

CHARTER SCHOOL & DISTRICT SUPPORT

Kerry Pritchard & Allen Mueller

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Increased Support

The Division is moving in a new direction, providing more support and increasing responsiveness to, and collaboration with, charter schools, local districts, and other stakeholders.

We will be making changes in our team structure and focus moving forward. Some proposed areas of additional support are:

- Regular authorizer meetings and charter school meetings to discuss challenges and solutions
- Providing a primer/guide to effective authorizing

Increased Support (cont.)

- Providing a funding/allocation primer/manual
- Providing and updating a SPED primer for districts and charter schools
- Hosting best-practice-sharing events
- Training sessions and webinars on
 - Quality authorizing
 - Navigating the charter approval process
 - Local and national best practices
 - Charter/district collaboration

Support Updates

- GaDOE Finance and Budget Office's 2019 Financial Governance Training Session required for new *local* charter school board members is Wednesday, September 25, 2019, from 8:00-11:00 a.m. in Training Rooms A-C on the 10th floor of the West Tower.
- We are also offering this required training **by *webinar***.
- Register for this FREE training session at the [Financial Governance Training RSVP List for September 25, 2019](#) link on our webpage.

Support Updates

- GaDOE has drafted Guidance for review:
 - **Funding the Initial Years of a Local Charter School**
- Step-by-step, year-by-year guide describing best practice for ensuring new and growing local charter school monthly allocations remain as equitable as possible so:
 - Students will have their immediate needs met
 - Quality instructional staff can be timely hired and paid, and
 - Authorizers can support their charter schools.
- Begins with initial projections and uses projected enrollment.
- Adjusts allocations as usable enrollment data becomes available (e.g., after October FTE count).

Support Updates – Locally-approved Charter Schools

- Online Application Process (FluidReview) is in process and will rolled out later this year.
 - Work is now focused on the reviewer rubrics.
- Annual Charter Renewal Memo will be released in September.
- Work will begin this fall on the Local Authorizer Accountability Framework
 - Gathering feedback from local, state, and national stakeholders

Support Updates – Locally-approved Charter Schools

- GaDOE can participate in local district charter petition reviews.
 - This can shorten the timeline and reduce duplication of effort.
- GaDOE worked together with DeKalb County Schools last year and will work with them on their renewals this year.
 - DeKalb Preparatory Academy, International Community School, and Tapestry Public Charter School had a shorter renewal process because of this collaboration.
- Districts interested in trying this approach should contact Allen Mueller at amueller@doe.k12.ga.us

Flexibility Support Survey

- Expect a survey in next two weeks
 - Plan to share with school leaders, superintendents, and board chairs
 - Information requested will include needed support and services, barriers to success, your past experiences with the department.
 - We would welcome any and all feedback you can provide now.

Accountability

We have sought out maximum flexibility while creating a cohesive and aligned plan that is responsive to the feedback we received from educators, parents, students, business/industry representatives, and community members. We believe the resulting plan strongly supports our vision of *offering a holistic education to each and every child in the state*.

This plan captures the Georgia Department of Education's shifting role from one focused on *compliance* to one focused on *service* and *support*. It defines the Department's shared responsibility to expand opportunities and increase outcomes for students, in partnership with other state agencies, nonprofit and civic organizations, districts, schools, and communities.

At the center of the plan is a common framework of improvement that places the "Whole Child" at the center, thereby focusing and organizing the work of the Department and engaging partners in the improvement process. Indicators included in our accountability system go beyond just test scores, allowing us to capture a more holistic view of district and school performance. A more personalized approach is embodied in the state's long-term educational goals and accountability system, providing ambitious but attainable targets for groups of students, while rewarding schools that move students academically from one level to the next.

Accountability

“Whole Child” Focus

- Comprehensive Performance Framework
 - Offers multiple paths to success, accounting for different types of learners and students who learn at varying speeds
 - Year One is a hold-harmless year, giving new schools time to implement student-centered and innovative programs
 - Division focus on identifying challenges and providing support ensures that the focus is kept on students rather than on reporting and compliance
 - Allowing schools to access framework data directly through a dashboard pulling from the SLDS eliminates surprises, allowing focus to remain on students and classrooms rather than on GaDOE.

Accountability Updates

- Locally-approved Charter School Comprehensive Performance Framework
 - Approved by the SBOE for 12 local charter school renewals and one new local charter school approved in 2019 in Appendix A.
 - Includes Academic, Financial, Governance, and Legal Compliance Performance Standards and Goals.

Accountability Updates

- Comprehensive Performance Framework
 - Consequences include sharing with GaDOE and its local district a root cause analysis identifying the reason(s) for failure to achieve each Goal the charter school failed to meet, along with the targeted improvement plan it developed and implemented.
 - When GaDOE SBOE considers granting a charter school renewal petition approved by a local Board of Education, the school's success on achieving the Framework goals will allow for varying charter contract term lengths if approved by the local Board of Education.

Performance Framework

- Four Performance Standards
 - Academic
 - Financial
 - Governance
 - Legal Compliance

Academic Performance Standards

- Four Paths to Meeting Standards
 - School Performance Gap Closure
 - School-District Comparisons
 - School-Statewide Comparisons
 - VAM
 - BTO

Finance Performance Standards

- Demonstrate financial viability and stability.
- Timely submission of an unmodified external audit.

Governance Performance Standards

- Act in accordance with the Standards for Effective Governance of a Georgia Non-Profit School Governing Board
 - 10 Domains e.g. Policy Development, Governance, Board Meetings, Ethics.

Legal Performance Standards

- Implement all legal requirements included in federal and state law, rules, and regulations e.g., Georgia Open Meetings Act and open records requirement, Governing board members training requirements, Implementation of TKES and LKES, Implementing all Essential or Innovative Features.

Performance Framework

- **Next Steps on Locally-approved Charter Schools Comprehensive Performance Framework**
 - Feedback gathered from charter schools and local district authorizers.
 - Compilation of proposed changes and refinements.
 - Discussion groups to review final draft.
 - Submit for GaDOE internal review process and SBOE final approval.

Performance Framework

- **Next Steps on Charter System Comprehensive Performance Framework**
 - Feedback gathered from superintendents, principals, board members, parents, community partners.
 - Compilation of proposed changes and refinements.
 - Discussion groups to review final draft.
 - Submit for GaDOE internal review process and SBOE final approval.

How is the data collected?

How the data is collected

- Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA)
- District Improvement Plan (DIP)
- Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)
- Annual Audit Reports
- Teacher and Leaders Effectiveness Systems
- Charter School & Charter System Annual Reports (self-reporting/affidavit)
- Local Board Governance Training Reports

Framework Purpose

- The purpose of the framework is to provide transparency regarding expectations, to point out successes and areas where support might be needed.
- Still seeking input on the framework, we will send out a survey in the next two weeks requesting stakeholder feedback.
- We will take the time necessary to consider all constructive feedback and make necessary changes.
- We will take the time to get it right.

Accountability Updates

- Annual Report Forms will be released in September and is due on November 1, 2019
 - They will be shorter this year.
 - We will send out Accountability Reports to charter schools and charter systems in early 2020 using the new performance standards.

Additional Information

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