve the terms and conditions applicable to all grant opportunities. The SCSC Executive Director may, consistent with such terms and conditions and subject to SCSC strategic priorities, school needs, and fund availability, make grant opportunities available to state charter schools by posting on the SCSC's website a description and application specifying the grant's purpose, term, and allowable uses of funds.

(3) **Eligible Recipients.** Eligibility shall be determined based on the specific grant opportunity as described in the description and application.

(4) **Criteria for Award.** Applications shall be reviewed based on the criteria established for the grant opportunity and published in the grant application. Grant awards shall be recommended by SCSC staff through an application and scoring process and approved by the Board of Commissioners. Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2083; 2091.

Coversheet

Initiate Rulemaking: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	C. Initiate Rulemaking: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	691-2-.06 Sites and Facilities Recommendation.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Initiate rulemaking procedures.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 to amend SCSC rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities.

Rationale

Amend Rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities:

Staff recommends initiating rulemaking procedures to amend SCSC rule 691-2-.06 to (a) reduce the timing requirement in Subsection 3(b); and (b) remove the requirement to meet the SCSC's expansion criteria for facility expansion.

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

Rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities

(1) **Sites and Facilities in General.** All state charter schools must ensure a safe and healthy school environment that creates a conducive learning environment and protects the well-being of students and employees. Each state charter school must comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of its charter contract relating to the school's site and facilities or any material modifications thereto.

(2) **Site and Facility Approval.** All state charter schools must obtain a site code, facility code, and school code the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) prior to utilizing any site or facility for serving students. Each state charter school is responsible for adhering to the process or procedures outlined by GaDOE for the issuance of site codes, facility codes, and school codes.

(3) Required Documents.

(a) Any state charter school that utilizes a facility it does not own shall execute a written lease or rental agreement with the appropriate party to use the facility as a charter school. State charter schools must submit the final draft lease or rental agreement to the SCSC Executive Director prior to executing any lease or rental agreement. State charter schools must submit any amendment to a lease or rental agreement to the SCSC Executive Director prior to executing the amendment.

(b) Any state charter school that purchases a facility using proceeds from a loan, bond, or other form of debt shall submit the loan, bond, or other financing agreement to the SCSC Executive Director for review ~~thirty (30)~~ ten (10) days before closing on the facility's purchase.

(c) Any state charter school that intends to use, lease, occupy, purchase, remodel, or renovate a site, building, or facility through an arrangement with an Education Service Provider (ESP) shall enter a written agreement for such use, lease, occupancy, purchase, remodel, or renovation. State charter schools shall submit a final draft of the written agreement required by this subsection to the SCSC Executive Director and receive prior written approval before executing the agreement.

(d) Each state charter school shall obtain and display a Certificate of Occupancy for its facility prior to occupancy. Each state charter school shall maintain a valid Certificate of Occupancy throughout its entire charter term.

(e) Each state charter school shall prepare a safety plan in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185 and must submit such plan to the local emergency management agency that oversees the area in which the school is located no later than July 1 each year of its charter term.

(f) Each state charter school shall secure adequate insurance coverage prior to occupancy and maintain adequate coverage throughout the charter term.

(4) **Changing Facilities.** A state charter school shall not change facilities without prior written approval from the SCSC Executive Director.

(a) To change facilities means to change the physical location of a charter school building, facility, or site.

(b) A majority vote of the state charter school governing board is required to authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property.

(c) A state charter school shall notify the SCSC no later than twenty-four (24) hours after a vote pursuant to (4)(b) occurs.

(d) A charter school shall not begin negotiations to change facilities less than ten (10) months prior to the beginning of a new school year, except as expressly authorized in writing by the SCSC Executive Director.

(e) A state charter school changing facilities shall adhere to all applicable provisions of this Rule and all SCSC facility requirements.

