



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Rescheduled Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday December 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM EST

Location

SCSC Board Room

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

Virtual Access Information

[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	
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Purpose

Presenter

A. Record Attendance

Mike Dudgeon

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Mike Dudgeon

C. Approve MinutesApprove
Minutes

Mike Dudgeon

Approve minutes for September Board Meeting on September 24, 2025

II. Governance Items**A.** 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar

Vote

Mike Dudgeon

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

Vote

Michele Neely

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners repeal SCSC Rules 691-.3-.01 through 691-3-.05.

B. Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01

Vote

Michele Neely

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01 Academic, Governance, and Operational Support Grants as presented.

C. Staff Recommendation: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06

Vote

Kristen Easterbrook

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt the amendments to SCSC Rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities as presented.

D. Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers

Vote

Erin Wright

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt SCSC Rule 691-2-.11 Education Service Providers as presented.

IV. Policy Action Items**A.** Staff Recommendation: Adopt Revised SCSC Governance Training Policy

Vote

Michele Neely

SCSC Staff recommends adopting the revised SCSC Governance Training Policy as presented.

Purpose

Presenter

- adds travel reimbursement for school governing board members and two staff members (to replace repealed rule)

- B.** Staff Recommendation: Approve SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Vote Michele Neely

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Description and Application be approved as presented.

V. CSP SE Grant Action Items

- A.** Staff Recommendation: Accept the Transfer of the FY2022 CSP State Entity Grant Vote Michele Neely

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners accept the award of the CSP State Entity Grant (PR/award S282A250014) of \$35,846,367.42 from the U.S. Department of Education, transferred from the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia. This action includes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant; existing project goals, plans, and pending waiver requests; subgrant agreements; subcontractor contracts and pending contracts; and subgrantee applications.

- B.** Staff Recommendation: Approve CSP SE Subgrant Awards Vote Michele Neely

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve CSP SE Subgrants for new charter schools as presented (CSP SE Grant PR/award S282A250014). The total recommended subgrant award amount is \$9,300,000 for five charter schools.

- C.** Staff Recommendation: Approve Amended SCSC FY26 Budget to Add CSP Funds Vote Carmen Freemire

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC adopt the Amended FY 2026 budget to accept \$8,488,888 of Charter School Program grant funds the SCSC has received from the U.S. Department of Education.

VI. Division Reports

- A.** Finance Division FYI Annie Chen

- Annual Audit Update

- B.** Research & Evaluation FYI Katie Manthey

	Purpose	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCRPI Release Date • SCSC Renewal Timeline 		
C. Office of Charter School Compliance	FYI	Allen Mueller
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board of Education - Local Performance Framework 		

VII. Charter Contract Action Items

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|-----------|--|------|---------------------|
| A. | Movement School Athens: Charter Surrender | Vote | Kristen Easterbrook |
| | SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC accept the surrender of the Movement School Athens charter contract, as requested by the Movement School Athens governing board. | | |
| B. | Excelsior Village Academies: Attendance Zone Expansion | Vote | Erin Wright |
| | State Charter Schools Commission staff recommend that the SCSC vote to approve an amendment to Excelsior Village Academies' charter contract to expand the attendance zone. | | |
| C. | Spring Creek Charter School: Enrollment Limit Increase & Non-Profit Entity | Vote | Erin Wright |
| | State Charter Schools Commission staff recommend that the SCSC vote to approve a novation agreement to transfer all rights, duties and obligations under the charter contract from Pataula Charter Academy, Inc. to Spring Creek Charter Academy, Inc. and to amend the charter contract to increase the enrollment minimum and maximum. | | |
| D. | Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy: Extend Charter Term (1-Year Deferral) | Vote | Erin Wright |
| | State Charter Schools Commission staff recommend that the SCSC vote to approve an amendment to the charter contracts for Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy to extend the charter term by one year. | | |

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Closing Items

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|-----------|-----------------|------|
| A. | Adjourn Meeting | Vote |
|-----------|-----------------|------|

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section:	I. Opening Items
Item:	C. Approve Minutes
Purpose:	Approve Minutes
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Minutes for September Board Meeting on September 24, 2025

APPROVED



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

September Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM

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

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

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 Sep 24, 2025 at 10:03 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by consent. August Board Meeting on 08-27-25.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Division Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

The Deputy Executive Director (COO) presented the SCSC's updated strategic plan, highlighting updates made to comply with the state standards, including reducing the number of objectives from 6 to 3 and aligning the new objectives to the SCSC mission.

In addition, SCSC leaders completed an environmental scan and identified the following critical issues for FY26: (a) CSP grant transfer; (b) implementation of new legislation; and (c) improving organization infrastructure. Staff action plans were discussed. Staff will provide informal updates to commissioners quarterly, with a final report at the end of the year to summarize FY26 outcomes and plan new actions.

B. Legal Division

Fiscal and Operational monitoring tasks opened on September 15, 2025, in the Epicenter platform. Schools were provided with a recording of the monitoring webinar, handbook, and staff and Epicenter contact information. The monitoring submission deadline is October 31, 2025.

C. Research & Evaluation Division

The Director of Research & Evaluation shared the results of the SCSC's third Principles and Standards of Quality Charter School Authorizing review. She discussed how the SCSC's staff values are evident in the SCSC's review. Many recommendations from NACSA were well underway at the time of evaluation. The details of this report are contained in the linked presentation materials.

Commissioner Sweeny asked for more clarity on NACSA's recommendation to be mindful of how the pace of change may impact schools.

Commissioner Scafidi remarked that we should continue to decrease the burden on schools performing well and applauded the staff for their work. Chairman Dudgeon

agreed with Commissioner Scafidi and noted the difference in responses from schools last year and this year with respect to the authorizer respecting charter school autonomy.

D. Commissioner Discussion

Chairman Dudgeon discussed the history of schools using the credit recovery model, specifically, models similar to the district collaborative schools formerly authorized by the SCSC and now under GaDOE supervision. The question posed for commissioners is whether credit recovery models are appropriate for state charter school authorization, given their reliance on support from local boards of education.

Commissioner Brockway added that district collaborative schools tend to function as networks, adding new districts/sites to the existing network. Commissioner Brockway agreed with Chairman Dudgeon and added that these schools should be treated like district collaboration schools, which are overseen by GaDOE.

Commissioner Millan sought clarity as to why district collaborative schools are no longer state charter schools. Chairman Dudgeon referenced the bill that identified these district collaborative schools as separate types of schools with their own funding.

Commissioner Good recused herself from the conversation, noting a potential conflict of interest.

Commissioner Scafidi asked, and Chairman Dudgeon confirmed, that the SCSC has received petitions for these types of models, specifically one last start-up petition cycle. That school was approved by a local board of education, so the SCSC did not have the authority to act on the petition.

Commissioner Sweeny noted the difficulty in supporting schools whose strategies rely heavily on local district support for implementation- agreeing with prior commissioner comments. Commissioner Scafidi noted that if SCSC approval is off the table, local board approval may be less likely. Chairman Dudgeon agreed and noted that approving this type of school over the local board's denial could make the local collaboration needed to implement the model more difficult.

The Executive Director noted the SCSC's history of being model agnostic. The Director of Research & Evaluation noted the difference between completion schools and credit recovery, which refers to a wide variety of educational strategies. She noted that completion schools should not be state charter schools, regardless of their implementation of a credit recovery strategy.

Chairman Dudgeon acknowledged that accurate terminology will be critical. He further clarified that this question relates to schools whose target students are those needing to complete courses for their diploma rather than schools implementing credit recovery,

among other strategies, within their educational programs. Chairman Dudgeon asked staff to consider how to clarify that completion schools (or those schools that specifically exist to allow students to make up credits) are not appropriate for SCSC authorization because of the local support needed to implement the educational plan successfully.

Chairman Dudgeon discussed how the SCSC should approach multiple pre-opening deferrals. The Chairman noted prior ideas to address this, including ways of limiting the number of pre-opening deferrals. During the policy retreat, there was a general consensus that schools should not defer more than 2 years.

The General Counsel suggested contract language to address this issue. All commissioners agreed with the General Counsel's recommendation.

III. Action Items

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

L. Millan made a motion to approved the staff recommendation as presented.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

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

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

B. Brockway made a motion to approved the staff recommendation as presented.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

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

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

B. Brockway made a motion to approved the staff recommendation as presented.

C. Good seconded the motion.

The Director of New Schools noted that the proposed changes include amending the timeline for submitting loans, bonds, and other forms of debt prior to closing from 30 to 10 days. The proposed amendments also eliminate the requirement that schools meet expansion criteria to change facilities. In some cases, schools may not have the three years of data required to support an expansion request, but still need the flexibility to change facilities if necessary.

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

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

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

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

The General Counsel noted that the rule balances autonomy and transparency and encourages schools to hold Education Service Providers (ESPs) accountable by identifying services and requiring review of ESP's performance.

Chairman Dudgeon noted the importance of transparency when allocating tax dollars to schools. It's great to encourage transparency and better educational options for our kids. Vice Chairman Good noted full agreement with the rationale for this rule. The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. 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 11:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon

Coversheet

2026 Regular Meeting Calendar

Section:	II. Governance Items
Item:	A. 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	2026 SCSC Board Meeting Schedule.pdf

2026 Board Meeting Calendar

Wednesday, February 25

Wednesday, April 29

Wednesday, June 24

Wednesday, July 29

Wednesday, September 30

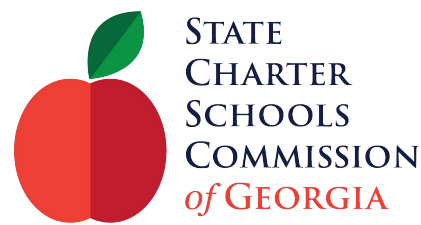
Wednesday, November 4*

**Moved to the first Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday*

Coversheet

Staff Recommendation: Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01 through 691-3-.05

Section:	III. Rulemaking Action Items
Item: 3-.05	A. Staff Recommendation: Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01 through 691-
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_Repeal_Grant_Rules_Dec_2025_package.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01, 691-3-.02, 691-3-.03, 691-3-.04, 691-3-.05
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners repeal SCSC Rules 691-3-.01, 691-3-.02, 691-3-.03, 691-3-.04, 691-3-.05, related to SCSC grants.
Rationale
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

Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01

Section:	III. Rulemaking Action Items
Item:	B. Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_Adopt_Grant_Rule_Dec_2025.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01 Academic, Governance, and Operational Support Grants
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt SCSC Rule 691-3-.01 Academic, Governance, and Operational Support Grants.
Rationale
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

Staff Recommendation: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06

Section:	III. Rulemaking Action Items
Item:	C. Staff Recommendation: Amend SCSC Rule 691-2-.06
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Facility_Rule_Action_Item_12.10.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Rule Adoption – Amendment to SCSC Rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt the amendments to SCSC Rule 691-2-.06 State Charter School Sites and Facilities as presented.
Rationale
<p>Staff recommends the adoption of amended SCSC rule 691-2-.06 Charter School Sites and Facilities. The amendments reduce the timing requirement in Subsection 3(b) and remove the requirement to meet the SCSC’s expansion criteria for facility expansion.</p> <p>SCSC staff provided notice to schools and stakeholders regarding the proposed amendments, and no feedback was received.</p>
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

Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers

Section:	III. Rulemaking Action Items
Item:	D. Staff Recommendation: Adopt SCSC Rule 691-2-.11, Education Service Providers
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_691-2-.11_ESP.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Rule Adoption – SCSC Rule 691-2-.11 Education Service Providers
Recommendation
SCSC Staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt Rule 691-2-.11 Education Service Providers.
Rationale
SCSC Staff recommends the adoption of Rule 691-2-.11 to require SCSC review of management agreements, specify that governing boards must control state funds, and require certain terms to be included in management agreements. SCSC staff provided notice to schools and stakeholders regarding the proposed rule and shared the feedback we received with Commissioners.
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.

