



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

State Charter School Commission of Georgia Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM EST

Location

SCSC Board Room

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

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

Virtual Access:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84427916648?pwd=Sb7CtaC1vb3hWrKWFyQFAa4GCXlh2.1>

Meeting ID: 844 2791 6648

Passcode: 965938

Phone Access: 646-931-3860

Agenda

Purpose

Presenter

I. Opening Items

Purpose Presenter

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Approve Minutes

Approve Minutes

Approve minutes for Rescheduled Board Meeting on December 10, 2025

D. Officer Elections

Vote

Mike Dudgeon

II. Division Reports

A. Executive Director

Discuss

Donovan Head

- Legislative Update

B. New Schools Division

Discuss

Kristen Easterbrook

- FY26 Start-up Petition Reminders

III. State Charter Schools Commission - Action Items

A. School Closure Grant Application

Vote

Kristen Easterbrook

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the SCSC Closure Support Grant as presented (SCSC Rule 691-3-.01).

B. SCSC Budget Amendment - Add FY26 CSP Budget

Vote

Michele Neely

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners amend the FY 2026 SCSC budget by the amount of \$4,501,509 in Charter School Program grant funds (federal) for the purpose of funding subgrantees, providing technical assistance and administrative costs.

IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items

A. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Atlanta SMART Academy

Vote

Katie Manthey

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Atlanta SMART Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school serving grades K-8.

- | | Purpose | Presenter |
|--|---------|---------------------|
| <p>B. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Liberty Tech Charter School</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Liberty Tech Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.</p> | Vote | Katie Manthey |
| <p>C. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Northwest Classical Academy</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Northwest Classical Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.</p> | Vote | Katie Manthey |
| <p>D. Charter Renewal Recommendation: SLAM Academy</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for SLAM Academy of Atlanta by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated three-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.</p> | Vote | Katie Manthey |
| <p>E. Charter Contract Amendment: Atlanta Heights Charter School</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the charter contract of Atlanta Heights Charter School to expand the school’s attendance zone.</p> | Vote | Erin Wright |
| <p>F. Charter Contract Amendment - Rocky Creek Charter Academy</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the Rocky Creek Charter Academy charter contract to extend the contract term by one year.</p> | Vote | Erin Wright |
| <p>G. Charter Surrender - Zest Preparatory Academy</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners accept Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School’s request to terminate its charter contract effective June 30, 2026, in accordance with State Charter Schools Commission Rule 691-2-.04(4).</p> | Vote | Erin Wright |
| <p>H. FY25 Petition Denial Recommendation - Soar Discovery Charter Academy</p> <p>SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners deny the petition for Soar Discovery Charter Academy.</p> | Vote | Kristen Easterbrook |

V. Public Comment

Purpose Presenter

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Vote

Coversheet

Approve Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for Rescheduled Board Meeting on December 10, 2025
2026_01_23_board_meeting_minutes.pdf

DRAFT



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

Rescheduled Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday December 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Location

SCSC Board Room

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

Virtual Access Information

[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, C. Good, L. Millan (remote), M. Dudgeon, 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 Dec 10, 2025 at 10:06 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from September Board Meeting on 09-24-25.

Approved by consent.

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

II. Governance Items

A. 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar

The commissioners approved the 2026 board meeting schedule by consent. Meetings will occur on the following dates in 2026:

- **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.

III. Rulemaking Action Items

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

S. Sweeney made a motion to Approve the staff recommendation as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

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

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

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

C. Good seconded the motion.

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

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

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

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

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

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

B. Scafidi made a motion to table the action item indefinitely.

L. Millan seconded the motion.

Chairman Dudgeon recommended that we establish a working group comprising a diverse range of stakeholders to further discuss this rule. Although the feedback was thoughtful, Chairman Dudgeon and Commissioner Scafidi noted the need for more information to support the rule.

Commissioner Millan agreed with the previous commissioner statements. She noted that concerns appear when a board lacks the capacity to oversee the ESP.

