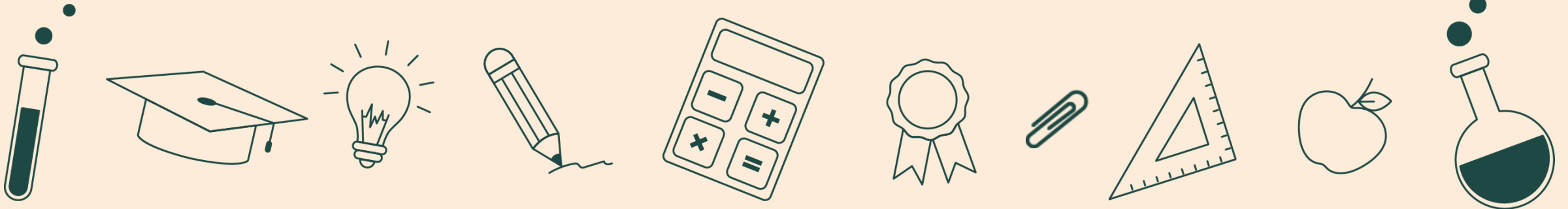




# Georgia Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

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# Code of Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizers



- In 2017-2018 legislative session, Governor Deal signed HB430 into law
- § **20-2-2063.3**. Code of principles and standards for charter school authorizers
  - Georgia Code Title 20 – Education, Chapter 2 - Elementary and Secondary Education, Article 31 - Charter Schools Act of 1998
- **Intent:** Encourage authorizer accountability and quality charter school authorizing practices



# § 20-2-2063.3 Part A

The State Board of Education (SBOE) and the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) shall jointly establish a code of principles and standards of charter school authorizing to guide local boards of education, the SBOE, and the SCSC in meeting high-quality authorizing practices. The principles and standards shall include:



1. Maintaining high standards for approving charter petitions;
2. Establishing high academic, financial, and operational performance standards for charter schools;
3. Annually monitoring, evaluating, and reporting charter school progress in meeting academic, financial, and operational performance standards,
4. Upholding charter school autonomy in school governance, instructional program implementation, personnel, and budgeting;
5. Protecting students and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations to all students; and
6. Protecting the public interest and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations of governance, management, and oversight of public funds.



# § 20-2-2063.3 Part B, C & D



1. The SBOE shall provide for the annual review of local boards of education by an independent party (that has demonstrated history of evaluating authorizer performance) for adherence to the principles and standards of charter school authorizing practices.
2. A charter school authorized by a local board of education that fails to meet the principles and standards of charter school authorizing on its annual evaluation for two consecutive years **may petition to transfer its charter authorization to the SCSC.**
3. In its discretion, the SCSC may approve a charter school petitioning for authorization pursuant to paragraph (2)

C. The SCSC shall ensure that its adherence to the principles and standards of charter school authorizing practices is annually reviewed by an independent body that has a demonstrated history of evaluating charter school authorizers for quality authorizing practices.

D. The SBOE shall provide for or approve training for its staff and local board of education members on the principles and standards of charter school authorizers.



# Standards Overview



In December 2021, the SBOE adopted the standards as drafted by the SCSC and GaDOE and following a period of feedback.

The standards are designed to evaluate Georgia charter authorizing bodies on authorizing practices and are informed by both the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) [\*Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing\*](#) and [Georgia laws](#) and rules.

Five (5) Core Categories:

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



# Evaluation Process



The SCSC partnered with NACSA to conduct a pilot evaluation of the SCSC on the principles and standards. The pilot was meant to provide the SCSC and the evaluation team (NCSA) with opportunities to improve and refine the process.

The evaluation process included the following:

- 1) Document Review
- 2) Site Visit to the SCSC
- 3) School Surveys
- 4) Authorizer Debrief and
- 5) Rubric Completion

A timeline is included that walks through each step in the 10-week process.