Coversheet

Staff Recommendation: Adopt Revised SCSC Governance Training Policy

Section:	IV. Policy Action Items
Item:	A. Staff Recommendation: Adopt Revised SCSC Governance Training Policy
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_Rev_SCSC_Governance_Training_Policy.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Approved revised SCSC Governance Training Policy
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners adopt the revised SCSC Governance Training Policy as presented.
Rationale
The revised policy includes a provision to reimburse schools for travel to attend Governance Training.
Strategic Plan Alignment
Objective: Increase the number of academically superior state charter schools.

STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA
GOVERNANCE TRAINING POLICY FOR STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS

Article I
Purpose

The purpose of this governance training policy is to promote high-quality charter schools through compliance with Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2084(f), establishing differentiated requirements for new and tenured governing board members at state charter schools.

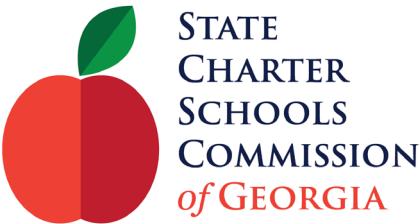
Article II
Policy

1. **Training Requirements for all State Charter School Governing Board Members.** Annually, all governing board members of state charter schools must complete six (6) hours of training, as described below, that is conducted by the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) or by a provider approved by the State Board of Education:
 - (a) Three (3) hours of sound fiscal and budget management for state charter schools;
 - (b) One (1) hour on best practices on charter school governance and the constitutional and statutory requirements relating to public records and meetings;
 - (c) One (1) hour of updates to the legal requirements of applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and policies; and
 - (d) One (1) hour on oversight of state charter school performance, academic accountability, or related topics.
2. **Training Requirements for New State Charter School Governing Board Members.** During each of the first two (2) years that a member serves on the governing board of a state charter school, the member must complete an additional six (6) hours of training related to the basics of state charter schools, accountability, financial governance, and effective governing board service that is conducted by the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC). The SCSC Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may approve the use of a provider approved by the State Board of Education.
3. **Requirement for Additional Training.** The SCSC Executive Director may require additional governance training for board members of state charter schools that are on probation, have not met standards on the SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework, or have demonstrated other academic, financial, or compliance concerns identified by SCSC staff.
4. **Reimbursement of Travel Expenses.** The SCSC may reimburse state charter schools for travel expenses incurred for governing board members and staff members to attend Governance Training provided by the SCSC. Expenses must be submitted within 30 days of travel, eligible for reimbursement, and consistent with the State Travel Policy established by the State Accounting Office.
5. **Guidance.** SCSC staff shall provide guidance on implementation of this policy, including but not limited to, training topics required for New State Charter School Governing Board Members and defining the members subject thereto.

Coversheet

Staff Recommendation: Approve SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant

Section:	IV. Policy Action Items
Item:	B. Staff Recommendation: Approve SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action Item - Approve Emergency Grant.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Approve the SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant as presented
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant as presented (SCSC Rule 691-3-.01).
Rationale
The SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant provides the SCSC an opportunity to offer financial support to state charter schools that experience an unforeseen emergency. The description and application provide clear eligibility and scoring criteria for consideration of any grant award.
Strategic Plan Alignment
Objective: Empower all state charter schools to leverage autonomy, flexibility, and resources to meet the needs of their community.



SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant

12-10-2025

Table of Contents

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant 1

 Purpose & Description 1

 Application Information and Instructions 1

 Formatting..... 1

 Grant Opportunity 2

 Grant Term 2

 Eligibility 2

 Allowable Grant Activities and Expenditures 2

 Application Scoring 2

 Grant Application Process..... 3

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application 4

 Narrative Responses 4

 Budget 6

 Other Information Required..... 6

 Notes..... 7

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia Emergency School Operations Grant Assurances 8



SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant

Purpose & Description

The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) provides grant opportunities to support academic, governance, and operational compliance and excellence at schools authorized by the SCSC in accordance with SCSC Rule 691-3-.01.

The Emergency School Operations Grant is designed to provide financial support to schools facing unforeseen emergency circumstances, including, but not limited to, natural disasters, acts of terror or war, pandemic, or other exceptional events precipitated by external events causing financial hardship. These events impact the school's ability to operate and provide students with a safe learning environment. Grant funds are intended to remediate issues caused directly by the emergency circumstances and may not be renewed after the grant term.

Qualifying emergency circumstances do not include the following:

- Lower-than-expected enrollment/state allotment funding as a result of low enrollment;
- Financial mistakes, errors, and/or omissions by school staff, contractors, and/or board members, including lack of cybersecurity;
- Inaccurate financial reporting and/or budgeting;
- Lawsuits and/or any legal action; and/or
- Operational expenses that could be reasonably anticipated, including higher-than-expected personnel expenses or facility repairs due to age and/or wear.

The SCSC staff, at its sole discretion, will determine if circumstances meet the eligibility criteria for consideration for an Emergency School Operations Grant.

Application Information and Instructions

All information about SCSC Grant opportunities is posted on the SCSC's website at SCSC.Georgia.gov. The SCSC also provides information about available grants directly to schools authorized by the SCSC through newsletters.

Emergency School Operations Grant applications will be provided to schools upon request. The SCSC will determine eligibility based on the criteria listed below. Once a school is deemed eligible and receives a copy of the application, all final application materials must be emailed to grants@scsc.georgia.gov. Applications will *not* be accepted in person, fax, or via mail delivery service. Application deadlines will be established by the SCSC at the time of eligibility determination.

All questions should be submitted to grants@scsc.georgia.gov. Please indicate the school's name and grant name in the subject line.

Formatting

Grant applications may not exceed 15 pages, including any supplemental information, with 1" margins and a font size between 11-12 points.

Documents must be in .PDF or .DOC format.

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application p. 2

Grant Opportunity

The SCSC will award grants to schools based on eligibility criteria, application scoring, and fund availability.

Grant Term

Grants will have a term of no less than thirty (30) days and no longer than twelve (12) months from award date.

Eligibility

State charter schools with an active charter contract that have experienced unforeseen emergency circumstances impacting the school’s ability to operate and provide students with a safe learning environment are eligible to apply for the Emergency School Operations Grant.

Schools may be awarded no more than one Emergency School Operations Grant every 24 months, unless an exception is granted by the Executive Director.

Allowable Grant Activities and Expenditures

Allowable grant activities and expenditures include the following:

- Expenses necessary to ensure a safe, operational learning environment for students after/as the result of unforeseen emergency circumstances.
- The SCSC must approve the final grant budget and allowable expenditures after grant award.

Prohibited grant activities and expenditures include the following:

- Marketing activities, advertising, or public relations;
- Defense or prosecution of criminal and civil proceedings, claims, or appeals;
- Facility construction or site improvements (unless approved by the SCSC to remediate damage from an emergency or remediate an immediate threat to health and safety);
- Lobbying activities;
- Payment of fines, penalties, damages, or settlements or repayment of unallowable costs for other grants;
- Subgrants to other entities;
- Goods or services for personal use; or
- Any other use not consistent with state law or regulation.

Personnel expenses, including employment incentives, must be approved in advance by SCSC staff and will be considered if they are required to meet grant goals.

Application Scoring

Applications will be scored by at least two reviewers based on the criteria listed below.

Application Evaluation Criteria	Possible Score
Statement of Need: The Statement of Need clearly describes the emergency circumstances and how they impacted the school’s operations and ability to provide a safe learning environment. There is compelling evidence that the situation is urgent, presenting an operational and financial hardship for the school.	20

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application p. 3

Grant Goals: Goals have a clear focus on restoring a safe learning environment and school operations after emergency circumstances. Goals present a realistic timeline within the grant term.	20
Activity Description: Activities directly address the impact to the school from the unforeseen emergency circumstances. A plan to carry out the activities with a timeline and responsible parties is included.	20
Sustainability Plan: The Sustainability Plan presents clear evidence that the school has a viable plan for continuing operations and providing a safe learning environment after SCSC grant funds have been exhausted. The school demonstrates efforts to identify other funding sources and mitigate future similar situations.	20
Budget Description and Narrative: The budget is detailed, and expenses are reasonable, allowable, and necessary to meet grant goals. The narrative provides an explanation for budget line items that connects to the activities described.	20
TOTAL	100

Awards shall be considered based on fund availability and application score. Applications must receive a minimum score of **70** points to be considered for a grant award. A score of 70 or higher does not guarantee a grant award, and the SCSC may award grants at a lower dollar amount than the request.

Grant application scores and grant award decisions may not be appealed.

Grant Application Process

1. Charter school submits grant application via email.
2. SCSC staff review applications for eligibility and completeness.
 - a. Staff may require additional information or clarification.
 - b. Applications that are not complete or do not adhere to the application instructions will be deemed ineligible for grant funding.
3. Reviewers analyze and score grant applications.
4. SCSC convenes reviewers to align and review significant discrepancies in scoring.
5. SCSC staff total scores from reviewers.
6. SCSC staff develop list of recommended grant awards. Grant applicants are notified.
7. SCSC Board of Commissioners votes on grant awards.
8. Applicants are notified of grant awards / non-award via email.

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application

Applicant Information	Response
Name of Charter School	
Grant Application Contact Name and Title	
Contact Email Address	
Contact Phone Number	
Total Funds Requested	\$

What type of unforeseen emergency circumstance has the school faced?

- ☐ Natural disaster
- ☐ Facility failure
- ☐ Safety/act of terror
- ☐ Other _____

Narrative Responses

Statement of Need <i>Provide a description of the need for grant funds and explain the unforeseen emergency circumstances that led to the school to apply for thi grant.</i>
Grant Goals <i>Provide at least two measurable goals for this grant with a timeframe for meeting each goal.</i>

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application p. 5

<div>Description of Activities</div> <div><i>Describe the activities your school would undertake with this grant. Explain how the activities relate to the achievement of the established goals. *No activities to address pre-existing conditions prior to the emergency circumstances may be included.</i></div>
<div>Sustainability</div> <div><i>Provide information on how the school will continue to support the grant goals after SCSC grant funding has been exhausted. Indicate any other funding the school has received or expects to receive to support the grant goals.</i></div>
<div>Additional Information</div> <div><i>Provide any additional information for the reviewers to consider about this grant application.</i></div>

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application p. 7

Notes

- The SCSC may request additional information prior to consideration of a grant award.
- The SCSC may include conditions with any grant award.
- Grant award decisions may not be appealed.