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

IV. Policy Action Items

A. Staff Recommendation: Adopt Revised SCSC Governance Training Policy

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve the motion as presented.

C. Good seconded the motion.

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

B. Staff Recommendation: Approve SCSC Emergency School Operations Grant

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

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

The Chairman mentioned that the definition of the emergency circumstances in the previous operations grant was the subject of concern. Thus, clarification is helpful. Commissioner Scafidi asked whether the SCSC had sought feedback on this policy. The Senior Director of School Support & Outreach responded that, because this is a policy rather than a rule change, there was no public comment period.

Chairman Good noted that this grant is not available more than once in a two-year time span, without advance approval. She wants to ensure that schools understand this component of the grant.

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

V. CSP SE Grant Action Items

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

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.

B. Scafidi seconded the motion.

At Chairman Dudgeon's request, the Senior Director for School Support and Outreach explained that the State Charter Schools Foundation had initially applied for the grant and had been operating for the last few years. The State Charter Schools Foundation and State Charter Schools Commission chose to transfer the grant to the State Charter Schools Commission to consolidate processes and supports.

The application for the grant award was submitted this summer and was approved on Friday, December 4, 2025. The staff is fully prepared to implement the grant at the commission.

Chairman Dudgeon added that this transfer will enable efficiencies by eliminating duplicated efforts and allow all state charter school stakeholders to work in the same direction.

This transfer includes over \$12.5 million of awards requested and awarded during the transfer period. It will support tutoring and CTAE. An additional grant waiver request is pending US. Ed. consideration. If approved, it will dramatically reduce administrative costs for all entities.

Commissioners applauded the Senior Director for School Support & Outreach's efforts in getting the grant approved.

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

B. Staff Recommendation: Approve CSP SE Subgrant Awards

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

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

- Cherokee Classical Academy (Dr. James Keller, Director of Public Programs, Grants, and Revenue) thanked the SCSC for the grant award. Noting that the school is already open, with a waitlist of 450 students. The school has achieved great community engagement through multiple events, including Curriculum Night. It has purchased the building and plans to make updates to the campus in the future.
- Academy for Innovation in Medicine (AIM) (Dr. Kristi Beam) will open July 29, 2026. She thanked the SCSC for enabling the school to open and serve its community through access to CSP funds. The funds will ensure that students can be equipped with what they need from day one.
- Christine Keck (Meliora School) expressed that she was honored to be granted this award. She recognized the team that had supported her and the school during this phase. She thanked the SCSC for believing in the school.
- Northwest Georgia Charter School (Cassie Potts, Co-Founder and Board Secretary) thanked the SCSC for awarding the school the maximum amount available to the school.

Chairman Dudgeon congratulated Tapestry on their award. He noted that we are addressing needs that have long been identified.

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

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

This item was removed from the agenda for future discussion by the Chairman.

VI. Division Reports

A. Finance Division

All charter schools submitted their FY25 audits on time. Commissioner Dudgeon thanked commissioners for getting tough on audit submissions. He noted that it appears to be working. Vice Chairman Good celebrated all schools meeting the deadline, noting that this has always been the expectation.

B. Research & Evaluation

The Director of Research & Evaluation noted that we received CCRPI data a month earlier than last year. The team has already calculated academic scores for renewal schools; however, they are still awaiting the release of additional data from GaDOE.

The additional data is not expected to impact renewal considerations.

Renewal recommendations will be sent to schools on February 11. The Commission will vote on these recommendations at the February SCSC meeting.

C. Office of Charter School Compliance

The Senior Director for the Office of Charter School Compliance (OCSC), Allen Mueller, noted the efforts the SCSC has been making to streamline charter petition processes statewide.

He noted that we have already streamlined the petition submission process. We have now further streamlined the evaluation process by gaining SBOE approval for a Local Charter Performance Framework (LCPF). The LCPF was made possible through intense collaboration with the OCSC and staff across SCSC divisions, including Robert Watts (New Schools) and Annie Chen (Finance).

Later this month, the OCSC will present additional recommendations to the State Board of Education.

