



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Office of Charter
& Partner Schools

Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Authorizer Fee Report

The Atlanta Board of Education (“ABOE” or “Board”) through the Office of Charter and Partner Schools (OCPS) supports student success and school choice by authorizing charter schools that provide innovation, high quality learning opportunities for students who reside in the City of Atlanta. It is the Board’s intent that by authorizing high quality charter schools, the District can learn from innovative and unique programs that advance student achievements. As such, the Board welcomes charter petitioners who aim to serve student populations that reflect the diversity of the District and who are open to collaborating with the District to share best practices.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-02-2068.1 the district allocates funding for Charter Schools through the QBE (Quality Basic Education) funding formula from the State of Georgia Department of Education. This code section outlines all requirements for the funding mechanism in place and contains guidelines on equitable distribution of funds for Charter Schools. Partner Schools are considered contracted services and are funded as such, however funds are allocated similarly to those of Charter Schools in that allocations based on FTE counts are considered as a mechanism to determine equitable distribution of funding. The specific details of Partner Schools’ funding formula can be found in their agreements with the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) found on the OCPS website.

APS funds its work as a charter school authorizer and an LEA through a state appropriation and through the collection of an authorizer fee. In accordance with O.C.G.A 20-2-2089(b) and Partner Schools’ agreements with the district, OCPS may withhold up to 3% of the amount determined pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section for each charter school for use in administering the duties required pursuant to Code Section 20-2-2083; provided, however, that any amount withheld pursuant to this subsection shall be spent solely on expenses incurred performing the duties required in said code section. For the most recently completed fiscal year, APS collected the following total revenue in an authorizer fee:

FY25 Authorizer Fee	Total Amount Collected
2% of State and Local Funding for Charter Schools	\$4,716,773
2% of Funding for Partner Schools	\$1,175,576
TOTAL	\$5,892,349

For the FY25 fiscal year, OCPS budgeted a portion of the authorizer fee funds on the following expenditures:

Description of Expenditure	Amount	Rationale for Expenditure
Salary and Benefits	\$1,638,551	OCPS assists the Board as the LEA for its authorized Charter and Partner schools, and it is required to fulfill its responsibilities includes the following positions: Executive Director, Financial Analyst, Performance Data Manager, Project Manager, Program Director, Special Education & Student Support Coordinator, Technology Coordinator and Project Facilitator OCPS also directly pays the salaries or a portion of salaries for district employees dedicated to working directly with Charter and Partner Schools: Safety and Security, Data and Information Group, Student Discipline, Student Records and Student Services
Contractual Services	\$2,720,188	In alignment with quality authorizing standards, OCPS uses external reviewers for charter school application reviews, outside auditors to ensure procedural and financial compliance with District policies, and the Epicenter compliance monitoring platform. Additionally, these funds are used for the Apply APS Charter program, supports for relocated Charter and Partner Schools, and emergency support needs.
Dues and Fees	\$4,332	To support OCPS's authorizing responsibilities, OCPS maintains a membership National Association of Charter School Authorizers, which

		provides ongoing professional development in charter authorizing best practices.
Other Purchased Services/Travel	\$44,950	In alignment with quality authorizing best practice standards and Board policy, OCPS staff conduct site visits at its authorized charter schools. These site visits include classroom observations, staff and parent interviews, and reviews for special populations and federal programs compliance. Additional travel expenses for professional development of OCPS staff (conferences, workshops, etc.)
Supplies/Equipment	\$11,240	General supplies to carry out OCPS functions; computer equipment and related hardware, including computers for student testing backup
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$4,419,261	

In addition to the OCPS-budgeted expenses above, \$1,473,087 was budgeted in the most recently completed fiscal year for general administrative services and supports provided by other APS departments to Charter and Partner Schools. These services and supports included, but were not limited to the following:

- **Human Resources** – Utilization of HR systems which include GHR, processing district ID numbers, onboarding procedures and issuance of a district email address.
- **Information and Instructional Technology** – use of My Backpack, Instructional technology services, online professional development opportunities, TKES and LKES platforms, CPI reporting and other digital platforms for the purposes of student performance. Dedicated IT personnel who work on technology issues for Charter and Partner Schools.
(Note: OCPS also pays the salary of a dedicated SIS Strategist who works on System Integration and support for Charter and Partner Schools.)
- **Finance** – Financial reporting services that include the DE46 mandatory reporting requirement, payment processing for reimbursements of State and Federal Funds.
- **Strategy and Engagement** – Family engagement resources and support; inclusion in meetings and events related to district trainings, GO Team/Cluster Advisory Team meetings.

- **Legal** – Assistance on contract renewals and amendments Charter and Partner agreements; hearing support or legal findings.
- **Safety and Security** – Services provided to schools outside of buyback services paid directly to APS from Charter and Partner Schools including Background check processing, fingerprinting, etc.; site safety assessments (Note: OCPS also pays the salary of a dedicated Sergeant who oversees all aspects of Safety and Security at Charter and Partner Schools.)
- **Facilities** – Assisting Charter and Partner Schools who are in district owned buildings.
- **Transportation** – Consultative services provided to schools outside of buyback services paid directly to APS from Charter and Partner Schools.
- **Equity** – Trainings and consultation
- **Teaching and Learning** – Trainings and consultation
- **Communications and Events** – Support for various communications-related matters (media inquiries, press releases) and inclusion in districtwide events (Back to School Bash, graduation, board member visits to schools)