# Authorizer Ratings



Following the evaluation, every authorizer will be assigned an overall rating of:

- **Needs Improvement;**
- **Adequate;** or
- **Exemplary**

Districts in their first year of authorizing will receive a rating for each standard but will not receive an overall rating. Instead, they will be designated **First Time Authorizer (FTA)**. This allows new authorizers to develop and improve their practices before being subject to the consequences of receiving an overall rating of Needs Improvement.

The overall rating categories are established in SBOE Rule 160-4-9-.06 Charter Authorizers, Financing, Management, And Governance Training.

Evaluation distinguishes between [local and state authorizer obligations](#).



## Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

**Standard 4. Petition Review.** The authorizer conducts petition review in accordance with state requirements. The petition review includes an evaluation team of no fewer than three individuals with diverse expertise, with at least one of the individuals having charter school experience. For the review of local charter petitions at least one of the individuals on the evaluation team shall have local district administrative experience.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The petition evaluation team includes at least three individuals that have varied and relevant skills and backgrounds (i.e., education, finance, school governance, charter experience, trained in petition review or have completed a relevant training).	<b>Met.</b>	<b>Met.</b> The petition review team has significant legal and policy expertise. They reach out to programmatic experts on the team as needed. While the team is still missing strong education finance and facilities knowledge, they regularly leverage experts as outside reviewers.	N/A	<b>Y</b>
The authorizer publishes the petition evaluation criteria and the requirements for petition approval on the authorizer’s website.	<b>Met.</b> See <a href="#">Petition Evaluation Guide</a> .	N/A	87.5% (7/8) of respondents agreed with the statement, “I was provided access to petition evaluation rubrics and had a sufficient understanding of what was required to have my application approved”	<b>Y</b>
The review process includes an interview.	<b>Met.</b> Timeline shown <a href="#">here</a> . SCSC also provides <a href="#">Sample Interview Questions</a> to petitioners	N/A	N/A	<b>Y</b>
Petition review and interview process are free of conflict of interest.	<b>Met.</b>	N/A	100% (8/8) respondents agreed with the statement, “I believe the petition process was free from conflicts of interest.”	<b>Y</b>
	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating
Number of Criteria Met:	0-1	2-3	4	<b>EX</b>
<b>Evaluator Comments:</b>				





## Relevant Documents Table

<b>Authorizer Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year Established as Authorizer</li> <li>• Year first school opened</li> <li>• Authorizer Fee</li> <li>• Number of FTE staff</li> <li>• Number of Schools in Portfolio</li> <li>• Number of Schools Opening Next Year (if known)</li> <li>• Number of Students served by schools in portfolio</li> <li>• Percent of District/City/State (as applicable) Public Student Population</li> <li>• Portfolio demographic information: % economically disadvantaged, SpEd, Els</li> <li>• Link to list of current charter schools on authorizer's website – breakdown of number of schools managed by a CMO, EMO, virtual schools. Also include school type i.e., dropout recovery/Montessori/etc.</li> </ul>
<b>I. Authorizer Commitment &amp; Capacity</b>	<b>Relevant Documents</b>
<b>1. Human Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charter authorizer organizational chart to include currently filled and vacant positions and related job descriptions</li> <li>• Resumes or bios of all charter authorizer staff and related contractors</li> </ul>
<b>2. Financial Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorizer annual budget or documentation, with detailed line items indicating revenues and expenditures</li> <li>• Link to website where allotments sheets are published</li> </ul>
<b>II. The Petition Process</b>	<b>Relevant Documents</b>
<b>3. Petition Application</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the petition application for new schools</li> <li>• Documentation of the petition process, timeline, and directions</li> <li>• Link to petition liaison contact information on website</li> <li>• Link to application and application guidance on authorizer website</li> </ul>
<b>4. Petition Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bios/resumes of all individuals participating in the interview panel for the last 3 years</li> <li>• Written conflict of interest policy and signed affidavits by all interview panel participants</li> <li>• Description of petition review process to include related timelines and terms for granting interviews</li> <li>• Petition evaluation rubric</li> <li>• Interview schedule for the last 3 years including panel assigned to each interview</li> <li>• Link to where petition evaluation rubric can be found on authorizer's website</li> </ul>
<b>4. Petition Decisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of schools and petition decisions for the last 3 years (including one approval and one denial if available)</li> <li>• Copies of petition cycle recommendations from the last three application cycles</li> <li>• Copies of feedback provided to denied petitioners from the most recent application cycle</li> <li>• Petition scoring documents, comments and/or completed checklists</li> <li>• Copy of a recommendation email sent to petitioner</li> </ul>



# Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

## Evaluation Rubric

Authorizer Name: State Charter School Commission of Georgia

Evaluator Name(s): Morgan Powell (NACSA) & Rich Haglund (RH3 Consulting)

Date: January 2023

SUMMARY	RATING
Category I. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity	
1. Human Resources	EX (3/3)
2. Financial Resources	AD (3/3)
Category II. The Petition Process	
3. Petition Application	EX (4/4)
4. Petition Review	EX (4/4)
5. Petition Decisions	EX (4/4)
Category III. Performance Contracting	
6. Pre-Opening Period	EX (4/4)
7. Performance Standards	EX (6/7)
8. Contract Terms and Agreements	EX (6/6)
9. Authorizer Obligations	EX (2/2)
Category IV. Oversight and Evaluation	
10. Compliance Monitoring	EX (5/5)
11. Intervention	EX (4/4)
12. Upholds Charter School Autonomy	EX (2/2)
Category V. Renewal and Termination	
13. Renewal Process	EX (4/4)
14. Renewal Decisions	EX (4/4)
15. Closure/Termination	EX (1/1)
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>EX</b>

OVERALL RATING CRITERIA	
Rating	Criteria
Needs Improvement (NI)	Earned a majority NI (8 or more) across all standards
Adequate (AD)	Earned any combination of ratings across standards expect as designated for NI or E
Exemplary (EX)	Earned a majority E (8 or more) and no NI across all standards
First Time Authorizer (FTA)	Charter authorizer in its first year of authorizing





- Feel free to follow along.
- Use the QR code to go to the SCSC Authorizer Standards webpage.
- Download the Evaluation Tool.





# Category I. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity



# Authorizer Commitment & Capacity



1. Does the authorizer organize and retain a professional team with the subject matter expertise necessary to carry out the authorizer's obligations?
2. Does the authorizer manage financial resources to support charter and clearly communicate how funds are allocated to schools pursuant to Georgia law?



# Authorizer Commitment & Capacity



**Standard 1. Human Resources.** The authorizer identifies appropriate personnel to carry out its authorizing obligations, including the point(s) of contact who will coordinate charter school support.

*Example Criterion: Taken together, staff have adequate experience in charter authorizing or other relevant experience (e.g., education accountability, school funding and finance, education law and legal compliance).*



# Example A: Meets Criteria



The authorizer provided staff bios and resumes that demonstrated diverse expertise and cumulative depth of experience in charter authorizing and operations. School survey responses indicated satisfaction with the staff's ability to fulfill their authorizing function and support schools appropriately. The authorizer debrief confirmed the experience and capacity of the staff.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	School Survey	Site Visit	Authorizer Debrief	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Taken together, staff have adequate experience in charter authorizing or other relevant experience (e.g., education accountability, school funding and finance, education law and legal compliance).	Submitted documentation aligns with the standard.	Schools rated the authorizer highly.	Staff demonstrated a wide range of relevant experience.	The authorizer clarified any misconceptions.	Yes