Commissioner Dudgeon expressed excitement about the movement on these items.

VII. Charter Contract Action Items

A. Movement School Athens: Charter Surrender

B. Scafidi made a motion to approve motion as presented.

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

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

B. Excelsior Village Academies: Attendance Zone Expansion

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

S. Sweeney seconded the motion.

Michele Flowers from Excelsior Village Academies thanked the SCSC for considering its request. The expansion represents access to opportunities for families seeking this type of education.

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

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

S. Sweeney made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented.

B. Brockway seconded the motion.

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

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

Motion to approve as presented.

Chairman Dudgeon inquired about the possibility of automating these types of amendments. The General Counsel agreed to look into this inquiry.

The Vice Chair asked about the timing of these extensions. The Director of New Schools noted that these schools were part of the pre-opening cohort in which the SCSC initiated its enrollment verification process.

As a result of the enrollment verification process, several start-up schools deferred their opening due to concerns about low enrollment.

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

VIII. Executive Director Comments

A. SCSC Staff

The Executive Director recognized two staff promotions:

- Molly Gassman was promoted from School Support & Outreach Specialist to School Support & Outreach Manager.
- Guin Jones was promoted from Petitions Coordinator to Petitions Specialist.

The Executive Director thanked Annie Chen and Molly Gassman for their continued work on the Charter School Program (CSP) grant.

IX. 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 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon

DRAFT



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Minutes

SCSC Board Meeting

Winter Policy Retreat

Date and Time

Friday January 23, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Location

Technical College System of Georgia
1800 Century Place NE, Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

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

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

None

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 Friday Jan 23, 2026 at 9:12 AM.

II. Review Renewal Criteria

A. Renewal Criteria

The Director of Research and Evaluation provided an overview of the SCSC renewal criteria.

B. Review Renewal Values, Process, and Timeline

The Director of Research & Evaluation provided an overview of the SCSC renewal values.

III. School Performance & Recommendations

A. Atlanta SMART Academy

The Director of Research & Evaluation presented information on the charter school's performance and discussed staff's preliminary recommendations.

B. Liberty Tech Charter School

The Director of Research & Evaluation presented information on the charter school's performance and discussed staff's preliminary recommendations.

C. Northwest Classical Academy

The Director of Research & Evaluation presented information on the charter school's performance and discussed staff's preliminary recommendations.

D. SLAM Academy of Atlanta

The Director of Research & Evaluation presented information on the charter school's performance and discussed staff's preliminary recommendations.

IV. School Updates

A. Staff Report

The Executive Director, Director of New Schools, and Director of Research & Accountability responded to commissioner questions about the operating status of various state charter schools and discussed next steps.

V. Review - Approved Petition Rubric

A. Staff Report

The Director of New Schools and the Senior Director of the Office of Charter School Compliance (OCSC) reviewed the statewide petition rubric with the commissioners and addressed their questions.

VI. Budget Tracking Update

A. Staff Report

The Deputy Executive Director and Senior Director of Finance presented the SCSC internal budget-tracking spreadsheet and answered questions.

VII. 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 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Dudgeon

Coversheet

School Closure Grant Application

Section: III. State Charter Schools Commission - Action Items
Item: A. School Closure Grant Application
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Board Action Item- Closure Grant.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Approve the SCSC Closure Support Grant as presented.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the SCSC Closure Support Grant as presented (SCSC Rule 691-3-.01).

Rationale

The SCSC Closure Support Grant provides the SCSC an opportunity to offer financial support to state charter 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. The description and application provide clear eligibility and scoring criteria for consideration of any grant award.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Disseminate research and guidance to all stakeholders on best practices in charter schooling.



SCSC Closure Support Grant

2-25-2026

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SCSC Closure Support 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 Closure Support Grant is designed 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.

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.

Closure Support Grant applications will be made available 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.

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 following the termination of the charter contract.

SCSC Closure Support Grant Application p. 2

Eligibility

State charter schools that have surrendered their charter contract or whose charter contract has been suspended, terminated, or non-renewed by the SCSC Board of Commissioners are eligible to apply.

