



School Governance Councils in the Fulton Charter System

Updated 7.1.13

Community Engagement & Application Process

- Over 1,000 teachers, administrators, and parents attended 7 Community Forums.
- Over 80 students participated in Focus Groups.
- Met with Principal, Teacher, Parent, Community, and Student Superintendent's Councils
- System leader introduction and activity
- Systemwide LSAC and Cluster meetings

Staff analyzes & researches feedback from Fall engagement phase; submits Board report

GA Department of Education approves Charter System Application

Fall 2010

Winter 2010/Spring 2011

Fall 2011

Spring 2012

- Staff research teams
- Online input
- School Leader workshop

Board votes to pursue and submit Charter System Application in Fall 2011

Fulton Charter System Basics

What it IS...

- One unified system with one school board and one Superintendent with ultimate accountability for student achievement
- Existing attendance boundaries policy and school choice based on space
- A systemwide, consistent curriculum with potential flexibility for specific areas of emphasis based on community interest
- Same funding formula per school with potential flexibilities within each local school
- All employees (school-based and central office) hired and managed by the system with a system salary schedule.

What it ISN'T...

- A collection of individual charter schools with dissimilar accountabilities
- New attendance lotteries or special enrollment requirements
- A set of “theme” oriented schools with very different curricula or standards
- Different funding allocations for individual schools
- Employees hired by the charter school with salaries set by the school.

Fulton County Schools Charter System Framework: Governance Structure



School Governance Councils

- School and Community Stakeholders



Roles and Responsibilities

- Long-term Strategy*
- Local School Flexibility*
- School Community Engagement*

System Resources and Support

- Central Administration




Roles and Responsibilities

- System-wide Planning*
- Data Systems*
- Instructional Support*
- Equitable Resources and Infrastructure*
- Federal Program Management*

System Governance Team

- Fulton County Board of Education
- Superintendent of Schools



Roles and Responsibilities

- System Policy*
- Required District Best Practices*
- Curriculum*
- Hiring*
- Ultimate Accountability for Results*

Cohort 2 Schools by Learning Community

Northwest	Central	Northeast	South
Cambridge HS	Dunwoody Springs ES	Chattahoochee HS	Bear Creek MS
Crabapple MS	Ison Springs ES	Dolvin ES	Bethune ES
Elkins Point MS	High Point ES	Haynes Bridge MS	Campbell ES
Mimosa ES	Lake Forest ES	Holcomb Bridge MS	Evoline C. West ES
Northwestern MS	Sandy Springs Charter MS	Johns Creek HS	Feldwood ES
Roswell HS	Tri-Cities HS	Medlock Bridge ES	Langston Hughes HS
Summit Hill ES		Ocee ES	Love T. Nolan ES
Sweet Apple ES		River Trail MS	McNair MS
Webb Bridge MS		State Bridge Crossing ES	Palmetto ES
		Taylor Road MS	Renaissance ES
		Wilson Creek ES	Renaissance MS

SGC Cohort 2 Start-Up Timeline

July-September 2013	October-December 2013	January-February 2014	March - June 2014	2014-2015 School Year
Planning Year				Year 1
<p>Cohort 2 principal orientation</p> <p>Cohort 2 Community Information Sessions</p>	<p>School Governance Council elections for parents and teachers</p> <p>School Governance Council school employee and community member appointments</p>	<p>Training of School Governance Council members</p>	<p>Certified School Governance Councils in place</p> <p>Initiate strategic planning process</p> <p>Submit requests for “universal” flexibility options</p>	<p>Approve school Strategic Plan</p> <p>Approve school budget recommendations</p> <p>Submit requests for “earned” flexibility options</p> <p>Feedback on principal performance</p>



School Governance Council (SGC) Highlights

What is the role of the SGC?

- Approve the **school strategic plan**
- Approve the **annual budget recommendations**
- Request flexibility from the District for **innovation**
- **Participate in hiring** of the Principal, when vacant
- Provide annual **feedback** on Principal performance

Members of the SGC

1 – Principal (non-voting)

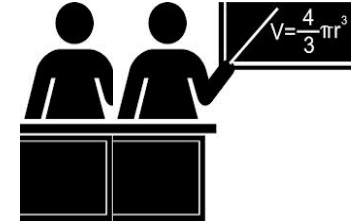
3 – Parents/Guardians (elected)

2 – Teachers (elected)

2 – School Employees (appointed)

2 – Community Members (nominated)

+ 2 – Students (HS only; non-voting)