# Example B: Does Not Meet Criteria



The authorizer did not provide current bios or resumes for all staff. The resumes provided were outdated and had only limited charter school or authorizing experience. It was not clear from the documentation how long each staff member had served on the authorizing team. School surveys reflected significant dissatisfaction with the staff. One school board member said, “it feels like we’re constantly having to train the authorizing staff on their jobs and what charter schools are.” The authorizer debrief did not allay any of the concerns manifested in the documentation review or school surveys.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	School Survey	Site Visit	Authorizer Debrief	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Taken together, staff have adequate experience in charter authorizing or other relevant experience (e.g., education accountability, school funding and finance, education law and legal compliance).	Submitted documentation was incomplete and did not meet the standard.	Schools rated the authorizer poorly.	Staffers could not speak to office policies or procedures.	The debrief did not provide any additional evidence to meet the standard.	No





# Example C: Meets Criteria



Current bios and resumes for all authorizing staff were submitted. The resumes showed deep education experience but limited charter school experience. School surveys were mixed regarding satisfaction with the staff's ability to fulfill their authorizing function. One respondent noted, "The authorizing office connects us to experts across the district to help us with specific needs like Federal Programs compliance." During the authorizer debrief, the staff explained how they work with experts across the district and showed an organization chart each authorizing team member uses to ensure regular communication with school district staff who support the charter schools.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	School Survey	Site Visit	Authorizer Debrief	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
Taken together, staff have adequate experience in charter authorizing or other relevant experience (e.g., education accountability, school funding and finance, education law and legal compliance).	Submitted documentation showed some relevant experience.	School satisfaction was mixed, but schools appreciate access to district experts for support.	Processes clearly outlined and staff were following them appropriately.	Staff explained how they rely on experts across the district to fulfill all functions.	Yes



# Evaluation Process: Guiding Questions



Using this comprehensive body of evidence and their professional judgment, evaluators determine a Yes/No designation based on whether the evidence indicates that the authorizer has demonstrated adherence to Georgia's Principles and Standards for Quality Authorizing.

1. Did the relevant documentation describe authorizing practices that are consistent with the evaluation criteria and quality authorizing standard?
2. Did the school survey responses support the authorizer's documented practices? In other words, is there a disparity between the authorizer's perception of how well it adheres to a standard and the perception of school board members or leaders regarding the same?
3. Did the authorizer's verbal commentary align with their documented processes and the relevant quality authorizing practice?
4. If the evaluators observed the authorizer in practice, did the authorizer's practices adhere to its stated procedures or policies?



# Authorizer Commitment & Capacity



**Standard 2. Financial Resources.** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2068.1 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2089, the authorizer allocates the required financial resources to support charter schools, treats charter schools no less favorably than other local schools within the system unless otherwise provided by law, and provides transparency on the availability and allocation of charter school funding.

*Example Criterion: The authorizer clearly publishes and shares the calculation of current and anticipated public funding for each charter school in accordance with law, specifically:*

- *GaDOE/SBOE/SCSC- district allotment sheets*
- *Local Districts- allotment sheet itemizing the calculation of state, local and federal allocations to be provided.*



Standard 2: Financial Resources: Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2008.1 and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2009, the authorizer allocates the required financial resources to support charter schools, treats charter schools no less favorably than other local schools within the system unless otherwise provided by law, and provides transparency on the availability and allocation of charter school funding.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	School Survey	Site Visit	Authorizer Debrief	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The authorizer clearly publishes and shares the calculation of current and anticipated public funding for each charter school in accordance with law, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GaDOE/SBOE/SCSC- district allotment sheets</li> <li>- Local Districts- allotment sheet itemizing the calculation of state, local and federal allocations to be provided.</li> </ul>	Authorizer has posted to website under financial reports.	School did not respond with conflicting or negative information.	Staff understood the process as published.	Authorizer described a reasonable timeline for annually publishing.	Y
Withholds no more than the legally allowable administration fee	As demonstrated on financial statements.	Affirmed	N/A	Affirmed	Y
The authorizer publishes a budget reflecting the total amount received from any authorizing fees and other sources, and how those funds are allocated. The authorizer publishes the administrative services provided based on the administrative fees withheld.	Budget was submitted, but not published on website.	School suggested that the authorizer over allocates monies to administrative tasks.	Authorizer's description of services to schools was unclear.	The debrief did not provide any additional evidence to meet the standard.	N
Number of Criteria Met:	Needs Improvement (NI)	Adequate (AD)	Exemplary (EX)	Rating	
	0-1	2	3	AD	





# Category II. The Petition Process



# The Petition Process



1. Does the authorizer provide appropriate guidance and assistance to petitioners applying to open a new school?
2. Does the authorizer engage teams of qualified individuals to review petitions?
3. Does the authorizer clearly communicate the competency and capacity required for petition approval and make decisions based solely on those criteria?