Permissible Grant Activities and Expenditures

Permissible grant activities and expenditures include the following:

- The continuation of instruction and essential services to students throughout the remainder of the academic year.
- Assistance to complete essential closure-related tasks as outlined in the SCSC’s Closure Guide, including but not limited to records transfer, data sign-off, and asset redistribution.
- Other activities deemed essential by the SCSC to support the effective winddown of school operations.
- The SCSC must approve the final grant budget and allowable expenditures after grant award prior to the expenditure or reimbursement of funds.

Prohibited grant activities and expenditures include the following:

- Paying down any debts or outstanding obligations that the school may have accrued;
- 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;
- Salary bonuses, increases, or severance fees to staff;
- Subgrants to other entities;
- Goods or services for personal use; or
- Any other use not consistent with state law or regulation.

Application Scoring

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

Criteria	Possible Score
<p>Statement of Need: The Statement of Need clearly describes the school’s position and how a lack of funds will impact the school’s ability to provide a safe learning environment for the duration of the school’s operational period and to wind down operations in accordance with the SCSC’s Closure Guide. There is compelling evidence that the situation is urgent and in the best interest of students.</p>	20
<p>Evaluation of Current Financial Position: The school’s supplemental financial submissions support the overall statement of need. The school can substantiate that it has exhausted other financial avenues to support closure obligations prior to requesting grant funds.</p>	20

SCSC Closure Support Grant Application p. 3

Activity Description: Activities directly address requirements in the SCSC’s Closure Guide. A plan to carry out the activities with a timeline and responsible parties is included.	20
Budget Description and Narrative: The budget is detailed, and expenses are reasonable, allowable, and necessary to meet grant objectives. The narrative provides an explanation for budget line items that connects to the activities described.	20
TOTAL	80

Awards shall be considered based on fund availability and application score. Applications must receive a minimum score of **50** points to be considered for a grant award. A score of 50 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 Closure Support Grant Application p. 4

SCSC Closure Support Grant Application

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

Narrative Responses

Statement of Need

Provide a description of the need for grant funds. The explanation should describe how the funds will support the school's ability to provide a safe learning environment for the duration of the operational period and the wind-down of school operations in accordance with the SCSC's Closure Guide.

Evaluation of Current Financial Position

Provide a description of the school's current financial position. Details should align with the grant's required supplemental financial submissions and support the overall request. The description should substantiate that the school has exhausted other financial avenues to support closure obligations prior to requesting grant funds.

SCSC Closure Support Grant Application p. 5

Description of Activities <i>Describe the activities your school would undertake with this grant. Explain how the activities are necessary to maintain a safe learning environment for students and support closure obligations.</i>
Additional Information <i>Provide any additional information for the reviewers to consider about this grant application.</i>

Budget

Provide a budget to support the grant goals the school is proposing. All expenditures must directly support the school’s ability to provide a safe learning environment for the duration of the school’s operational period and ability to wind down operations in accordance with the SCSC’s Closure Guide.

Item Description <i>Use a separate line for each type of expenditure (i.e., digitizing records, staff salaries, contractor expenses). Include the name of the vendor if known.</i>	Cost
TOTAL	\$

*Total must match the amount requested on page 1.

SCSC Closure Support Grant Application p. 6

Budget Narrative

Provide an explanation for each proposed expenditure, including the 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 table.

Other Information Required

1. Attach bank statements for the prior three (3) months.
2. Attach financial statements for the prior three (3) months.
3. Attach any supporting documentation that may assist reviewers. (optional)

SCSC Closure Support Grant Application p. 7

State Charter Schools Commission Closure Support Grant Assurance

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 Closure Support Grant ("Grant"). If approved, the Charter School will be obligated to comply with these terms and conditions through issuance of a Grant Award Notice.