10 Member Council (ES, MS)

12 Member Council (HS)



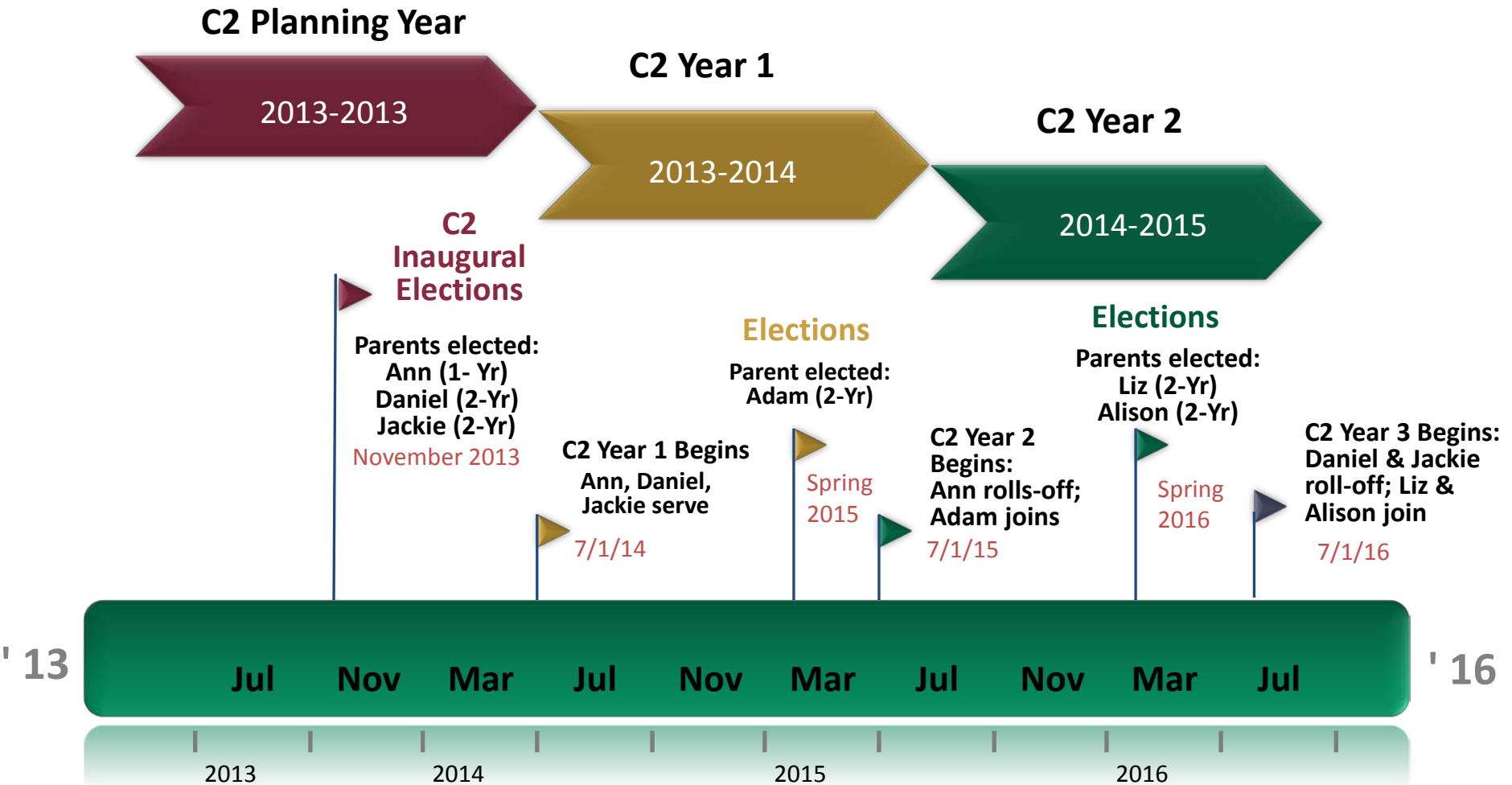
SGC Eligibility by Position

Criteria	Parent/ Guardian	Teacher	School Employee	Community Member	Student
Elected or Appointed	Elected	Elected	Appointed by Principal	Nominated/ Approved	TBD
Has child enrolled at school	Required	Not Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	NA
Is an employee of the school	Not Allowed	Required	Required	Not Allowed	NA
Paid from Teacher Salary Schedule & has "Home" school	NA	Required	Allowed	Not Allowed	NA
Member can only serve on 1 SGC at a time	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Only 1 member of a family may sit on a SGC	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Serve as an elected official of a government entity	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

SGC Terms of Office

- 2-Year Terms (except Inaugural SGC).
- Inaugural SGCs: 1 parent, 1 teacher, 1 school employee and 1 community member will serve only 1-year term for staggered rotation.
- Inaugural SGCs: Planning Year for training (until June 30, 2013).
- No member will serve more than 2 consecutive terms
- A member who has already served 2 consecutive terms may run for election after 2 years off the SGC.
- Term of office will begin July 1 and end June 30.