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application p. 8

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia Emergency School Operations Grant Assurances

Part I. Charter School Information

Name of the Charter School: _____

Part II. Applicant Contact Information

Applicants must designate one individual to serve as the contact for official communications. Please note that this information may be requested and provided pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act. Applicants should avoid listing personal numbers and email addresses whenever possible.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Part III. Assurances and Signatures

All assurances must be initialed by the chairperson of the charter school's governing board. The charter school leader and chairperson must sign below the final assurance to further indicate understanding and agreement to the terms and conditions of receiving funding for an SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant ("Grant").

_____ 1. The Charter School will utilize all funding provided under this Grant in accordance with all applicable state laws and regulations.

_____ 2. The Charter School will expend all funding provided under this Grant in accordance with the budget approved by SCSC staff after Grant award, within the fiscal year the grant was awarded, and any revisions thereto, of this Grant.

_____ 3. The Charter School will obtain prior written approval from the SCSC Executive Director or designee in the event its expenditures deviate from the approved budget for any Grant award by 10% or more per line item.

_____ 4. The Charter School will not utilize any funding provided under this Grant for expenses that are prohibited in the Grant description/application.

_____ 5. The Charter School will adhere to the fund request process and any required documentation procedures, including, but not limited to, providing copies of invoices, receipts, and proof of payment for Grant expenditures.

_____ 6. The Charter School will submit all required data and reports related to this Grant required by the SCSC in a timely manner and will participate in any required training.

_____ 7. The Charter School will not sell, encumber, or otherwise dispose of supplies, equipment, or property purchased with funding provided by this Grant prior to the end of its useful life without prior notification to the SCSC Executive Director or designee.

SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant Application p. 9

_____ 8. The Charter School’s programs, services, and activities operate and will continue to operate in accordance with the terms of the charter and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, unless the charter contract is terminated by the SCSC.

_____ 9. The Charter School must expend all funds within the Grant Term, unless the SCSC Executive Director grants an extension in writing. Funds not expended during the Grant Term will be forfeited.

_____ 10. The SCSC Executive Director may require the Charter School to repay any or all Grant funds due to the Charter School’s failure to adhere to its approved budget or due to Charter School’s violation of the terms and conditions of the Grant.

_____ 11. I understand that failure to abide by these assurances will result in corrective action by the SCSC, Georgia Department of Education, or State Board of Education, which may include, but is not limited to, the Charter School’s repayment of unallowable costs, the termination of the Charter School’s participation in this Grant, and the enforcement of the SCSC’s contractual rights under this agreement.

_____ 12. I hereby attest that the information provided in this Grant application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that I may be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both, if I knowingly and willfully make a false or fraudulent statement or representation to SCSC pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20.

These assurances are agreed to by:

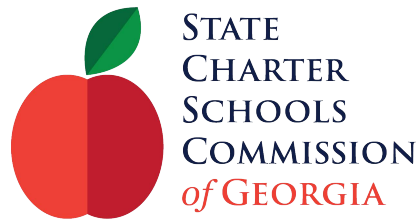
_____	_____
Charter School Leader	Date

_____	_____
Governing Board Chairperson	Date

Coversheet

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Transfer of the FY2022 CSP State Entity Grant

Section:	V. CSP SE Grant Action Items
Item:	A. Staff Recommendation: Accept the Transfer of the FY2022 CSP State Entity Grant
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_Accept_CSP_Grant.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Accept the transfer of the FY2022 Charter Schools Program State Entity Grant (PR/award S282A250014) to the SCSC

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners accept the award of the CSP State Entity Grant (PR/award S282A250014) of \$35,846,367.42 from the U.S. Department of Education, transferred from the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia. This action includes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant; existing project goals, plans, and pending waiver requests; subgrant agreements; subcontractor contracts and pending contracts; and subgrantee applications.

Rationale

The transfer of the CSP SE Grant to the SCSC reduces administrative burden, improves operational efficiency, and increases coordination in the charter school sector in Georgia. The grant supports subgrants and technical assistance for new, expanding, and replicating charter schools and subgrants for CTAE and high dosage tutoring efforts at charter schools.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.



**US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

S282A250014

GRANT TRANSFER NOTIFICATION

1	RECIPIENT NAME State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia 205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE Atlanta, GA 30334 - 9033	2	AWARD INFORMATION <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="width:60%;">PR/AWARD NUMBER</td> <td>S282A250014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACTION NUMBER</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACTION TYPE</td> <td>New</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AWARD TYPE</td> <td>Discretionary</td> </tr> </table>	PR/AWARD NUMBER	S282A250014	ACTION NUMBER	1	ACTION TYPE	New	AWARD TYPE	Discretionary																																						
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3	PROJECT STAFF RECIPIENT PROJECT DIRECTOR Michele Neely (404) 615-5925 Michele.Neely@scsc.georgia.gov EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT Nora Kern (202) 539-9024 nora.kern@ed.gov EDUCATION PAYMENT HOTLINE G5 PAYEE HELPDESK 888-336-8930 obsessed@servicenowservices.com	4	PROJECT TITLE 84.282A Public Charter Schools																																														
5	KEY PERSONNEL <table style="width:100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>NAME</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>TITLE</u></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><u>LEVEL OF EFFORT</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Michele Neely</td> <td>Project Director</td> <td>50 %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LEVEL OF EFFORT</u>	Michele Neely	Project Director	50 %																																								
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9	LEGISLATIVE AND FISCAL DATA <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="width:30%;">AUTHORITY:</td> <td>PL P.L. 114-95 V ESEA SECTION 4301 OR {20 U.S.C. 7221}</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PROGRAM TITLE:</td> <td>CHARTER SCHOOLS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CFDA/SUBPROGRAM NO:</td> <td>84.282A</td> </tr> </table> <table style="width:100%; border-top: 1px solid black;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">FUND CODE</th> <th style="text-align: left;">FUNDING YEAR</th> <th style="text-align: left;">AWARD YEAR</th> <th style="text-align: left;">ORG. CODE</th> <th style="text-align: left;">CATEGORY</th> <th style="text-align: left;">LIMITATION</th> <th style="text-align: left;">ACTIVITY</th> <th style="text-align: left;">CFDA</th> <th style="text-align: left;">OBJECT CLASS</th> <th style="text-align: left;">AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0204A</td> <td>2025</td> <td>2025</td> <td>ES000000</td> <td>B</td> <td>U30</td> <td>000</td> <td>282</td> <td>4101C</td> <td>\$19,918,253.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0204A</td> <td>2022</td> <td>2022</td> <td>ES000000</td> <td>B</td> <td>U30</td> <td>000</td> <td>282</td> <td>4101C</td> <td>\$7,451,974.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0204A</td> <td>2023</td> <td>2023</td> <td>ES000000</td> <td>B</td> <td>U30</td> <td>000</td> <td>282</td> <td>4101C</td> <td>\$1.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			AUTHORITY:	PL P.L. 114-95 V ESEA SECTION 4301 OR {20 U.S.C. 7221}	PROGRAM TITLE:	CHARTER SCHOOLS	CFDA/SUBPROGRAM NO:	84.282A	FUND CODE	FUNDING YEAR	AWARD YEAR	ORG. CODE	CATEGORY	LIMITATION	ACTIVITY	CFDA	OBJECT CLASS	AMOUNT	0204A	2025	2025	ES000000	B	U30	000	282	4101C	\$19,918,253.00	0204A	2022	2022	ES000000	B	U30	000	282	4101C	\$7,451,974.42	0204A	2023	2023	ES000000	B	U30	000	282	4101C	\$1.00
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**US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

S282A250014

GRANT TRANSFER NOTIFICATION

	FUND CODE	FUNDING YEAR	AWARD YEAR	ORG. CODE	CATEGORY	LIMITATION	ACTIVITY	CFDA	OBJECT CLASS	AMOUNT
	0204A	2024	2024	ES000000	B	U30	000	282	4101C	\$8,476,139.00
10	<p>PR/AWARD NUMBER: S282A250014</p> <p>RECIPIENT NAME: State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia</p> <p>GRANTEE NAME: STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION OF GEORGIA 1356 TWIN TOWERS EAST, 2 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE SE ATLANTA, GA null -</p> <p>PROGRAM INDIRECT COST TYPE: Unrestricted</p> <p>PROJECT INDIRECT COST RATE:</p> <p>TERMS AND CONDITIONS</p> <p>(1) THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE INCORPORATED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT:</p> <p>1) THE RECIPIENT'S APPLICATION (BLOCK 2);</p> <p>2) THE APPLICABLE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS: 2 CFR PART 180; NONPROCUREMENT DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION AS ADOPTED AT 2 CFR PART 3485; 2 CFR PART 200 AS ADOPTED AT 2 CFR 3474 (BLOCK 8), AND 34 CFR PARTS 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, 99; AND THE PROGRAM REGULATIONS SPECIFIED IN BLOCK 8; AND</p> <p>3) THE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS SHOWN AS ATTACHMENTS IN BLOCK 8 ON THE INITIAL AWARD APPLY UNTIL CHANGED.</p> <p>THIS AWARD SUPPORTS ONLY THE BUDGET PERIOD SHOWN IN BLOCK 6. IN ACCORDANCE WITH 34 CFR 75.253, A GRANTEE, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CONTINUATION AWARD FROM THE SECRETARY FOR A BUDGET PERIOD AFTER THE FIRST BUDGET PERIOD OF AN APPROVED MULTIYEAR PROJECT, MUST</p> <p>1) EITHER</p> <p>(I) DEMONSTRATE THAT IT HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING</p> <p>(A) THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT; AND</p> <p>(B) THE PERFORMANCE TARGETS IN THE GRANTEE'S APPROVED APPLICATION, IF THE SECRETARY ESTABLISHED PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANT IN THE APPLICATION NOTICE; OR</p> <p>(II) OBTAIN THE SECRETARY'S APPROVAL FOR CHANGES TO THE PROJECT THAT</p> <p>(A) DO NOT INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS OBLIGATED TO THE PROJECT BY THE SECRETARY; AND</p> <p>(B) ENABLE THE GRANTEE TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT AND MEET THE PERFORMANCE TARGETS OF THE PROJECT, IF ANY, WITHOUT CHANGING THE SCOPE OR OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT;</p> <p>2) SUBMIT ALL REPORTS AS REQUIRED BY 75.118;</p> <p>3) CONTINUE TO MEET ALL APPLICABLE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM;</p> <p>4) MAINTAIN FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IN 2 CFR 200.302 AND 200.303; AND</p> <p>5) RECEIVE A DETERMINATION FROM THE SECRETARY THAT CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.</p> <p>IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2 CFR 200.308(f)(2) CHANGES TO KEY PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED IN BLOCK 5 MUST RECEIVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT.</p> <p>THE SECRETARY ANTICIPATES FUTURE FUNDING FOR THIS AWARD ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IDENTIFIED IN BLOCK 6. THESE FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES ONLY AND DO NOT BIND THE SECRETARY TO FUNDING THE AWARD FOR THESE PERIODS OR FOR THE SPECIFIC AMOUNTS SHOWN. THE RECIPIENT WILL BE NOTIFIED OF SPECIFIC FUTURE FUNDING ACTIONS THAT THE SECRETARY TAKES FOR THIS AWARD.</p>									