_____ 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 Grant Term.

_____ 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 Closure Support Grant Application p. 8

_____ 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 until expiration of the charter contract.

_____ 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. § 16-1020.

These assurances are agreed to by:

_____ Date
Charter School Leader

_____ Date
Governing Board Chairperson

Coversheet

SCSC Budget Amendment - Add FY26 CSP Budget

Section: III. State Charter Schools Commission - Action Items
Item: B. SCSC Budget Amendment - Add FY26 CSP Budget
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Board Action Item - Amended FY26 Budget Rec- CSP.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Adoption of the amended SCSC FY 2026 Budget

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners amend the FY 2026 SCSC budget by the amount of \$4,501,509 in Charter School Program grant funds (federal) for the purpose of funding subgrantees, providing technical assistance and administrative costs.

Grant Financial Details

Grant Recipients: State Charter Schools

Funding Source: Federal

Grant Period for Recipients: December 3, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Rationale

The SCSC staff recommend adopting the amended FY 2026 SCSC budget with federal funds as presented.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Objective: Maintain high standards of transparency by publishing academic, organizational, and fiscal accountability data for all state charter schools.

Coversheet

Charter Renewal Recommendation: Atlanta SMART Academy

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: A. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Atlanta SMART Academy
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: ATL SMART Renewal Rec 2026.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Atlanta SMART Academy

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Atlanta SMART Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school serving grades K-8.

Rationale

Atlanta SMART is completing its first five-year charter contract. The school met the eligibility requirements for a standard five-year renewal by outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend for a majority of the current charter term and in the most recent year, and by meeting or approaching financial and operational standards for at least 50 percent of the charter term and in the most recent year.

All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



Atlanta SMART Academy

Attendance Zone	Statewide
Grade Levels Served	5-8
Total Enrollment	202
Year Opened	2021-2022

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	DNM	MEETS	MEETS	EXCEEDS
FIN	90	90	80/60	90/85
OPS	50	68	73	90

Atlanta SMART Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2026.

Renewal Position

School Model: The mission of Atlanta SMART Academy (Atl. SMART) is to use science, math and the arts to build innovative solutionists. Innovation solutionists are students who can apply knowledge in order to propose multiple researched, supported and well thought answer to a problem. The school utilizes project-based learning with a focus on advanced science and math that includes daily arts instruction. Additionally, the school offers an longer school year calendar and four extended days and one shortened day a week.

Academic Performance: Atlanta SMART has shown steady academic growth each year of its charter term, improving from a “Does Not Meet” designation in its first year to a “Meets” in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. In the 2024-2025 school year, the school demonstrated strong academic growth in the elementary grade band, including a 22-point increase in Content Mastery and a 32-point increase in Progress. The school’s elementary grade band outperformed its School Comparison across all measures, including a 10-point outperformance in Grade Band Score. This, paired with a relatively steady performance in the middle grade band, earned the school an Exceeds designation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Financial Performance: Atlanta SMART met financial standards in the first two years of operations but then saw a decline in FY24 due to a reduction in unrestricted days' cash on hand after the one-time \$775,000 ESSER III – APR Grant was no longer available. In FY25, Atlanta SMART returned to meeting financial standards. Atlanta SMART also received a clean audit for FY25, further demonstrating its efforts to improve financial performance.



Operational Performance: Atlanta SMART struggled to meet operational standards but has consistently improved each year, earning a “Meets” designation for the 2024-2025 school year for the first time since opening. In 2024-2025, the school received three findings in operations monitoring, which were remedied to regain compliance. The school’s continued improvement in the school’s operational score suggests Atlanta SMART is on the right track to achieve strong operational performance.

Coversheet

Charter Renewal Recommendation: Liberty Tech Charter School

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: B. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Liberty Tech Charter School
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Liberty Tech Renewal Rec 2026.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Liberty Tech Charter School.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Liberty Tech Charter School by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale

Liberty Tech Charter School is completing its second five-year charter contract. The school met the eligibility requirements for a standard five-year renewal by outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend and by meeting financial and operational standards in all years of the charter term.