# The Petition Process



**Standard 3. Petition Application.** The authorizer publishes a written petition application in accordance with state requirements and timelines. The authorizer provides reasonable and timely technical assistance and is responsive to petitioner questions.

*Example Criterion: The authorizer publishes petition materials (application, timelines, process and guidance) online in an easy-to-find location.*

*Advanced Criterion: The authorizer provides clear guidance around attendance possibilities (e.g., statewide, district, or other geographic limitations), funding structure for budget development, and requirements to align petitions to demonstrated community need.*



# Advanced Criteria



- To encourage the development of transformational authorizing practices, advanced criteria have been added to supplement the evaluation of the Georgia standards.
- These advanced practices are aligned with national best practices.
- These standards will not receive a rating of Needs Improvement, Adequate, or Exemplary, rather evaluators will provide at least one strength and one weakness based on findings from the documentation review, authorizer debrief, and school survey.
- The advanced criteria feedback will not impact the overall rating provided to an authorizer.





# The Petition Process



**Standard 4. Petition Review.** The authorizer conducts petition review in accordance with state requirements. The petition review includes an evaluation team of no fewer than three individuals with diverse expertise, with at least one of the individuals having charter school experience. For the review of local charter petitions at least one of the individuals on the evaluation team shall have district administrative experience.

*Example Criterion: The petition evaluation team includes at least three individuals that have varied and relevant skills and backgrounds (i.e. education, finance, school governance, charter experience, trained in petition review or have completed a relevant training).*



## Georgia Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing Evaluation

**Standard 4. Petition Review.** The authorizer conducts petition review in accordance with state requirements. The petition review includes an evaluation team of no fewer than three individuals with diverse expertise, with at least one of the individuals having charter school experience. For the review of local charter petitions at least one of the individuals on the evaluation team shall have local district administrative experience.

Evaluation Criteria	Documentation Review	Authorizer Debrief	School Survey	Met Criteria? (Y/N)
The petition evaluation team includes at least three individuals that have varied and relevant skills and backgrounds (i.e., education, finance, school governance, charter experience, trained in petition review or have completed a relevant training).	Met.	Met. The petition review team has significant legal and policy expertise. They reach out to programmatic experts on the team as needed. While the team is still missing strong education finance and facilities knowledge, they regularly leverage experts as outside reviewers.	N/A	Y

Advanced Criteria	Strengths	Areas of Growth
The authorizer trains evaluators to ensure consistent application of petition evaluation criteria. Evaluators discuss ratings and develop a list of questions to inform the interview.	The team is open to implementing this in future cycles.	<p>SCSC has started to formalize petition evaluations (e.g., with examples of poor and strong responses), but for now the process still assumes the expertise of reviewers is sufficient. It is recommended that SCSC establish and implement training for evaluators of petitions, including norming on ratings and interview question development.</p> <p>Some additional questions for SCSC related to this advanced criterion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How, when and by whom are evaluators trained?</li> <li>• What materials has SCSC preserved for continuity of orientation to the work of evaluation from year to year?</li> <li>• What is SCSC's process for grading and developing recommendations?</li> </ul>



# The Petition Process



**Standard 5. Petition Decisions.** The authorizer grants charters only to petitioners that have demonstrated competence and capacity to succeed in all aspects of the school, including a strong plan for improving student opportunities and outcomes. The authorizer makes petition decisions that are free from conflicts of interest.