US Department of Education Washington, D.C. 20202

GRANT TRANSFER NOTIFICATION

- (2) By the drawdown of funds under this GAN, the grantee accepts that this award is subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title 2 CFR Part 200 as revised at 89 FR 30136-30208 (April 22, 2024).
- (3) The Office of Management and Budget requires all Federal agencies to assign a Federal Award Identifying Number (FAIN) to each of their financial assistance awards. The PR/AWARD NUMBER identified in Block 2 is your FAIN. If subawards are permitted under this grant, and you choose to make subawards, you must document the assigned PR/AWARD NUMBER (FAIN) identified in Block 2 of this Grant Award Notification on each subaward made to a subrecipient under this grant.
The term subaward means:
 - 1) An award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to contribute to the goals and objectives of the project by carrying out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor [See 2 CFR 200.331(a)(5)], beneficiary, or participant. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement consistent with criteria in with 200.331, including an agreement the pass-through entity considers a contract. See 2 CFR 200.1.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.331 (a), a subaward is made to a subrecipient for the purpose of carrying out a portion of the Federal award and creates a Federal financial assistance relationship with a subrecipient. Characteristics that support the classification of the entity as a subrecipient include, but are not limited to, when the entity:

 - 1) Determines who is eligible to receive what Federal assistance;
 - 2) Has its performance measured in relation to whether the objectives of a Federal program were met;
 - 3) Has responsibility for programmatic decision-making;
 - 4) Is responsible for adherence to applicable Federal program requirements specified in the Federal award; and
 - 5) Implements a program for a public purpose specified in authorizing statute, as opposed to providing goods or services for the benefit of the pass-through entity.
- (4) Unless this grant solely funds research, you must comply with new regulations regarding awards to faith-based organizations (FBOs) that provide beneficiary services under this grant or under a contract you award to provide beneficiary services under this grant. These new regulations clarify the rights of FBOs and impose certain duties on FBOs regarding the referral of beneficiaries they serve. See 34 CFR 75.52, 75.712-75.714, appendix A to part 75, and 2 CFR 3474.15. The Department has established a web page that provides guidance on the new regulations, including FAQs and other implementation tools, which is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/fbci-reg.html>. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact the Education Program Contact identified in Block 3 of this GAN.
- (5) Reimbursement of indirect costs is subject to the availability of funds and statutory and regulatory restrictions (34 CFR 75.564(a) and 34 CFR 76.562(a)). The negotiated indirect cost rate agreement authorizes a recipient to draw down indirect costs from the grant awards (34 CFR 75.564(b) and 34 CFR 76.562(b)). The following conditions apply to the below entities.

A. All entities (other than Institutions of Higher Education (IHE))

The GAN for this grant award shows the indirect cost rate that applies on the date of the initial grant for this project. However, after the initial grant date, when a new indirect cost rate agreement is negotiated, the newly approved indirect cost rate supersedes the indirect cost rate shown on the GAN for the initial grant. This new indirect cost rate should be applied according to the period specified in the indirect cost rate agreement, unless expressly limited under statutes, departmental regulations (Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)), or program regulations. Any grant award with an approved budget can amend the budget to account for a change in the indirect cost rate. However, for a discretionary grant award any material changes to the budget which may impact the scope or objectives of the grant must be discussed with the program officer at the Department. See 34 CFR 75.560 (d)(3) (ii) (part 75 of EDGAR).

B. Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)



**US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

S282A250014

GRANT TRANSFER NOTIFICATION

Under 2 CFR part 200, Appendix III, Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), the Department must apply the negotiated indirect cost rate in effect on the date of the initial grant award to every budget period of the project, including all continuation grants made for this project. See 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix III, paragraph C.7. Therefore, the GAN for each continuation grant will show the original indirect cost rate and it applies to the entire period of performance of this project. If the indirect cost rate agreement that is applicable to this grant does not extend to the end of the grant project period, the indirect cost rate set at the start of the project period must still be applied to the end of project period regardless of the fact that the rate has otherwise expired.

- (6) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED GRANT TRANSFER AGREEMENT, THIS ACTION REPLACES THE ORIGINAL RECIPIENT (TRANSFEROR) WITH THE REPLACEMENT RECIPIENT (TRANSFeree), NAMED ABOVE (BLOCK 1).

THIS ACTION RESPONDS TO THE TRANSFeree'S MODIFIED REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE (Standard Form 424) AND ATTACHED SUPPORTING STATEMENTS AND DOES NOT AUTHORIZE CHANGES IN THE SCOPE OF WORK, OBJECTIVES, OR ACTIVITIES PRESENTED IN THE TRANSFEROR'S ORIGINAL APPLICATION.

THIS ACTION TRANSFERS FROM THE TRANSFEROR THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL FUNDS SHOWN IN BLOCK 7 AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THEIR USE TO THE TRANSFeree.

LAVANNA WEEMS Digitally signed by LAVANNA WEEMS
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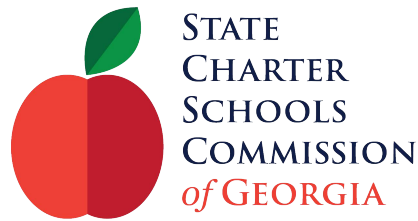
AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL

DATE

Coversheet

Staff Recommendation: Approve CSP SE Subgrant Awards

Section:	V. CSP SE Grant Action Items
Item:	B. Staff Recommendation: Approve CSP SE Subgrant Awards
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_Approve_CSP_Subgrant_Awards.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approve CSP SE Subgrant Awards as presented

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve CSP SE Subgrants for new charter schools as presented (CSP SE Grant PR/award S282A250014). The total recommended subgrant award amount is \$9,300,000 for five charter schools.

Rationale

The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia held a Request for Applications competition for CSP SE Subgrants, accepting applications from September 4, 2025 through October 15, 2025. Seven applications were received, and five applicants were deemed eligible at this time. All applications were reviewed and scored by independent, trained reviewers, and five applications received the minimum score required for consideration of a subgrant award. Two remaining applicants will be considered after a charter contract is fully executed.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.



CSP SE Subgrant Award Recommendations - December 10, 2025

School/Nonprofit	Pre-Opening Supplement	Implementation Base	Priority Community Supplement	High School Supplement	Total Requested	Award Recommendation
Cherokee Classical Academy*		\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 1,900,000.00	\$ 1,900,000.00
Georgia Accelerated Career Academy, Inc. DBA Academy for Innovation in Medicine	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 600,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00
The Meliora School	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
Northwest Georgia Charter Academy	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
Tapestry Charter School	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 600,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00
					TOTAL	\$ 9,300,000.00
*School is already open and does not qualify for the Pre-Opening Supplement.						



CSP SE Subgrant Information & Application

Subgrant opportunity provided by the:



9-30-2025

Table of Contents

Request for Applications – CSP Subgrants	1
Grant Info	1
Background & Purpose.....	1
Key Information & Dates.....	1
Subgrant Opportunities.....	2
New Charter Schools	2
Replication Charter Schools.....	2
Charter School Expansions.....	3
Subgrant Terms & Periods	3
Subgrantee Priorities	3
Eligibility	3
Permissible Subgrant Activities	4
Regulations and Guidance	5
Definitions	6
Federal Definitions	6
Georgia CSP Subgrant Definitions.....	7
Application and Scoring.....	8
Subgrant Application Process	9
CSP Subgrant Application	10
<i>(for information only – applications must be submitted through the SCSF Grant Portal)</i>	10
Narrative	11
Budget	12
Budget Narrative.....	12
Other Information Submitted via Upload to Grant Portal.....	12
Additional Information for Replication & Expansion Applicants.....	14
Priorities (Optional)	15
Assurances <i>(for information only – use version on SCSF Grant Portal)</i>	16



Request for Applications – CSP Subgrants

Grant Info

Subrecipient Name:	State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia	Subrecipient Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):	H184CU472HL6
Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN):	S282A220006	Federal Award Date:	09/28/2022
Name of Federal Awarding Agency:	U.S. Department of Education	Assistance Listing Number:	84.282A

Background & Purpose

The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF) was awarded a FY2022 Charter Schools Program (CSP) State Entity grant to support the goals of the Georgia Strategic Charter School Growth Initiative. The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia (SCSC) and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) were co-applicants for this CSP award.

The Initiative seeks to support the creation, replication, and expansion of high-quality charter schools in Georgia, particularly in communities where charter schools do not already exist. Subgrants and technical assistance opportunities will be offered to charter schools and networks authorized by a local board of education or SCSC.

The FY2022 CSP SE Grant objectives for Georgia include the following:

1. Support the opening, replication, or expansion of 32 high-quality charter schools in Georgia.
2. Educate communities about charter schools through events and FindaGaCharter.org.
3. Promote quality charter school authorizing and support the Georgia Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizing.
4. Disseminate charter school best practices to high-need public schools.

90% of CSP grant funds will be used to award subgrants to charter schools / networks, with total subgrants exceeding \$45 million over five years.

All information about this CSP SE Grant will be posted on SCSC.Georgia.gov and FindaGaCharter.org.

Key Information & Dates

All information about Georgia CSP Subgrant opportunities through the SCSF will be posted on FindaGaCharter.org and SCSC.Georgia.gov. The SCSF will also provide information for distribution by partner organizations.

Applicants will be required to submit their subgrant application through the SCSF's electronic grant portal. For instructions on using the portal, please visit FindaGaCharter.org or SCSC.Georgia.gov. A copy of the application may be accessed from these websites for purposes of planning a response.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 2 Fall 2025

Activity	Date
CSP Subgrant Application announced	August 28, 2025
CSP Subgrant Application available	September 4, 2025
CSP Subgrant Webinar for prospective applicants	September 10, 2025
Deadline for questions from prospective applicants	October 10, 2025
CSP Subgrant Application deadline	October 15, 2025
SCSF Board Meeting to consider award recommendations	December 2, 2025
CSP Subgrant Awards announced	December 3, 2025

Dates are subject to change. Updates will be emailed to applicants and posted on FindaGaCharter.org. All questions should be submitted to csp@scsc.georgia.gov. Please use the subject line “CSP Question.”

Subgrant Opportunities

The SCSF will award CSP subgrants to entities with an approved charter from an authorizer in Georgia to support the creation, replication, and expansion of high-quality charter schools.

Subgrants will be awarded to carry out one of the following eligible subgrant activities (per ESEA § 4303(b)(1) requirements):

- open and prepare for the operation of new charter schools;
- open and prepare for the operation of replicated high-quality charter schools; or
- expand high-quality charter schools.