All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



Liberty Tech Charter School

Attendance Zone	Statewide
Grade Levels Served	K-8
Total Enrollment	416
Year Opened	2016-2017

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	MEETS	MEETS	EXCEEDS	EXCEEDS
FIN	95	100	100/95	95/80
OPS	98	92	85	92

Liberty Tech Charter School is completing its second five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2026.

Renewal Position

School Model: The mission of Liberty Tech Charter School (Liberty Tech) is "to educate students with a project-based learning environment utilizing STEAM & classical methodologies." The school implements a Classical/STEM hybrid curriculum and utilizes a House System in grades 7 and up to learn about college and career readiness skills, receive mentoring, and establish a sense of belonging.

Academic Performance: Liberty Tech has met academic standards every year since opening, and in the two most recent school years, it exceeded those standards. The school generally outperforms in both grade bands served and across CCRPI measures. In 2024-2025, the school outperformed its Comparisons across all measures and grade bands, including 10+ point outperformances in Content Mastery.

Financial Performance: Liberty Tech has maintained strong financial performance for eight consecutive years, consistently meeting near-term and sustainability fiscal standards. The school received a clean audit in FY25. Over the past three years, SCSC reviews have noted recurring challenges in meeting federal financial requirements, particularly in maintaining accurate inventory records. Despite these challenges, Liberty Tech's overall financial performance remains solid.

Operational Performance: Liberty Tech has met operational standards for the past seven years. In the 2024-2025 school year, the school received two findings during monitoring, which it remedied to regain compliance. Overall, the school has a proven track record of strong operational performance.

Coversheet

Charter Renewal Recommendation: Northwest Classical Academy

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: C. Charter Renewal Recommendation: Northwest Classical Academy
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Northwest Classical Renewal Rec 2026.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for Northwest Classical Academy.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for Northwest Classical Academy by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute a five-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale

Northwest Classical Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract. The school met the eligibility requirements for a standard five-year renewal by outperforming the schools its students would otherwise attend for a majority of the current charter term and in the most recent year, by meeting financial standards in all years, and by meeting or approaching operational standards for at least 50 percent of the charter term and in the most recent year. All evidence indicates that the school will continue to operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



Northwest Classical Academy

Attendance Zone	Statewide
Grade Levels Served	K-11
Total Enrollment	789
Year Opened	2021-2022

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	MEETS	MEETS	APP	MEETS
FIN	100	100	100/80	85/85
OPS	69	74	80	98

Northwest Classical Academy is completing its first five-year charter contract, which runs from July 2021 to June 2026.

Renewal Position

School Model: The mission of Northwest Classical Academy (NCA) is “to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich curriculum that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility.” The school implements an educational program focused on a Classical/traditional liberal arts education model, literacy skills built through phonics, grammar, and Latin instruction, a content-rich curriculum that builds critical cultural literacy in all grades, and an emphasis on civic responsibility and virtue as the focus of culture and thematic analysis.

Academic Performance: NCA met academic standards in the first two years of the charter term by outperforming the District Comparison score in the elementary grade band and outperforming both the District and School Comparison scores in the middle grade band. NCA approached standards in the 2023-2024 school year, performing on par with its Comparisons. The school also began serving High School in the 2023-2024 school year, for which it performed close to its Comparisons across measures, including a 2-point outperformance of its District Comparison in Content Mastery.

In the 2024-2025 school year, NCA met academic standards by outperforming its Comparison scores in Content Mastery, Progress, and Grade Band Score in both elementary and middle grades. In High School, NCA outperformed the District Comparison in Content Mastery.

Financial Performance: NCA has consistently met financial standards since its opening by meeting near-term and sustainability fiscal measures and demonstrating appropriate oversight and management. The school’s scores declined slightly in FY25. NCA lost points on Indicator 1 due to an elevated debt-to-asset ratio. The higher ratio was driven by a significantly higher lease liability due within one year. However,



NCA received a clean audit for FY25, reflecting solid internal controls, and the school continues to maintain strong financial performance.