(5) **Adding or Expanding Facilities.** A state charter school shall not add or expand facilities during the term of its charter contract without prior written approval from the SCSC Executive Director. ~~The addition or expansion of facilities must be consistent with the SCSC's rules, guidance, and policies regarding school expansion and replication.~~ A state charter school adding or expanding facilities during the charter term shall adhere to all applicable provisions of this Rule and SCSC facility requirements. State charter schools utilizing multiple sites or facilities must comply with all open enrollment requirements described in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066 and SCSC Rule 691-2-.05.

(6) **Safety and Security.** Each state charter school must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety and security of students, employees, and visitors, including but not limited to, ensuring the facility is clean and in good repair; remediating any visible safety concerns in a timely manner; and taking steps to protect the campus from potential intrusion.

(7) **Asbestos Remediation.** All state charter schools must comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and the terms of any applicable asbestos remediation plan.

(8) **Onsite Inspection.** Each state charter school shall allow the SCSC and its staff to conduct onsite inspections of any and all facilities or property either owned or utilized by the charter school. The SCSC or its staff may conduct such onsite inspections without prior notification to the charter school.

(9) **Compliance.** Failure to comply with the requirements of this Rule may result in one or more of the following:

- (a) additional oversight by the SCSC;
- (b) point deductions on the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF);
- (c) probation;
- (d) suspension; or,
- (e) recommendation for termination.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2083; 2091.

Coversheet

Initiate Rulemaking: Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers

Section:	III. Action Items
Item:	D. Initiate Rulemaking: Promulgate SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	691-2-.11 ESP Fee Transparency Recommendation.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Initiate rulemaking procedures.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners initiate rulemaking procedures in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4 to adopt Rule 691-2-.11 Education Service Providers.

Rationale

Adopt Rule 691-2-.11 Education Service Providers:

SCSC Staff recommends initiating rulemaking procedures for the purpose of adopting Rule 691-2-.11 to require SCSC review of management agreements, specify that governing boards must control state funds, and require certain terms be included in management agreements.

Strategic Plan Alignment

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

691-2-.11 Education Service Providers

(1) Definitions.

(a) “Education Service Provider” (ESP) means an organization that contracts with state charter schools to provide services, including, but not limited to, curriculum design, professional development, student assessments, financial and operational management, facilities management, or human resources management.

(b) “Itemize” means broken down by service or service category in sufficient detail to allow the governing board to determine the nature, quantity, and cost basis of each charge, including a clear explanation of any fee calculation.

(c) “Management Agreement” means a contract between the governing board of a state charter school and an ESP, excluding agreements solely related to the use, lease, occupancy, purchase, remodel, or renovation of a site, building, or facility.

(d) “State funds” means all funds received by a state charter school pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089.

(2) **Management Agreement.** If the governing board of a state charter school elects to enter into or amend a Management Agreement during the term of its charter contract, it shall obtain written approval of the SCSC Executive Director before executing the Management Agreement or any amendment.

(3) **Account.** State funds must be deposited directly into a financial account under the control of the state charter school’s governing board.

(4) **Costs.** A Management Agreement between a state charter school and an ESP must:

(a) Describe the services, personnel, goods and/or resources to be provided by the ESP (cumulatively, “services”);

(b) Itemize the cost of each service or service category;

(c) Identify any services that would incur an additional cost;

(d) Require written approval of the ESP’s itemized invoices by a member of the governing board or designee, except that such designee cannot be an employee of the ESP, before any state funds are disbursed to the ESP;

(e) Describe services that the ESP must provide upon expiration or termination of the state charter school’s charter contract or upon termination of the ESP agreement and any associated costs; and

(f) Prohibit material changes to costs or services without the state charter school’s prior written approval.

(5) Performance Evaluation.

(a) The management agreement must include metrics by which the governing board will evaluate the ESP’s performance; and

(b) The governing board shall conduct an annual performance review of the ESP based on those metrics.

(6) **Effective.** Subsections (4) and (5) of this rule apply to Management Agreements that are executed, amended, or renewed after the effective date of this rule.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2083; 2091.