New Charter Schools

New charter schools may be eligible for up to \$2 million of CSP subgrants as indicated below. The total subgrant award to any school may not exceed \$2 million, based on fund availability.

Pre-opening Supplement	Implementation Grant Base	Supplement for Rural/Priority Communities	Supplement for High School
\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$300,000	\$600,000

Replication Charter Schools

Replication charter schools may be eligible for up to \$2 million of CSP subgrants as indicated below. The total subgrant award to any school may not exceed \$2 million, based on fund availability.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 3 Fall 2025

Pre-opening Supplement	Implementation Grant Base	Supplement for Rural/Priority Communities	Supplement for High School
\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$300,000	\$600,000

Charter School Expansions

Charter schools preparing for an expansion may be eligible for up to \$1 million of CSP subgrants as indicated below, based on fund availability.

Implementation Grant Base	Supplement for Rural/Priority Communities	Supplement for High School
\$500,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

Subgrant Terms & Periods

Subgrants will have a term of 36 months.

For new and replicating schools, the Planning period will begin on the first day of the subgrant term and end after 18 months or the day before the school opens, whichever comes first. The Implementation period will begin on the day the school opens for the first academic year. See the Allowable Cost Guide for details on allowable expenses during each period.

Subgrantee Priorities

The SCSF has adopted three priorities for consideration of subgrant awards. Priority consideration will be given to the following:

1. Applicants planning to locate/located in a priority community.
2. Applicants planning to start, replicate, or expand a high school.
3. Applicants planning a collaboration with a local public school or district to share resources and/or otherwise serve vulnerable populations in coordination with each other.

Eligibility

Only authorized schools meeting the federal definition of charter schools are eligible to apply. Applicants must have received authorization from a Georgia authorizer to open, expand, or replicate a high-quality charter school to be eligible for a subgrant award.

Applicants must describe the steps school has taken or will take to ensure it will not hamper, delay, or negatively impact desegregation efforts, and will not increase racial or socioeconomic segregation/isolation in the schools from which students are drawn.

Furthermore, to be eligible to receive an award, all applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Meet the federal definition of a charter school and/or developer.
2. Have received authorization to operate as a charter school from a Georgia authorizer (approved charter) and have provided adequate and timely notification to that authority that the school is applying to the Georgia CSP subgrant.
3. Provide evidence of nonprofit status. Applicants must be a nonprofit organization to be eligible for a CSP subgrant.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 4 Fall 2025

4. Provide evidence of a clear separation of duties and powers between the charter school and any for-profit management organization (see application for details).
5. Provide evidence of a needs analysis and description of need for the charter school in the community, including description of local community support and other information (see application for details).
6. Complete the Assurances form in the application, agreeing to all terms and conditions of any CSP Subgrant.

Additional requirements for Replication and Expansion Subgrant awards:

1. Meet the federal definition of “high-quality” as described under ESEA § 4310 (8). Data will be required in the application to confirm applicant’s compliance with this definition.

ESEA § 4310(8) HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term “high-quality charter school” means a charter school that— (A) shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by a State; (B) has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance; (C) has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for all students served by the charter school; and (D) has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

2. Must not have received a subgrant under this CSP program for a 5-year period unless the applicant can prove 3 years of improved educational results for enrolled students.

ESEA § 4303(e)(2) Subgrants. - An eligible applicant may not receive more than one (1) subgrant under this section for each individual charter school for a 5-year period, unless the eligible applicant demonstrates to the State Entity that such individual charter school has at least 3 years of improved educational results for students enrolled in such charter school with respect to the elements described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 4310(8). Any new subgrant award must not be for the same activities funded by a previous CSP subgrant.

3. Demonstrate academic performance, meeting expectations for the SCSC’s Comprehensive Performance Framework for academics or academic expectations of the school’s authorizer or otherwise demonstrating performance at least as good as the schools where charter school students would otherwise attend based on attendance zone or the state average.
4. Demonstrate fiscal accountability with an approved budget following required budget processes and meeting district requirements and GaDOE accountability measures or SCSC Comprehensive Performance Framework for operations.
5. Demonstrate history of serving students with disabilities in accordance with IDEA requirements and Georgia law regarding serving children with disabilities, considering the percent of students receiving Special Education and related services, and English language learners.
6. Demonstrate compliance with Georgia Open Meetings Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et. Seq) and Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et. seq) requirements.

Permissible Subgrant Activities

All requested budget items must be reasonable, necessary, allowable, and allocable as defined in the Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200). All costs must be justified for the specific purposes of this CSP grant, be one time and nonrenewable, necessary to complete grant objectives, supported with justification for reimbursement, and aligned with state and federal law.

Federal non-regulatory guidance indicates “If the charter school can show that the state or local funds it has received are necessary to meet expenses other than the one at issue, then the charter

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 5 Fall 2025

school has met its burden of showing that the ‘other initial operations costs’ cannot be met from state or local sources and, therefore, is allowable under the CSP grant.” Costs incurred must be one-time in nature, obligated during the grant project period, correlated to a grant objective, and may not include ongoing operational costs.

An applicant receiving a subgrant under this program may use the subgrant funds only for allowable activities as defined in the ESSA Section 4303(h):

1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying the costs associated with—
 - a. Providing professional development; and
 - b. Hiring and compensating, during the eligible applicant’s planning period specified in the application for subgrant funds that is required under this section, one or more of the following:
 - (i) Teachers.
 - (ii) School leaders.
 - (iii) Specialized instructional support personnel.
2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials).
3. Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).
4. Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.
5. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.
6. Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to the activities described in this RFA when such costs cannot be met from other sources.

Note: Personnel expenses are only permitted during the Planning period for new and replicating schools.

Please see the Allowable Cost Guide for more detailed information.

Subgrantees must comply with the general cost principles set forth in federal regulations, 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 74.27 and 34 CFR Section 80.22, and the Office of Management and Budget circulars that are applicable. CSP subgrantees must develop and use written procurement / contract administration policies and procedures that conform to applicable federal and state standards when awarding contracts with federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) funds. All grant recipients will be required submit these policies and procedures to the SCSF upon subgrant award. Goods and services paid for with CSP funds must be selected through an open and fair procurement process.

Regulations and Guidance

The following are additional resources for federal guidance related to the CSP program:

- U.S. Department of Education (ED) Charter Schools Program (CSP) Nonregulatory Guidance: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/nonregulatory-guidance.html>
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/08/08/00-19653/omb-circular-a-21-cost-principles-for-educational-institutions>
- Uniform Guidance: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1>
- This may also be helpful: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/uniform-guidance/index.html>

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 6 Fall 2025

- CSP ESSA Flexibilities FAQ document: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/CSP-ESSA-Flexibilities-FAQ-2017.pdf>

Definitions

Federal Definitions

1. Charter School ESEA § 4310 (2) - The term “charter school” means a public school that—
 - a. In accordance with a specific State statute authorizing the granting of charters to schools, is exempt from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools, but not from any rules relating to the other requirements of this paragraph;
 - b. Is created by a developer as a public school, or is adapted by a developer from an existing public school, and is operated under public supervision and direction;
 - c. Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives determined by the school’s developer and agreed to by the authorized public chartering agency;
 - d. Provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or both;
 - e. Is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution;
 - f. Does not charge tuition;
 - g. Complies with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.12101 et seq.), section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C.1232g) (commonly referred to as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”), and part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
 - h. Is a school to which parents choose to send their children, and that: admits students on the basis of a lottery [see Appendix 1], consistent with section 4303(c)(3)(A), if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated; or ii. In the case of a school that has an affiliated charter school (such as a school that is part of the same network of schools), automatically enrolls students who are enrolled in the immediate prior grade level of the affiliated charter school and, for any additional student openings or student openings created through regular attrition in student enrollment in the affiliated charter school and the enrolling school, admits students on the basis of a lottery as described in clause (i);
 - i. Agrees to comply with the same Federal and State audit requirements as do other elementary schools and secondary schools in the State, unless such State audit requirements are waived by the State;
 - j. Meets all applicable Federal, State, and local health and safety requirements;
 - k. Operates in accordance with State law;
 - l. Has a written performance contract with the authorized public chartering agency in the State that includes a description of how student performance will be measured in charter schools pursuant to State assessments that are required of other schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school; and
 - m. May serve students in early childhood education programs or postsecondary students.
2. Developer ESEA § 4310 (5) - The term “developer” means an individual or group of individuals (including a public or private nonprofit organization), which may include teachers, administrators and other school staff, parents, or other members of the local community in which a charter school project will be carried out.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 7 Fall 2025

3. Expand ESEA § 4310 (7) - The term “expand”, when used with respect to a high-quality charter school, means to significantly increase enrollment or add one or more grades to the high-quality charter school.
4. Replicate ESEA § 4310 (9) - The term “replicate”, when used with respect to a high-quality charter school, means to open a new charter school, or a new campus of a high-quality charter school, based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school, under an existing charter or an additional charter, if permitted or required by State law.

High-quality Charter School ESEA § 4310 (8) - The term “high-quality charter school” means a charter school that—

- a. shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong student academic growth, as determined by a State;
- b. has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;
- c. has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for all students served by the charter school; and
- d. has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for each of the subgroups of students, as defined in section 1111(c)(2), except that such demonstration is not required in a case in which the number of students in a group is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

Georgia CSP Subgrant Definitions

1. New Charter School - For the purposes of this CSP Subgrant opportunity, a new charter school is defined as a new start-up school that did not previously exist and is authorized to operate, as evidenced by a charter secured within the 18 months prior to submission of the application. New charter schools that have received another CSP subgrant for the start-up of a new charter school will not be eligible for this CSP subgrant opportunity.
2. Expansion - For the purposes of this CSP Subgrant opportunity, an expansion is the addition of a grade band or enrollment cap increase of at least 100 students as evidenced by a charter contract amendment or as a part of a charter contract renewal approved or effective within the 24 months prior to submission of the application. Grade bands include K-5, 6-8, 9-12. A school adding at least three grades in elementary or high school shall be considered eligible if the authorizer approved a partial grade band expansion.
3. Educational Service Providers - Schools choosing to engage a for-profit or nonprofit educational service provider (ESP) or educational management organization (EMO) or charter management organization (CMO) must demonstrate that they and their governing boards are independent of the provider, and that all fees and agreements are fair and reasonable. The ESP, EMO, or CMO does not qualify as an eligible applicant nor may it hold or manage a subgrant awarded to a school. Schools must exercise special care to ensure that a direct representative of the applicant school, independent of the ESP, EMO or CMO, is identified to administer the grant, as required per 34 CFR 74.40-48, 75.524-525, and 80.36 (procurements) and articulated in the federal CSP January 2014 Nonregulatory Guidance. Contracts between schools and ESPs will be subject to review as part of the application and eligibility processes per ESEA § 4303 (f)(1)(C)(i)(I).
4. Priority Communities - For the purposes of this CSP Subgrant, priority communities include the following: communities with no other charter schools serving the same grade band in a ten-mile radius, including rural communities; census tracts designated as low-income; communities with low-performing public schools according to CCRPI; and areas outside of Greater Atlanta.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 8 Fall 2025

Application and Scoring

Applications must be submitted through the SCSF's Grant Portal by the grant deadline. Applications will not be considered if they are submitted after the deadline, in a format other than the one required, and/or submitted outside of the portal.

