

Utopian Academy for the Arts Governance Training Plan

Annually, each member of the Utopian Academy for the Arts Governance Board will undergo a training provided by a GaDOE approved vendor. The following three areas and sample topics will be covered:

Best Practices in Charter School Governance (Required Hours: 3)

Sample Topics:

- How to distinguish governance issues from management issues
- Effective time management (spend the most time on the most important issues)
- How to create clear and useful policies
- Fundamentals of effective committees
- Effective communication & community involvement
- How to handle public comments (both positive and negative)

Legal Requirements of a State Charter School (Required Hours: 3)

Sample Topics:

- The Legal Obligations of Operating a Charter School
- Overview of laws and regulations that apply to charter schools
- The Americans with Disabilities Act and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- FERPA
- Grievance procedures
- Title I
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- IEPs: What you need to know/ Student discipline
- Open Enrollment
- DATA collections
- Unlawful conduct
- Open Meetings & Public Records

Academic Accountability (Required Hours: 3)

Sample Topics:

- Academic Accountability for Charter Schools
- What do you need to know (and how often) in order to track academic accountability through the year?

Financial Compliance (Required Hours: 3)

Sample Topics:

- Key dates and important concepts in QBE funding
- Examples of important financial policies to consider