*Example Criterion: If denied, the petitioner is provided a written detailed description of deficiencies and information about how to reapply in the future.*





# Category III. Performance Contracting



# Performance Contracting



1. Does the authorizer publish clear requirements to ensure schools can open on time?
2. Do performance contracts between the authorizer and schools define each party's obligations, reinforce the high standards required for renewal in for academic, financial, and operational performance, and identify any services to be provided under separate agreement?
3. Does the authorizer meet its contract obligations as established by Georgia law?

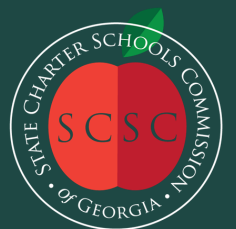


# Performance Contracting



**Standard 6. Pre-Opening Period.** The authorizer establishes clear and necessary, but not overly burdensome expectations for the pre-opening period including, but not limited to, expectations regarding facilities, student enrollment and board development.

**Standard 7. Performance Standards.** The authorizer, through the performance contract, establishes high academic, financial, and operational performance standards under which schools will be evaluated, using objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and growth as the primary measure of school quality.



# Performance Contracting



**Standard 8. Contract Terms and Agreements.** The authorizer executes an initial contract for a term of five years that clearly outlines the rights and responsibilities of the school and the authorizer. Agreements related to funding or in-kind services not required by OGGGA §20-2-2068.1 or §20-2-2089 or that are not included in the charter contract, must be negotiated and executed in writing and signed by the local authorizer and charter school (for local charter schools) or the State Charter Schools Commission and state charter school (for state charter schools).

**Standard 9. Authorizer Obligations.** The authorizer follows all authorizing obligations outlined in law, State Board Rule, and the charter contract.





# Category IV. Oversight and Evaluation





# Oversight and Evaluation



1. Does the authorizer protect the public interest by holding schools accountable for governance, management, and stewardship of public funds?
2. Does the authorizer give schools timely notice of deficiencies or contract violations, and provide them time for remediation, prior to taking further action?
3. Does the authorizer uphold school autonomy in organizing, staffing, and delivering educational programs in pursuit of measurable outcomes for students?



# Oversight and Evaluation



**Standard 10. Compliance Monitoring.** The authorizer protects the public interest and holds charter schools accountable for their obligations of governance, management, and oversight of public funds. The authorizer defines, communicates, and effectively implements the processes, methods, and timing of collecting and reporting school performance and compliance information. The authorizer conducts school visits as appropriate and necessary and annually publishes school performance data.

**Standard 11. Intervention.** The authorizer gives schools evidence-based and timely notice of contract violations or performance deficiencies and allows schools reasonable time and opportunity for remediation.

**Standard 12. Upholds Charter School Autonomy.** The authorizer upholds charter school autonomy in school-level governance, including personnel decisions, financial decisions, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, establishing and monitoring the achievement of school improvement goals, and school operations.





# Category V. Renewal and Termination



# Renewal and Termination



1. Does the authorizer use a rigorous renewal process and clearly communicate criteria for renewal, non-renewal, or termination of contracts?
2. Does the authorizer base renewal decisions primarily on objective measures of student achievement?
3. Does the authorizer follow a closure protocol that enables orderly transitions for students and staff, and careful disposition of school funds and assets?



# Renewal and Termination



**Standard 13. Renewal and Termination Process.** The authorizer clearly communicates to schools the criteria for charter termination, renewal, and non-renewal that are consistent with the terms of the charter contract. The renewal process includes a written application and an opportunity for an interview.

**Standard 14. Renewal Decisions.** The authorizer bases renewal decisions on a thorough analyses of the criteria outlined in the charter contract, with objective and verifiable measures of student achievement and growth as the primary measure of school quality. The authorizer ensures the renewal decision-making processes are free of conflicts of interest. The authorizer communicates renewal decisions to the school community and public within a timeframe that allows parents and students to exercise choices for the coming school year.