The SCSF Grant Portal can be found online at FindaGaCharter.org. To request the application in a different format for purposes of accessibility, please email csp@scsc.georgia.gov.

A committee of representatives from the SCSF, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, and Georgia Department of Education will establish subgrant application procedures. Applications will be reviewed by the SCSF team for eligibility and completeness. A team of three trained, qualified, independent reviewers will score each application based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Possible Score
Responsiveness to community need - Applicants should provide evidence of community engagement and outreach. Applicants proposing to expand or replicate in an area of high charter school concentration must demonstrate community need for the unique model. All applicants must present a comprehensive needs analysis as a part of their application demonstrating local support, benefits to the community, evidence of the demand, and demographic projections (supporting a new charter school). Applicants will be rated based on the completeness of their analysis, benefit to the local community, and likelihood to achieve enrollment goals. Applicants should also describe ongoing effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies.	30
Growth mindset – Applicants should demonstrate their willingness to engage in open, transparent conversations with the SCSF and technical assistance providers and to welcome feedback with an open mind.	10
Commitment – Applicants must demonstrate their willingness and capacity to adhere to conditions of any subgrant awards and carry out the goals they set for the subgrant. Applicants must agree to attend all mandatory technical assistance opportunities, submit all required reports, and participate fully in monitoring activities.	10
Readiness – Applicants must demonstrate their readiness to plan for and carry out the opening of a new charter school, replication of an existing charter school, or expansion of an existing charter school. For new schools, the evaluation team will seek evidence of adequate planning and qualified team members to carry out the academic model approved in the charter and sound operations. For replications and expansions, the evaluation team will review current and historical academic and operational performance, eligibility for expansion or replication, and mitigating factors.	10
Racial and Socio-economic Diversity – All applicants must explain how they will establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student population and endeavor to recruit faculty and staff who are	10

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 9 Fall 2025

similarly diverse. If an applicant is proposing a location in a segregated/isolated community and/or offers a culturally-responsive educational model, this requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Selection Committee.	
Budget quality & financial sustainability – Applicants should present a complete grant budget that adheres to the allowable cost guide and meets the objectives of the CSP SE Grant. Reviewers will look for adequate rationale in the budget narrative for each budget category and sufficient detail to demonstrate that the applicant has a realistic plan for utilizing subgrant funds within the grant period. Applicants should demonstrate a plan for maintaining financial sustainability after the end of the subgrant period.	30
Total Possible Points	100
<i>Priorities – Bonus Points</i>	
Location in a priority community	10
Offering high school grade band	10
Collaboration with a local public school or district to share resources and/or otherwise serve vulnerable populations	5

Subgrants shall be awarded based on fund availability and application score. Applications must receive a minimum score of 70 points before consideration for priority bonus points and a minimum score of 80 for subgrant consideration. Subgrant application scores may not be appealed.

Subgrant Application Process

1. Charter schools / networks submit subgrant applications through SCSF Grant Portal.
2. SCSF staff review applications for eligibility.
3. CSP Team reviews applications for completeness.
4. SCSF staff assign applications for assessment to reviewers.
5. Reviewers analyze and score subgrant applications.
6. SCSF convenes reviewers to align and review significant discrepancies in scoring.
7. SCSF staff total scores from reviewers and rank applications by score.
8. CSP Team develops list of recommended subgrant awards. Subgrant applicants are notified.
9. SCSF Board of Directors votes on subgrant awards based on CSP Team recommendations.
10. Applicants are notified of subgrant awards / non-award via email and message through the SCSF Grant Portal.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 10 Fall 2025

CSP Subgrant Application*(for information only – applications must be submitted through the SCSF Grant Portal)*

Applicant Information	Type of Response
Name of Charter School	<i>text</i>
School Identifier (NCES ID) if known	<i>text</i>
Authorizer	<i>text</i>
Authorization Date (or approval for expansion)	<i>date</i>
Eligibility for CSP Subgrant (new school, replication, expansion)	<i>drop-down selection</i>
Proof of Approved Expansion (expansion applicants only)	<i>file upload</i>
Grant Supplement(s) Requested (rural/priority community, high school)	<i>drop-down selection</i>
Priorities Claimed (location, high school, collaboration)	<i>drop-down selection</i>
Total Funds Requested (not to exceed \$2,000,000)	<i>auto calculation</i>
School Opening Date / Date of Expansion	<i>year</i>
Name of Nonprofit Entity	<i>text</i>
Name of LEA	<i>text</i>
LEA Identifier (NCES District ID)	<i>text</i>
Applicant Address	<i>text</i>
School Address (approved or proposed location of new/replicated school or expansion site)	<i>text</i>
School/Network Website	<i>website address</i>
Management Organization Type (Freestanding, Non-Profit CMO, For-Profit EMO, Educational Service Provider)	<i>drop-down selection</i>
School Year Students First Enrolled or Expected to Enroll	<i>text</i>
Virtual Status (fully virtual, primarily virtual, supplemental virtual, not virtual)	<i>drop-down selection</i>
Does/will the school use a weighted lottery?	<i>text</i>
Grant Contact	<i>text</i>

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 11 Fall 2025

Contact Title	<i>text</i>
Contact Email Address	<i>email address</i>
Contact Phone Number	<i>phone number</i>
Grades Offered during Grant Term (36 months from date of application)	<i>checkboxes</i>
Projected Number of Students for First Three Years of Operation/Expansion (by year)	<i>number of students per year</i>
Are current governing board members listed on the school's website? If no, provide an attachment with a list of board members.	<i>drop-down selection</i>
Has the applicant school notified the charter school authorizer of intent to apply for this CSP subgrant?	<i>drop-down selection</i>
Copy of letter of intent to authorizer that the applicant is applying for a CSP SE subgrant	<i>file upload</i>

Narrative

1. Please describe how the autonomy and flexibility granted to the charter school is consistent with the definition of a charter school in ESEA § 4310 (2).
2. Please briefly describe how the applicant school/network will utilize CSP Subgrant funds and why these funds are necessary to meet the school's goals. Separate activities by Planning and Implementation subgrant periods.
3. Please describe how the applicant school/network is responding to community need and will use effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies. Include the following:
 - a. A description of the needs analysis the school completed and the results.
 - b. Information on the applicant charter school's projected student enrollment, and evidence to support the projected enrollment based on the needs analysis and other relevant data and factors, such as the methodology and calculations used.
 - c. A description of how the school is soliciting and considering input from parents and members of the community.
 - d. A description of how the school will use effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies in the preopening stage and after the school is open.
 - e. An analysis of the applicant charter school's demographics:
 - i. The applicant charter school's projected student demographics.
 - ii. A description of the demographics of students attending public schools in the local community in which the charter school would be located and the school districts from which the students are, or would be, drawn to attend the charter school.
 - iii. A description of how the applicant charter school plans to establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student body, including proposed strategies (that are consistent with applicable legal requirements) to recruit, admit, enroll, and retain a diverse student body.
 - iv. If the applicant charter school is unlikely to establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student body because the charter school

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 12 Fall 2025

would be located in a racially or socio-economically segregated or isolated community, or due to the charter school's specific education mission, the school must describe:

1. Why it is unlikely to be able to establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student body at the proposed charter school;
 2. How the anticipated racial and socio-economic makeup of the student body would promote the purposes of the CSP to provide high-quality educational opportunities to all students, which may include a specialized educational program or mission; and
 3. The anticipated impact of the proposed charter school on the racial and socio-economic diversity of the public schools and school districts from which students would be drawn to attend the charter school.
4. Please explain how the applicant school/network will demonstrate a growth mindset throughout the subgrant term.
 5. Please explain how the applicant school/network will commit to the CSP subgrant agreement and meet the requirements and objectives of the CSP subgrant. Identify the person(s) or position(s) who will be responsible for CSP subgrant activities, including reporting, procurement/purchasing, bookkeeping, accounting, and recordkeeping of expenditures.
 6. Please explain the applicant school/network's readiness for opening, replicating, or expanding. Briefly describe how the applicant school/network is assembling a team and ensuring the school is prepared.
 7. Please describe how the applicant school/network will establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student population and endeavor to recruit faculty and staff who are similarly diverse.

Budget

Complete the budget spreadsheet in the SCSF Grant Portal. (Sample provided.)

Budget Narrative

Provide a budget narrative that includes the following:

- An explanation for each proposed expenditure including amount of funds, justification for the expenditure, and description of each activity. The order of expenditures described in the budget narrative must correspond to the line-item sequence in the budget spreadsheet.
- Details about how the applicant school/network will maintain financial sustainability after the end of the subgrant period.

For New School and Replication Subgrants:

- Provide details on budgeted items during the Planning versus the Implementation period. The Planning period is up to 18 months prior to the school's opening, and the Implementation period starts on the day the school opens. See the Allowable Cost Guide.

Other Information Submitted via Upload to Grant Portal

1. Please upload the applicant school/network's recruitment and enrollment policy and procedures. The SCSF must approve the recruitment and enrollment policy. See the weighted lottery policy at the end of this RFA.

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 13 Fall 2025

- a. If the school is proposing use of a weighted lottery, please include the weighted lottery policy. Consistent with section 4303(c)(3)(A) of the ESEA, a charter school may weight its lottery to give slightly better chances for admission to all or a subset of educationally disadvantaged students¹ if State law does not prohibit the use of weighted lotteries in favor of such students. Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066(1)(a)(2015)) allows charter schools to give educationally disadvantaged students more weight in a charter school's lottery. A reasonable person must be able to conclude that any weight given to the subset of students is only slightly better than that given to other students. See the Weighted Lottery Policy attached to this RFA for more details.
- b. The enrollment policy must include details on any preferences allowed in the enrollment process. Georgia state law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2066) permits enrollment preferences in specified circumstances. Schools applying for a CSP subgrant are permitted to use the following enrollment preferences (20 U.S.C. 7221b(b)(3)(I) and 7221i(1)(E), (G), and (H)), which vary from those permitted by Georgia law:
 - i. Students who are enrolled in a public school at the time it is converted into a public charter school;
 - ii. Students who are eligible to attend, and are living in the attendance area of, a public school at the time it is converted into a public charter school;
 - iii. Siblings of students already admitted to or attending the same charter school;
 - iv. Children of a charter school's founders, teachers, and staff (so long as the total number of students allowed under this exemption constitutes only a small percentage of the school's total enrollment); and
 - v. Children of employees in a work-site charter school, (so long as the total number of students allowed under this exemption constitutes only a small percentage of the school's total enrollment).
2. Please upload the applicant school's retention and discipline policy.
3. Please upload the how the applicant school has/will meet the educational needs of all students, including children with disabilities and English learners. For replication and expansion applicants, upload the percentage of students with disabilities and English learners have been served over the last three (3) years by the applicant school.
4. Please upload the charter contract with the authorizer and/or other document that includes the performance measures agreed to by the authorizer and school.
5. Please upload the applicant school's transportation plan.
6. Please upload the following information about any relationships with a CMO/EMO, as applicable:
 - a. A document describing the roles and responsibilities of the applicant school/network, partner organizations, and charter management organizations, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities of such partners.
 - b. A copy or description of the CMO/EMO contract including the name and contact information of the management organization; the cost (i.e., fixed costs and estimates of any ongoing costs or fees), including the amount of CSP funds proposed to be used toward such cost, and the percentage such cost represents of the school's overall funding; the duration of the contract; roles and responsibilities of the management organization; and steps the applicant will take to ensure that it pays fair market value

¹ *Educationally disadvantaged student* means a student in one or more of the categories described in section 1115(c)(2) of the ESEA, which include children who are economically disadvantaged, children with disabilities, migrant students, English learners, neglected or delinquent students, homeless students, and students who are in foster care ([2022 Notice of Final Priorities](#)).

