Charter Petition Webinar Series

Part I
Overview, Why Charter?, SMART Goals
April 19, 2011
Charter Schools Division

Greg Wickersham, Education Program Specialist
Morgan Felts, Petition Review Specialist
Terence Washington, Fiscal Analyst
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<td>Why Charter?: Demonstrating the Need for a Charter</td>
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<td>Accountability and SMART Goals</td>
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<td>Governance</td>
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<td>Operations: Budget, Financial Management, and Facilities</td>
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Who’s here?

1. What type of school do you represent?
   A. New start-up charter school
   B. Conversion of an existing traditional public school
   C. Renewal of an existing charter

2. We are applying to:
   A. A local board of education
   B. Georgia Charter Schools Commission
   C. Don’t know

3. I am a
   A. Teacher
   B. Administrator
   C. Parent
   D. Founding board member
   E. Other

4. Brief Introductions
   • Your name
   • About your school (Name, location, mission or focus)
Pre-Quiz
Overview
The Petition

Introduction

A. Educational Plan

B. Organizational Plan

C. Financial Plan

D. Local Supplement

E. Commission Supplement
SBOE’s Petition Process for Locally Approved Charter Schools

Deadlines
Aug 1 for start-ups
Nov 1 for conversions, renewals, charter systems

Petition Reviewed
• Legal review to ensure eligibility
• Substance review

Interview

Staff Recommendations

Response to deficiency letter
• Core focus
• Compliance

SBOE receives Items for Information

SBOE receives Action Item

Execution of the Contract
Georgia Charter Schools Commission’s Petition Process

Deadline
*June 15

PetitionReviewed
- Legal review to ensure eligibility
- Substance review

Interview

SBOE Receives Items for Information

Commission Receives Items for Action

Staff Recommendations to Commission

SBOE Receives Action Item

Execution of the Contract
Elements of a High-Quality Charter School

- Strong Mission Statement
- Strong SMART Goals
- Sound Educational Plan
- Reasonable Financial Plan
- Sufficient Autonomy
- Strong Governing Board
- Legal Compliance
- Innovation
Why Charter?

Petition Section: Mission, Vision, and Educational Philosophy; Educational Program
The Basic Bargain

Accountability
- Students outperform local districts/Georgia
- Increased accountability measures
- Increased academic expectations

Autonomy
- Flexibility to innovate
- Waivers from state laws and rules
- Autonomy from local control

So...how do you demonstrate the need for a charter?
Flexibility

- Demonstrated Innovativeness + Minimal need for waivers
- Minimal innovativeness + Minimal need for waivers
- Demonstrated Innovativeness + Demonstrated need for waivers
- Minimal innovativeness + Demonstrated need for waivers

Optimal

Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
Accountability

- You must show the link!
- Example: We request a seat time waiver so that we can extend the school day and provide additional math instruction, thereby raising CRCT Math scores.
Discussion: Waivers and Innovations

Share ONE way in which your school will be educationally or operationally innovative.

Discuss ONE waiver which you will need to request from state law in order to implement this innovation.

Can you explain how the waiver you seek and your innovation will improve student performance.
Take-home activity: Waivers and Innovations

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Take-Home Activity #1
Waivers and Innovations

Instructions:
1) Work as a team to write down/describe one innovative practice or program which your school will implement. The innovation may be instructional or operational.
2) Work as a team to write down one waiver from state law that your school will need to request in its charter in order to implement this innovation.
3) Explain how this innovation and waiver will help improve student achievement and help your school meet its academic performance goals.

Innovation

Waiver

Link to Student Achievement Growth
Popular Uses of the Broad Flexibility Waiver

- Class size
- Teacher Certification
- Textbook Selection
- Governance
- Seat time
- Length of school year

Special Programs:
- Early Intervention Program
- Gifted Services

Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
Writing SMART Goals

Petition Sections: Assessments and Accountability; School-Specific Goals and objectives
Performance Goals

- Accountability through the Charter
- SMART Goals
- Performance Indicators
- Mission and Vision Statement
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<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>• SPECIFIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>• MEASURABLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>• AMBITIOUS &amp; ATTAINABLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>• REALISTIC/REFLECTIVE OF MISSION/RESEARCH-BASED/RIGOROUS</td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>• TIME-PHASED/TIME-BOUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific</td>
<td>Not Specific</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>•All teachers at Achievement Charter School will complete a 2-week summer workshop in Achievement’s educational philosophy, school culture and instructional methodology.</td>
<td>•Teachers at Achievement Charter School will receive staff development training.</td>
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SMART Goals: Measureable

Measurable

- On average, students will improve their scores on the Stanford-9 Reading Assessment by 4% each year.

Not Measureable

- Students will become excellent readers and writers.
SMART Goals: Ambitious & Attainable

Ambitious yet Attainable

• Achievement Charter School will have an exceeds rate 5% above the state average by year 3.

Not Ambitious

• Students at Achievement Charter School will improve upon their annual CRCT scores by 2% each year.
SMART Goals: Realistic

Realistic

• 75% percent of students at Achievement Charter School will exceed State averages on Math and Reading on the CRCT.

Not Realistic

• 100% of students at Achievement Charter School will score in the “exceeds” category on the CRCT Reading in the first year of the charter.
## SMART Goals: Time-Bound

<table>
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<th>Time-bound</th>
<th>Not Time-Bound</th>
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<tr>
<td>•Achievement Charter School will close the achievement gap between subgroups by 50% by the end of year 2, and by an additional 10% each year thereafter.</td>
<td>•Achievement Charter School will close the achievement gap between subgroups by 50%.</td>
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## Charter Petition Training

April 19, 2011

### Take-Home Activity #2
Writing SMART Goals

Instructions: Work as a team to write one SMART goal for your school. Use the worksheet below to assist you in developing your goal. After writing your SMART goal, select one member of your team to share the goal with the large group. Be prepared to explain and justify what makes this goal SMART.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Specific: What is the target subject area or competency of this goal? For which group of students?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measureable: How will this goal be measured? Is there a tool?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attainable &amp; Ambitious: How much? This goal should be within reach, but also stretch our students and staff’s abilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Realistic, Relevant, Research-based: Are we being realistic? How is this goal connected to our mission?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time-phased: What is the time frame in which this goal will be reached?</td>
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Put all these elements into a concise, well-defined SMART goal statement:
Questions
Post-Quiz
Georgia Charter Schools Commission Staff

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Thank you!

Evaluation link:
http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22C8DFZZ9GY

Save the date!
Part II
Governance, Legal Requirements
April 26, 2011
10:00 am