# Renewal and Termination



**Standard 15. Closure.** In the event of school closure, either at the conclusion of the charter term or during the charter term, the authorizer oversees and ensures the school governing board and leadership carry out a detailed closure protocol that includes the provisions outlined in the charter contract, such as ensuring timely notification to parents; orderly transition of students and student records to new schools; and disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law, rule and contract terms.

*Example Criterion: Authorizer has a written policy for termination procedures that ensures timely notification to parents, orderly transition of students and student records to new schools, disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law and effectively implements policy in the event of a school closure.*



# Rubric Completion



- This evaluation process relies on expert evaluators clearly and uniformly providing a rating for each Georgia authorizer.
- Once all stages of the evaluation process are complete, the review team shall convene to discuss and review their individual assessments of authorizer performance.
- Individual team member rubrics will be used to draft a final comprehensive rubric for each authorizer at the end of the evaluation process.
- The evaluation team must come to a consensus for the overall rating for each authorizer and the rating for each standard for each authorizer. Authorizers will receive one completed evaluation rubric that incorporates the feedback from the evaluation team as a whole.





# What NACSA had to say...

“The State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia is a quality authorizer, imbued with commitment, leadership, and judgment. Staff demonstrated a deep understanding of their role as an authorizer: to foster accountability, to protect schools’ agency and autonomy, and, when appropriate, to serve as a support for schools.”





## The SCSC can increase its effectiveness and sustainability by making **improvements** in the following areas:



- Bringing critical expertise in-house and filling currently open positions, particularly to increase the commission's capacity regarding finance and facilities,
- Improving transparency by making more resources accessible via the website,
- Clarifying the factors that lead to opening deferrals and solidifying the timing of decisions, and
- Reviewing the factors that affect staff recommendations and the ultimate decisions by Commissioners. Instances when the Commission votes contrary to staff recommendations, provide opportunities for a review of the strategic direction of the Commission. Such reviews can productively inform future staff recommendations and foster increased understanding.



# Next Steps



## Short-term

- SCSC staff built a tracking document that assigns staff to relevant tasks and associates each item with the related strategic plan objective so we can report on progress in alignment with the SCSC strategic plan.
- Accept updates to the evaluation tool and timeline as provided by NACSA to allow for a more streamlined process.
- Publish the evaluation to the SCSC website and share with schools for comment.
- Plan for the SCSC's first official evaluation to occur in summer 2023.

## Long-Term

- Develop a communication strategy to share the benefits of participating in an evaluation with fellow authorizers and policymakers.



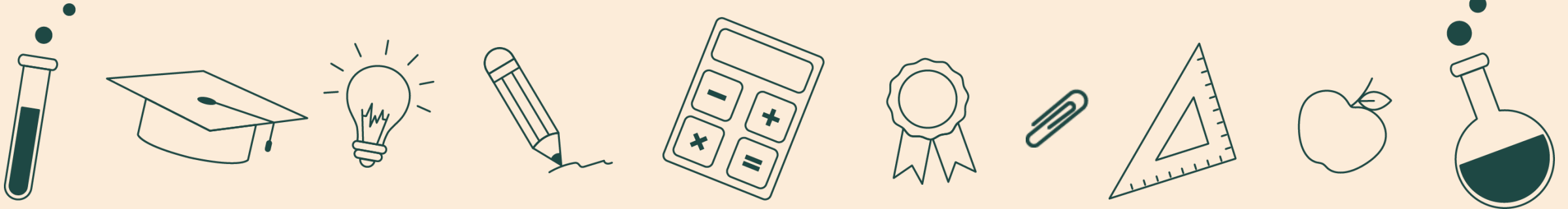


“Participating in the evaluations is not only required by law; it also demonstrates an authorizer’s commitment to the principle of accountability. This principle is at the heart of public education.”  
-NACSA





# Questions?





State Charter Schools Commission

## SCSC Contact

Website: [scsc.georgia.gov](http://scsc.georgia.gov)

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205 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr. SE

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