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 14 Fall 2025

- for any services or other items purchased or leased from the management organization, makes all programmatic decisions, maintains control over all CSP funds, and directly administers or supervises the administration of the grant in accordance with 34 CFR 75.701.
- c. A description of any business or financial relationship between the charter school developer/founding group and the management organization, including payments, contract terms, and any property owned, operated, or controlled by the management organization or related individuals or entities that will be used by the charter school;
 - d. The name and contact information for each member of the governing board of the charter school and a list of the management organization's officers, chief administrator, or other administrators, and any staff involved in approving or executing the management contract; and a description of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including financial interests, and how the applicant will resolve any actual or perceived conflicts of interest to ensure compliance with 2 CFR 200.318(c);
 - e. A description of how the applicant will ensure that members of the governing board of the charter school are not selected, removed, controlled, or employed by the management organization and that the charter school's legal, accounting, and auditing services will be procured independently from the management organization;
 - f. An explanation of how the applicant will ensure that the management contract is severable, severing the management contract will not cause the proposed charter school to close, the duration of the management contract will not extend beyond the expiration date of the school's charter, and renewal of the management contract will not occur without approval and affirmative action by the governing board of the charter school; and
 - g. A description of the steps the applicant will take to ensure that it maintains control over all student records and has a process in place to provide those records to another public school or school district in a timely manner upon the transfer of a student from the charter school to another public school, including due to closure of the charter school, in accordance with section 4308 of the ESEA.

Additional Information for Replication & Expansion Applicants

1. Please describe how the applicant school meets the federal definition of "high-quality" as described under ESEA § 4310 (8). The applicant must demonstrate evidence of strong academic results, no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial and operational management, or statutory or regulatory compliance. Include a narrative about how the applicant meets the definition and provide supplemental documentation. The evidence of a high-quality charter school must include one or more of the following:
 - a. State charter school has met expectations in all areas under the State Charter Schools Commission's Comprehensive Performance Framework (CPF) for at least three (3) of the four (4) previous years.
 - b. Locally-commissioned charter school has met authorizer expectations as described in the charter contract for academics and operations for at least three (3) of the four (4) previous years. The applicant must upload evidence of meeting authorizer standards, which may include copies of reports, screenshots of performance matrices, and/or a letter from the authorizer.
 - c. Locally-commissioned charter school has CCRPI metrics and/or Milestones results demonstrating high-quality academics for students. The SCSF must approve the evidence submitted and may request additional information.
2. Please verify that the applicant school has not received a subgrant under this CSP grant (through the SCSF) for a 5-year period unless the applicant can prove three (3) years of

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 15 Fall 2025

improved educational results for enrolled students. Evidence of improved educational results may be uploaded.

3. Please upload the applicant school's approved budget and minutes for approving the budget (or link to minutes posted online).
4. Please upload policies for compliance with Georgia Open Meetings Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et. Seq) and Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et. seq) requirements. Provide links to the applicant school's website for meeting information and instructions for making open records requests.

Priorities (Optional)

1. Location: Provide details of the location or proposed location of the applicant school. Please include a map showing proximity to other charter schools, evidence of a rural designation, and/or other evidence to meet the definition of a priority community as described in Definitions.
2. High School: Indicate if the applicant school has been approved to offer high school (at least three grades or more in the high school grade band of 9-12) in the approved charter contract or amendment approving an expansion from the authorizer.
3. Collaboration with Local Districts: Please provide the following information regarding any proposed collaborations between district(s) and the charter school. (applicable for Implementation only):
 - a. Describe each member of the collaboration and whether the collaboration would be a new or existing commitment;
 - b. State the purpose and duration of the collaboration;
 - c. Describe the anticipated roles and responsibilities of each member of the collaboration;
 - d. Describe how the collaboration will benefit one or more members of the collaboration, including how it will benefit students or families affiliated with one or more members and lead to increased or improved educational opportunities for students, and meet specific and measurable, if applicable, goals;
 - e. Describe the resources members of the collaboration will contribute; and
 - f. Include any other relevant information.
 - g. Guarantee that within 120 days of receiving a subgrant award or within 120 days of the date the collaboration is scheduled to begin, whichever is later, subgrant recipient will provide evidence of participation in the collaboration (which may include, but is not required to include, an MOU).

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 16 Fall 2025

Assurances (*for information only – use version on SCSF Grant Portal*)

All CSP Subgrant Applicants must agree to the requirements and conditions the subgrant and CSP program. The Board Chair should initial each statement below and sign and date at the conclusion of the document. A final grant application will be considered incomplete and will not be accepted if it does not include the Statement of Assurances for the federal Charter School Program Grant.

1. ____ Application grant contact (charter school authorized representative) possesses the legal authority to apply for this grant on behalf of the school. If the grant contact is not the chair of the governing body (due to conflict of interest), a resolution or motion has been adopted by the applicant's governing body directing and authorizing the grant contact the delegated responsibility to act on their behalf to submit this application, including all understanding and assurances of certifications contained herein, to execute the grant, if approved, to comply with certifications, budget, and fiscal requirements, and act as the governing body's authorized official for the grant program. The grant contact has no conflict of interest with any party (employee, management organization, contractor, vendor, etc.) that has a financial interest in the grant award.
2. ____ The applicant school certifies that they understand an approved charter application and a signed charter contract are required to be eligible for an award.
3. ____ Applicant school agrees to annually provide the U.S. Secretary of Education and the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia such information as may be required to determine if the charter school is making satisfactory progress toward achieving objectives described in this application (The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, Title V, Part B, Subpart 1 — Public Charter Schools Section 5203(b)(3)).
4. ____ Applicant school agrees to participate in all CSP Subgrantee data reporting and evaluation activities as requested or required by the U.S. Department of Education, the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia, State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, and Georgia Department of Education, including on-site and desktop monitoring conducted by the SCSF or SCSC, annual independent audits required by the state that are publicly reported and include financial statements prepared with generally accepted accounting principles, annual reports, and a final expenditure report for the use of subgrant funds. This section includes participation in any federal or state funded charter school research or evaluations. Failure to submit required information may result in a withholding of grant funds or a non-renewal of subsequent year funding within the project period. Audits must also be submitted to the authorizer for review.
5. ____ The applicant school assures that they have provided their authorizer with "adequate and timely notice" of this grant application (as required by ESEA §4310 (6)(B)).
6. ____ The applicant school per ESEA §4303 (f)(1)(C)(i)(II), certifies that the Charter Contract from the authorizer articulates that student achievement and growth, as measured by the state's School Performance Framework, is one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school's charter contract, and that the authorizer reserves the right to revoke or not renew a school's charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school, or if not included agree to amend the Charter Contract accordingly to include these before award monies are distributed. The applicant school will provide a copy of the charter contract, and the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia will review the contract to ensure that student achievement is one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the charter.
7. ____ The applicant school certifies that it will maintain a high degree of autonomy, consistent with the charter contract and the requirements of ESEA § 4310 (2) and ESEA § 4303 (f)(2)(A), including the school's autonomy over budget, operations, and personnel

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 17 Fall 2025

decisions, and that they have sought, or will seek, all the appropriate automatic and non-automatic state waivers, and any necessary district waivers, to support the level of autonomy negotiated in their charter contract.

8. ____ The applicant school shall include important information on the website of the school, as required by ESEA § 4303 (f)(2)(G), to help parents and the community to make informed decisions about the education options available to their children, including information on the educational program, student support services, parent contract requirements (including any financial obligations or fees and information regarding textbook assistance), and enrollment criteria. This section requires the school to also provide annual performance, including the State Report card, and enrollment data for the student body and subgroups of students on its website.

Signature: _____xxx_____ Date: _____xxx_____

Name: _____xxx_____ Title: _____xxx_____

Charter School/Network: _____xxx_____

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 18 Fall 2025

State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia

2022 Charter School Program (CSP) State Entity (SE) Grant

Weighted Lottery Policy

- I. The State of Georgia permits charter schools to provide educationally disadvantaged students an increased chance of admission through a weighted lottery. See O.C.G.A. 20-02-2066(a)(1)(A).
- II. Educationally disadvantaged students are as follows:
 - a) Students with disabilities are students who qualify for IDEA services.
 - b) Migrant students are students younger than 22, who have not graduated from high school, and do not have a high school equivalency certificate. The student is also a migrant agricultural worker or has a parent, spouse, or guardian who is a migrant and has moved from one school district to another within the last 36 months to obtain agricultural work.
 - c) Limited English proficient students are students who qualify for English Language Learner services from the school.
 - d) Neglected and delinquent students are those who have been adjudicated delinquent or determined to be neglected by a juvenile court.
 - e) Homeless youth are defined by McKinney Vento. Homeless youth refers to youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children who are sharing housing due to losing housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; living in motels, hotels, or trailer parks due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; or awaiting foster care placement. It also includes children who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, standard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
 - f) Economically disadvantaged is a student whose family lives below the poverty line, qualifies for free or reduced lunch, or whose family qualifies for federal benefits including SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicare, or PINS.
- III. A subgrantee of the 2022 Charter School Program State Entity (CSP) grant through the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia ("subgrantee") must develop weighted lottery procedures and receive written approval of the procedures from the SCSF and its authorizer prior to implementation. The SCSF must approved the weighted lottery and any changes made to the weighted lottery during the CSP subgrant term. The SCSF may not approve all or part of the weighted lottery, in accordance with federal regulations, during the term of the CSP subgrant, even if the weighted lottery has been approved by the authorizer. The subgrantee must make the weighted lottery policy publicly available during the term of the subgrant. The procedures must:
 - a. Explain how use of a weighted lottery is part of a broader strategy that includes fulfillment of existing responsibilities related to outreach, recruitment, and retention of all students, including educationally disadvantaged students, and is within the scope and objectives of the subgrantee's CSP grant;
 - b. Detail the subset of educationally disadvantaged students to which the weighted lottery will apply;

Georgia – FY22 CSP SE Grant RFA p. 19 Fall 2025

- c. Clarify that the weighted lottery is consistent with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act, and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- d. Reference the formula or criteria used to determine the weight;
- e. Ensure that the resulting weight provides the educationally disadvantaged subset of students with only a slightly better¹ chance of admission than other students;
- f. Describes the planned timeline and/or schedule for use of the weighted lottery; and
- g. Specifies whether there is a cap on the percentage of available seats that will be offered via a weight.