Cohort 2 Timeline



SGC Member Commitments

- Attend 75% of SGC meetings (min. 6/year)
- Serve on a SGC committee (Financial or Communications)
- Participate in mandatory trainings (~ 8 hours each year)
- Estimated 2-3 hours/month including training, meetings, school and community events

SGC Member Compensation & Liability

- All SGC members will serve without compensation.
- SGC members are volunteers and are afforded legal immunity under state (O.C.G.A. 51-1-20(a)) and federal law (42 U.S.C. 14501-14505).

SGC Accountability

- The Fulton County Board of Education has the authority to:
 - Require specific school-level interventions
 - Revoke any & all approved Requests for Flexibility
 - Dissolve the current SGC



School Governance Council Elections

SGC Planning Year Elections

- Central administration will coordinate and administer SGC elections
 - Guidelines for Candidacy and Voting Aug./Sept.
 - Community Information Sessions Sept./Oct.
 - Candidate Declaration Sept./Oct.
- Elections for all Cohort 2 schools will occur at the same time
 - 1 week in mid-to-late November

SGC Elections - Voting



All votes will be cast electronically through an online election system within the FCS portal and tallied by an external vendor. Elections results are submitted to principals within 10 days of the close of the voting window.

- All votes are anonymous
- Parent/Guardian voters use **Home Access Codes** to vote
 - **1 vote per parent for each school for which they have a child**
- School employees use **employee login** to vote



School Governance Council Appointments

SGC Appointed Positions

- 2 School Employees appointed by Principal (~December 2013)
- 2 Community Members nominated by Principal and approved by SGC (~December 2013)
- Contact your Principal and let him/her know if interested.

Visit the Charter System Website

Admin Login |

786 Cleveland Ave. SW, Atlanta, GA 30315
Phone: (404) 768 3600

Students Parents Employees

Home > Charter System

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Surveys
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Quick Links

Fulton Begins Charter System Implementation

Fulton County Schools' charter system status officially began on July 1, 2012. As a charter system, the district is supremely positioned to drive systemwide gains in student achievement by unleashing the innovative energies of our local school leaders and their communities. **It is important to note that this designation does not make the school system a system comprised of individual charter schools.**

[Twenty schools](#) (Cohort 1) are beginning their transition into the Charter System in the 2012-2013 school year. Information sessions for these Cohort 1 school communities have been scheduled over the next few weeks to provide more detail about next steps and upcoming implementation milestones.

At these sessions, attendees will learn more about the upcoming elections process, governance council regulations, and receive additional materials and related information.

The dates, locations, and times for each meeting are listed here.

Date	Location	Time
September 24	Autrey Mill MS Media Center Johns Creek, GA	6:00pm - 7:30pm
September 27	Milton HS Auditorium Milton, GA	6:00pm - 7:30pm
October 1	Westlake HS Auditorium Atlanta, GA	6:00pm - 7:30pm
October 2	Riverwood ICHS Auditorium Sandy Springs, GA	6:30pm - 8:00pm

The Fulton Charter System website will continue to be an important resource for timely updates and other announcements related to the implementation phase, as well as more general information for each of our school communities. We have also maintained all the documents and resources shared during the two-year exploration process on this site.

Cohort 1 Implementation

Implementation Phase
Cohort 1 Implementation Home
School Governance Startup
Timeline and Framework
Cohort 1 Participating Schools
Exploration Phase - Charter System Documents
Charter System Application
Charter System Summary Paper
Charter System Presentations
Exploration Phase - Other Charter System Links
Related Links and Resources
Charter System FAQ's
News: Fulton Granted Charter System Status - May 10, 2012
News: Fulton Submits Charter System Application - December 2, 2012

Have a question or comment?

Questions?

Contact the School
Governance & Flexibility
Team at
or 404.669.4919

www.fultonschools.org/CharterSystem