

CharterGovernance

Preparing governing boards to serve effectively.

We assist governing boards with legal and regulatory compliance, policy development, best practices, and effective oversight of fiscal health and academic achievement.

Effective governance is critical to developing, launching and sustaining high-quality charter schools. Budgetary constraints, facility challenges and a myriad of operational issues can lead boards to conduct business in a reactionary rather than strategic manner.

State and local authorizers are emphasizing governing board autonomy, fiduciary and programmatic oversight and effective governance more than ever before. A statutory requirement is now in place for all types of charter schools in Georgia. In November 2014, the State Board of Education voted on rule **160-4-9-.06 Charter Authorizers, Financing, Management and Governance Training**, which outlines specific annual training requirement for locally (district) approved charter schools. Governing boards of SCSC (State Charter Schools Commission) are required to attend training coordinated by the SCSC. For the past two years, GCSA has been among the facilitators at the SCSC coordinated board retreats.

GCSA offers various training opportunities for all types of charter schools in all phases of development. The following training workshops can shift your board dynamic from “putting out fires” to proactively planning for the future. The list below represents standard workshop offerings. We also develop custom training sessions and board retreats to meet the needs of individual boards. GCSA is a SBOE (State Board of Education) approved governance training provider.

Governance Training Offerings

- ***Effective Charter School Governance*** – This workshop provides a general overview of governing board roles & responsibilities, legal & regulatory compliance, risk management, academic & fiduciary oversight, leadership selection & monitoring, effective committee work, policy development and fundraising.
- ***Customized Board Retreats*** – GCSA can customize a board retreat, of any length, based on your board’s current performance compared to state standards for effective charter school governance.
- ***Strategic / Succession Planning*** – Two levels of strategic development workshops are available. A thorough assessment of compliance and progress toward goals is conducted along with succession planning, organizational growth and resource development.
- ***Charter School Finance and Budgeting*** – This is a 3-hour training that is required of all newly seated board members. This workshop demonstrates the essential features of the QBE funding formula. Participants will receive best practice recommendations on how to properly manage the financial operation to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability. (Applies to locally approved schools)
- ***Webinar Series*** – GCSA is launching a comprehensive webinar series that is aligned with the state standards for effective charter school governance. Two new webinars will be introduced each month. Live and recorded versions will be available.
- ***Operational Assessments*** – Boards benefit from a thorough understanding of organizational effectiveness. This assessment includes an analysis of academics, fiscal health, legal and regulatory compliance, governance and overall effectiveness of the charter model.
- ***Board Bank*** – GCSA recruits and trains individuals to serve on operational charter boards. The board bank currently has more than fifty high capacity individuals who are trained and ready to serve. GCSA has successfully matched fifteen board bank members with charter schools around the state.
- ***Charter Policy Manual*** – GCSA sells a comprehensive policy manual. The manual includes policies that cover human resources, finance and internal controls, operations, governance, and federal. A Georgia attorney vets the policy manual annually.
- ***Sustainability Institute***— Boards will learn to build a sustainable initiative through a Sustainability Framework including:
 1. Development of a vision and results orientation
 2. Creating a strategic financial plan
 3. Building organizational capacity and community support
 4. Development of a sustainability plan

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