¹ A reasonable person must be able to conclude that any weight given to the subset of students is only slightly better than that given to other students.

Georgia Strategic Charter School Growth Initiative

Implementation Budget Categories
Cafeteria
Facility
Instruction
Library
Networking
Operations
Other
Playground/PE
Security
Planning Budget Categories
Personnel
Cafeteria
Facility
Instruction
Library
Networking
Operations
Other
Playground/PE
Security



Allowable Cost Guide for CSP Subgrants

Revised August 30, 2024

Item	Allowable During Planning	Allowable During Implementation	Not Allowable
Animals			X
Athletic Equipment & Uniforms			X
Books - Hard Copy & Digital (instruction, operations, library, etc.)	X*	X	
Building or Land Purchase or Facility Finance Expenses			X
Cafeteria Supplies & Equipment	X*	X	
Clothing			X
Communications (website, marketing, advertising, print materials - no promo items)	X	X	
Computers & Electronic Devices (instruction, administration, operations, library, etc.)	X*	X	
Construction			X
Consulting / Service Provider Fees - start-up only (not ongoing)	X	X	
Consumable Supplies			X
Debt Service or Collection			X
Employee Benefits			X
Equipment (instruction, operations, library, etc.)	X*	X	
Extracurricular Activities & Programs			X
Fencing/Landscaping			X
Field Trips			X
Food & Beverages			X
Fundraising Expenses			X
Furniture (instruction, administration, library, operations, cafeteria, etc.)	X*	X	
Gifts / Incentives / Awards			X
Installation Costs (equipment or technology)	X*	X	
Instructional Supplies (not consumable)	X*	X	
Insurance & Bond Premiums - start-up only (not ongoing)	X	X	
Lease Costs for Equipment / Supplies – start-up only (not ongoing)	X	X	
Lobbying Expenses			X
Ongoing Costs			X
Playground Equipment – cannot be permanently affixed	X*	X	
Professional Development & Conferences (including registration/fees, travel, school visits, etc.)	X	X	
Printers & Copiers (instruction, administration, operations, library, etc.)	X	X	
Promotional Items (including but not limited to shirts, pens, branded rugs, etc.)			X
Recurring Costs			X
Rent / Facility Payments (must have approval)	X		
Renovations / Facility Improvements (necessary items only, see note below)	X*	X	
Salary for Essential Employees (no benefits or payroll taxes)	X		
Security Supplies & Installation (see note below)	X*	X	
Software – start-up only (instruction, administration, operations, library, etc.)	X	X	
Student Transportation – start-up only (not ongoing)	X*	X	
Student Uniforms			X
Utility Costs			X

This list is intended to be a guide for subgrantees to identify allowable costs for CSP subgrant awards in Georgia. This is not an exhaustive list, and the State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia will determine allowability through the budget approval and grant payment processes.

All expenditures using CSP funds must follow federal cost principles - allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary. Although an expenditure may be "allowable," the SCSF may not approve the expense if it does not meet the other principles. **Costs should be one-time, start-up expenses for the project being funded and not recurring costs.** Cost must supplement and not supplant existing funding, and items may not be "consumable." For questions, please email csp@scsc.georgia.gov.

Notes:

- Expenses marked with a * during the Planning Period may require evidence of approval of the school facility by the authorizer or approval from the authorizer for an on-time school opening prior to encumbrance of the expenditure.
- CSP funds may not be used for permanently-affixed equipment or property improvements. However, CSP funds may be used to carry out *necessary* renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).
- CSP funds may not be used for food or drinks, except for payment of a per diem according to GSA travel policies for pre-approved travel.
- CSP funds may not be used to purchase consumable items, which are items that have a one-time use and/or are disposable in nature.
- CSP subgrantees must consult with the SCSF prior to using CSP funds for any property fixtures (including but not limited to renovations, facility repairs, security installations, etc.).
- CSP subgrantees must establish federal grant procurement and purchasing policies and procedures in accordance with federal regulations, which shall include clear policies and procedures for seeking competitive bids and documenting approval for purchases prior funds being expended.
- Any contract without an end date will be considered an ongoing cost and, therefore, not allowable.
- Equipment (any item \$5,000 or more) must be removable and not permanently affixed to the facility.
- Supplies (any item under \$5,000) may be purchased in any category but may not be consumable in nature.
- Professional development and conferences must be related to grant goals. Subgrantees must adhere to federal GSA Travel Policies and per diem rates when using CSP funds, regardless of local travel policies. Subgrantees must provide an agenda and attendee list for each professional development opportunity and certify that no closer / less expensive opportunities were available and/or the reason for selecting an in-person opportunity over a virtual option.

Coversheet

Staff Recommendation: Approve Amended SCSC FY26 Budget to Add CSP Funds

Section:	V. CSP SE Grant Action Items
Item:	C. Staff Recommendation: Approve Amended SCSC FY26 Budget to Add CSP Funds
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Action_Item_-_Amended_FY26_Budget_Rec.pdf



**State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia Action Item – Staff
Recommendation**

Item Summary
Adoption of the Amended SCSC FY 2026 Budget

Recommendation
SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC adopt the Amended FY 2026 budget to accept \$8,488,888 of Charter School Program grant funds the SCSC has received from the U.S. Department of Education.

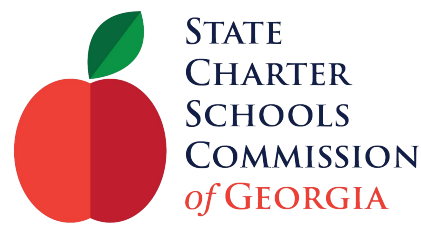
Rationale
The SCSC staff recommends adopting the amended FY 2026 budget as presented.

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

Coversheet

Movement School Athens: Charter Surrender

Section:	VII. Charter Contract Action Items
Item:	A. Movement School Athens: Charter Surrender
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Movement_School_Athens_Surrender.pdf



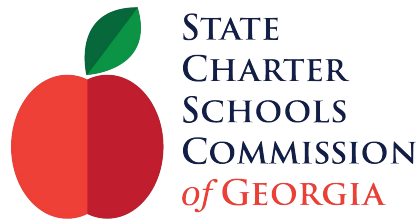
State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia
Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Charter Surrender – Movement School Athens
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC accept the surrender of the Movement School Athens charter contract, as requested by the Movement School Athens governing board.
Rationale
On July 26, 2023, the SCSC approved a petition for the operation of Movement School Athens as a state charter school. Movement School Athens was scheduled to begin operations in August 2024, but deferred its opening until August 2025 and then again to August 2026. Both deferrals were related to the school’s difficulty in finding a suitable facility. On November 7, 2025, the governing board notified the SCSC that it surrendered its charter contract for the operation of Movement School Athens.
Strategic Plan Alignment
Objective: Develop and maintain a strong internal foundation that aligns with and supports the SCSC's mission and vision

Coversheet

Excelsior Village Academies: Attendance Zone Expansion

Section:	VII. Charter Contract Action Items
Item:	B. Excelsior Village Academies: Attendance Zone Expansion
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	Excelsior_Attendance_Zone_Amendment.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Amendment – Excelsior Village Academies (Attendance Zone)

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the charter contract of Excelsior Village Academies to expand the school's attendance zone.

Rationale

Excelsior Village Academies is requesting to amend its attendance zone to add Rockdale County School District. The school has experienced increasing demand for enrollment from families in Rockdale County, a district that is less than half a mile from the school. Therefore, the school would like to provide an opportunity for interested families outside of the school's current attendance zone to increase school choice in the community.

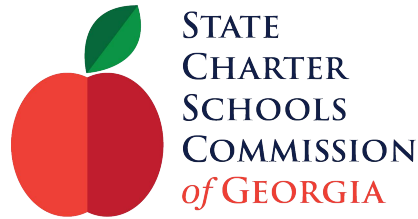
Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase charter school choice in communities with few or no options.

Coversheet

Spring Creek Charter School: Enrollment Limit Increase & Non-Profit Entity

Section:	VII. Charter Contract Action Items
Item:	C. Spring Creek Charter School: Enrollment Limit Increase & Non-Profit
Entity	
Purpose:	Vote
Submitted by:	
Related Material:	SCCA_Enrollment_Max___Nonprofit_Amendment.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Amendment & Novation Agreement – Spring Creek Charter Academy (Enrollment Maximum & Nonprofit Transfer)

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve a novation agreement to transfer all rights, duties, and obligations under the current charter contract from Pataula Charter Academy, Inc. to Spring Creek Charter Academy, Inc. and to amend Spring Creek Charter Academy's charter contract to revise the school's enrollment requirements to a minimum of 450 students and a maximum of 800 students.

Rationale

Spring Creek Charter Academy is requesting to amend its enrollment cap in preparation for the construction of its permanent facility. Beginning in FY28, the school plans to add one additional class each year.

In addition, Pataula Charter Academy, Inc. seeks to transfer all rights, duties, and obligations under Spring Creek Charter Academy's charter contract to a newly formed entity, Spring Creek Charter Academy, Inc. Currently, Pataula Charter Academy, Inc. holds the charter for both its original campus, Pataula Charter Academy, and its replication campus, Spring Creek Charter Academy. While this unified governance model has supported the effective operation of both schools, the governing board has determined that separating the two into distinct corporate entities is necessary primarily for facility financing.

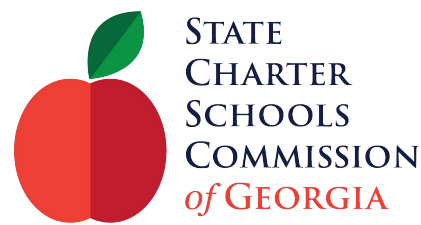
Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Increase the number of academically superior state charter schools.

Coversheet

Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy: Extend Charter Term (1-Year Deferral)

Section: VII. Charter Contract Action Items
Item: D. Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy: Extend Charter Term (1-Year Deferral)
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: 1-yr_Extension_Amendment_Rec.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Action Item – Staff Recommendation

Item Summary
Charter Amendment – Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy (contract extension)
Recommendation
SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the Liberation Academy, Miles Ahead Charter School, PEACE Academy and ZEST Preparatory Academy charter contracts to extend the contract terms by one year.
Rationale
The nonprofit boards that hold the charter contracts for each of these schools are requesting a one-year extension of their charter terms. These schools were initially scheduled to open in the Fall of 2022 but deferred their opening by one year. As such, the schools’ current charter contract term only allows four operational years until renewal. To allow adequate performance data for renewal consideration, SCSC staff recommend extending the charter contract terms by one year.
Strategic Plan Alignment
Objective: Develop and maintain a strong internal foundation that aligns with and supports the SCSC's mission and vision.