

CHARTER SYSTEM — REAPPLICATION —

»» Where we started (Awareness)

»» What have we done (Accomplishments)

»» Where we are going (Advancement)

School Governance Councils (SGC)
MEMBER QUOTES:

“I’m most excited to share the information talked about in the SGC meeting to the communities so they can have an influence in the decision making.”

“I am excited to be part of a team that makes decisions to best support the school (students, staff, community)! I think that I will be able to advocate for and support the special education population at our school.”

»» Where we started (Awareness)

In 2012, Fulton County Schools became the largest school system in Georgia designated as a Charter System. The journey to that point started with a vision by the Board of Education and school leaders for “flexibility, innovation, and local school autonomy.”

District leaders came together with school-level leaders and stakeholders to develop a districtwide governance model, directed by local School Governance Councils (SGC), now in its 7th year of being implemented with great success.

Local leadership and engagement remain a hallmark of FCS’ Charter System achievements, with 960 active council members running the SGC’s with transparency and accountability.

Elections are held annually for each SGC to include parent, teacher, support staff and community member representatives.



These councils created school-level strategic plans that align to the FCS vision and goals, and through a Value-Added Flexibility process, make modifications to their school initiatives to meet the needs of their students and community.

Fulton County Schools

Where Students Come First

6201 Powers Ferry Road

Atlanta, Georgia 30339

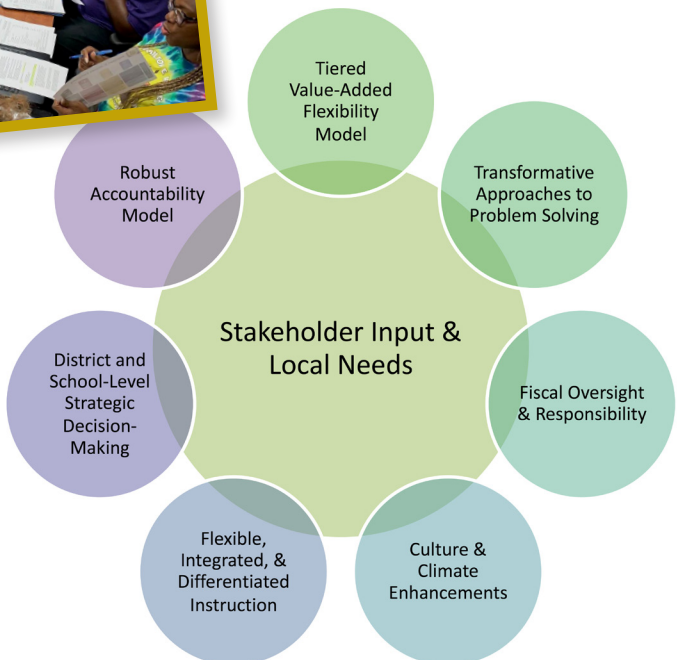
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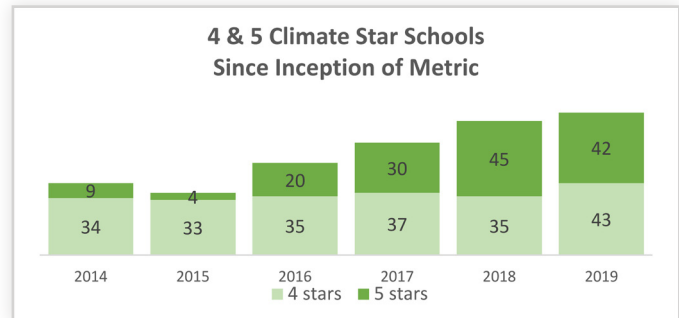
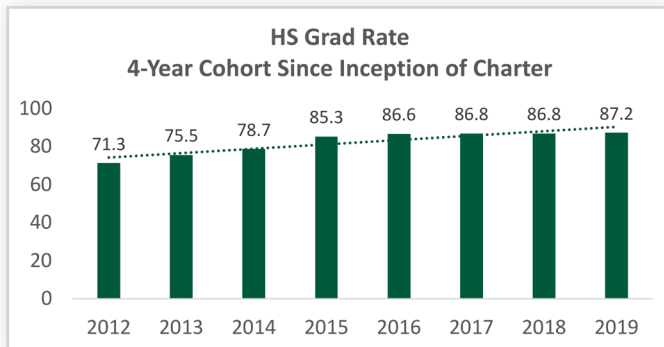
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»» What we have done (Accomplishments)

Numbers speak for themselves. Since becoming a Charter System and implementing flexibility at the school-level, FCS has seen districtwide gains in academic performance and school climate indicators.



In addition to overseeing a supplemental budget provided by the state’s annual charter system funding, SGCs seek waivers for the innovative and programmatic goals they establish for their schools. **Examples include:**

- Varying class sizes and times based on students’ needs
- Providing credit-bearing internships, apprenticeships and other real-world experiences for high school students aligned with their career and academic interests
- Offering “blended” courses to provide opportunities for independent, online learning combined with classroom instruction
- Creating flexible, individualized programs of study responsive to students’ interests and needs
- Forming partnerships with universities to offer higher-level courses via distance learning



»» Where we are going (Advancement)

By nature, school and community leaders who were innovative enough to create this Charter System model will be motivated to continue their creative thinking as the district seeks to further advance its goals and improve educational opportunities for Fulton County students.

What does this mean for the future? FCS must evolve as a Charter System.

The renewal application for our Charter System status will be presented to the state DOE in December 2020.

The concepts for the next five years will be built upon the success of our early vision, while adding new flexibilities and accountability components designed from lessons-learned in our initial years of implementation.

Reasons for renewal:

- The School Governance Council Model involves stakeholders in shared decision-making
- The systemwide waiver grants broad flexibilities to Title 20 mandates and State Board rules
- Designation as a Charter System provides additional funding to support innovative problem-solving
- The new application includes refined academic, school climate and fiscal performance goals

Components for expanding a new vision include expanded training for SGC leaders, new measures of accountability and a tiered approach to local governance flexibilities.

Evolving as a Charter District

- Robust Training Menu
 - Online Series
 - Leadership Development Series
 - Design Thinking
- Accountability
 - Charter Dollar Expenditures
 - SGC Reflections
 - Website Audits
- Tiered Flexibilities

District Flexibility

Opt-In/
Opt-Out

School Level
Innovations