Operational Performance: NCA has consistently improved its operational CPF score every year. While the school struggled to meet operational standards in its first two years, it received a “Meets” designation for the 2023–2024 school year. This is largely due to the school's continued improvement in SCSC operations monitoring. In 2024-2025, the school only received one finding in SCSC monitoring and remedied it to regain compliance. The continued improvement in the school’s operational score suggests it is on the right track to maintain strong operational performance.

Coversheet

Charter Renewal Recommendation: SLAM Academy

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: D. Charter Renewal Recommendation: SLAM Academy
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: SLAM Renewal Rec 2026.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia [02, 25, 2026], Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Renewal Recommendation for SLAM Academy of Atlanta.

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve the renewal application for SLAM Academy of Atlanta by authorizing the SCSC Chair to execute an abbreviated three-year charter contract for the operation of a state charter school.

Rationale

SLAM Academy of Atlanta is completing a probationary two-year charter contract. The school met the financial and operational standards for renewal by earning a “Meets” designation in both sections for the two most recent years of the charter term.

In those same years, SLAM Academy of Atlanta earned a “Varied” designation in academics. The “Varied” designation indicates that a school met standards in one grade band but not the other. In the most recent year for which data are available, it outperformed the comparison score in the elementary grade band but not in the middle grade band. Seventy-five percent of student enrollment is in grades K-5, indicating that the majority of students are receiving a better educational option.

All evidence indicates that, with an additional three years, the school will continue to improve its middle grades performance, operating as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC’s mission and the educational goals of Georgia.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.



SLAM Academy of Atlanta

Attendance Zone	Atlanta Public Schools and South Fulton County
Grade Levels Served	K-8
Total Enrollment	317
Year Opened	2018-2019

Historical Track Record of Performance

Section	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ACA	APP	Varied	Varied
FIN	60	90/85	90/90
OPS	77	82	86

SLAM Academy of Atlanta is completing its second charter term, which runs from July 2024 to June 2026. The school was previously renewed in the 2023-2024 cycle for a two-year probationary charter term.

Renewal Position

School Model: SLAM Academy of Atlanta’s (SLAM) mission is to provide an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning environment that motivates all students to be the best they can be in and out of the classroom and prepares them for future success. The school offers standards-driven core content instruction using sports-themed scope and sequence derived through a partnership with the SLAM Foundation, Inc. The elementary (K-5) program will incorporate STEM, project-based learning, and a computer science course. The secondary (6-8) program focus will offer a career-oriented model to generate student interest and preparation for sports-related fields.

Academic Performance: SLAM did not meet Academic standards in the final year of its first charter contract and thus earned a probationary two-year contract at renewal. During this time, the school has been required to submit benchmark academic data to SCSC staff. For most of its current charter term, the school’s middle-grade band has comfortably outperformed its comparison group, led by strong CCRPI Progress scores. Roughly 75% of students served, however, are in the elementary grade band. In this grade band, SLAM did not outperform its Comparison in either 2022-2023 or in 2023-2024, though its Content Mastery score has trended upwards.

CCRPI results for 2024-2025 reflect the ongoing academic improvement in the elementary grade band, in which the school outperformed its Comparison in both Content Mastery and Progress. This year’s improvement earned the school recognition as a “CSI Growth School” by GaDOE. However, the middle



school slightly underperformed relative to its Comparison, due to a slight dip in Content Mastery and a significant dip in Progress, as well as a slight uptick in the School Comparison's performance. This earns the school a "Varied" designation for the 2024-2025 school year.

Financial Performance: SLAM has met financial standards for FY24 and FY25. Previously, the school struggled in various areas, including the annual ratios of debt to income and debt to assets under indicator 1. SLAM also struggled with its enrollment variance, meeting the LUA manual, and managing the inventory list under indicator 2. However, by the 2024–2025 monitoring period, SLAM has successfully addressed most of these concerns and received a clean audit for FY25. The October 2025 FTE data collection shows that SLAM's enrollment exceeded its projection, so the school will receive additional state funding when the amended FY26 budget is passed, which should increase its cash reserves. Overall, the financial improvements SLAM has made in FY24 and FY25 reflect the school's commitment to improving its stability and stronger financial management.

Operational Performance: After struggling for a couple of years, SLAM met operational standards again in the 2023-2024 school year. Starting in 2022-2023, the school has consistently improved in SCSC monitoring. The school received three findings during SCSC monitoring in 2024-2025; however, it remedied two of them to regain compliance. The continued improvement in the school's operational score suggests SLAM is on the right track to achieve a strong operational performance.

Coversheet

Charter Contract Amendment: Atlanta Heights Charter School

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: E. Charter Contract Amendment: Atlanta Heights Charter School
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Board Action Item- AHCS Amendment.attendance zone.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Amendment – Atlanta Heights Charter School (Attendance Zone)

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the charter contract of Atlanta Heights Charter School to expand the school's attendance zone.

Rationale

Atlanta Heights Charter School is requesting to amend its attendance zone to add Fulton County School District, Cobb County School District, and Clayton County School District. The school has seen an increased demand for enrollment from families in these school districts and would like to enhance school choice in the communities.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.

Coversheet

Charter Contract Amendment - Rocky Creek Charter Academy

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: F. Charter Contract Amendment - Rocky Creek Charter Academy
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Board Action Item- RCCA Amendment.1yr extension.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Amendment – Rocky Creek Charter Academy (contract extension)

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the Rocky Creek Charter Academy charter contract to extend the contract term by one year.

Rationale

Hephzibah Charter Foundation, Inc., the non-profit board that holds the charter contract for Rocky Creek Charter Academy, is requesting to extend the school's charter contract term by one year. The school was initially scheduled to open in the Fall of 2023 but deferred its opening by one year. As such, the school's current charter contract term only allows the school four operational years until it is up for renewal. To allow adequate performance data for renewal consideration, SCSC staff recommend extending the charter contract term by one year.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.

Coversheet

Charter Surrender - Zest Preparatory Academy

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: G. Charter Surrender - Zest Preparatory Academy
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Board Action Item- Zest Prep Charter Surrender.pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Charter Surrender – Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School

Recommendation

In accordance with State Charter Schools Commission Rule 691-2-.04(4), the SCSC staff recommends that the State Charter Schools Commission accept Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School's request to terminate its charter contract effective June 30, 2026.

Rationale

On April 28, 2021, the SCSC approved a petition for the operation of Zest Preparatory Academy Charter School as a state charter school. Unfortunately, after careful review of its sustainability and long-term viability, the board for Zest Preparatory Academy requests that the SCSC accept its request for termination. If approved by the SCSC board, the school's charter contract will terminate effective June 30, 2026.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Improve public education throughout the State by authorizing high-quality charter schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in traditional district schools.

Coversheet

FY25 Petition Denial Recommendation - Soar Discovery Charter Academy

Section: IV. SCSC Schools - Action Items
Item: H. FY25 Petition Denial Recommendation - Soar Discovery Charter Academy
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: Board Action Item- Petition Denial (Soar).pdf



State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

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

Board Action Item | Staff Recommendation

Item Summary

Denial of State Charter School Petition for Soar Discovery Charter Academy

Recommendation

SCSC staff recommend that the SCSC Board of Commissioners deny the petition for Soar Discovery Charter Academy.

Rationale

The petition and information provided by Soar Discovery Charter Academy did not indicate that the school can operate as a high-quality charter school consistent with the SCSC's mission and the education goals of Georgia.

SCCS staff find that the petition and interview did not demonstrate:

1. The board's capacity to provide an academic program of the highest quality to increase student achievement and positive outcomes;
2. The school's ability to meet the diverse needs of students;
3. The board's capacity to operate a charter school in a fiscally sound manner; or
4. The charter school's ability to fulfill the responsibilities of operating as a Local Education Agency (LEA).

Strategic Plan Alignment

Authorizing schools that provide students with better educational opportunities than they would otherwise receive in the traditional schools to which they are zoned.