Charter School Petition

2027 Review Cycle
For schools proposed to open during the 2028-2029 school year

Dr. Emily Coady
Director, Program Development and Improvement
October 28, 2026
3-4:30pm, Teams

Welcome!

Please share your name and provide an overview of your proposed charter school in Gwinnett County.

Agenda

- Walkthrough district's timeline and requirements
- Discuss district's petition guidance and required template
- Engage in Q&A

District Vision and Mission

Gwinnett County Public Schools will become a system of world-class schools where students acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and careers. The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each students, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

We embrace the opportunity to provide Gwinnett County students the choice of educational experiences that align with the mission and vision of the Board of Education.

GCPS will engage in a fair, transparent, and efficient process in rendering decisions regarding charter school petitions. The goal is to approve high-quality charter schools that provide students with those educational opportunities they would otherwise not receive from the district.

Board Policy - IBB

- This policy is currently under review and may be revised for the 2026-2027 petition cycle.
- Potential updates could affect petition requirements, timelines, or submission expectations.
- Any changes impacting the current petition cycle will be presented for Board approval at the December 2026 business meeting.
- A formal update regarding any changes will be provided on December 19, 2026.

GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Level: Policy I-Instructional Programs	Accompanying Procedure:	Descriptor Code: IBB	Rescinds New
Descriptor Term: Charter Schools		Effective Date: April 16, 2015	Last Reviewed Date: December 21, 2023

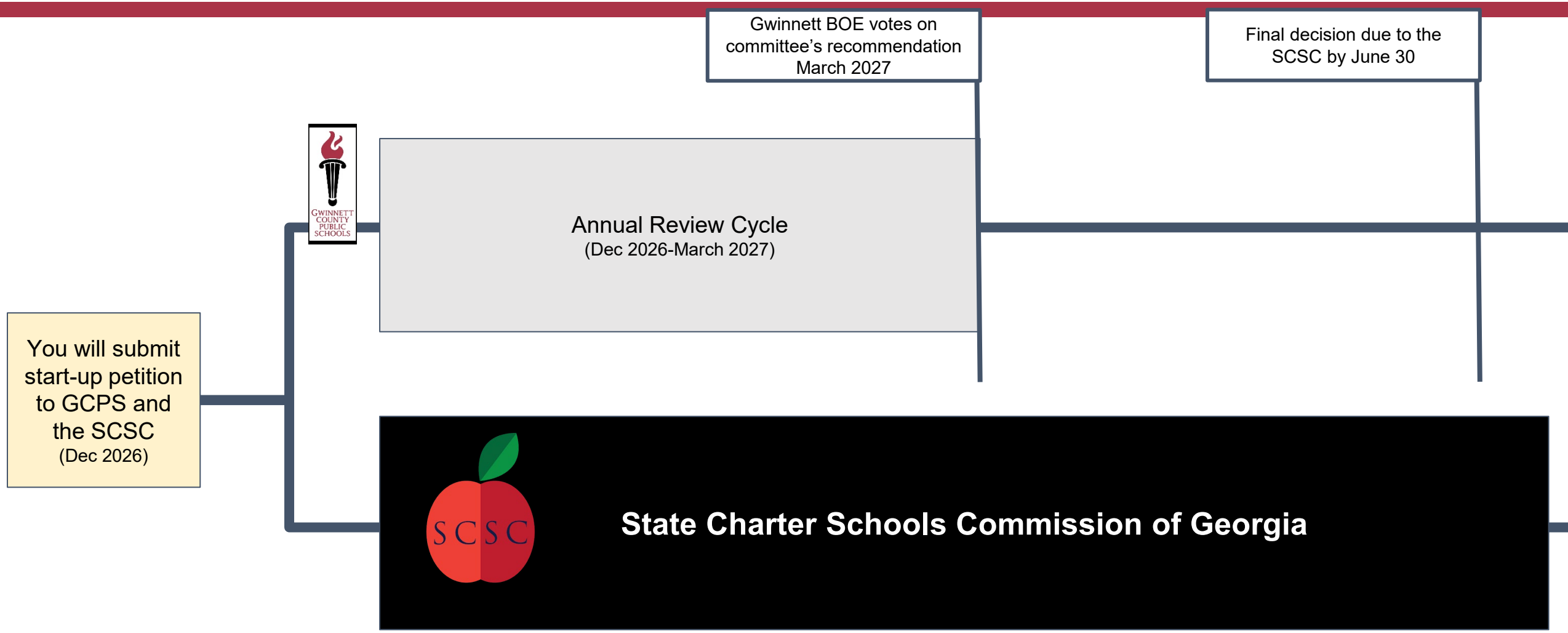
Keywords:
Student Discipline:
Policy References:

Charter petitions shall meet provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Office Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.), state and local rules, regulations, policies, and procedures except for waivers from laws, rules, and regulations as permitted by O.C.G.A. 20-2-2065(a). Home study programs or schools, sectarian schools, religious schools, private for profit schools, existing private schools, or private educational institutions not established, operated or governed by the State of Georgia are prohibited by law from submitting charter petitions.

The Board shall establish timelines for submission of charter petitions for approval and post such timelines on the Gwinnett County Public Schools' website. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-2064(b), the Board shall approve or deny a petition no later than ninety (90) days after its submission unless the petitioner consents to extend that period. Within sixty (60) days, the Board shall provide to the charter petitioner and the State Board of Education (SBOE) a written explanation setting forth its reasons for denial and a list of deficiencies in the petition. If the Board approves a charter petition, it shall within thirty (30) days provide a copy of the approved petition to the State Department of Education (SDOE) for review by the SBOE.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop and enforce administrative regulations needed to ensure compliance with state law and SBOE/SDOE requirements. Such regulations shall provide for an expedited review process for high quality charter school renewal, expansion, and replication.

Annual Review Cycle (2027)



Annual Review Cycle (2027)

1

Letter of Intent submitted by petitioner unless applicant requests and receives a waiver from both SCSC and GCPS

October 7, 2026

2

Petitioner Information Session
Petitioners attend mandatory information session

October 28, 2026

3

Petition Submission

Petitions are due by 5pm on December 22, 2026. Submission directions will be emailed directly to you by December 1, 2026.

4

Internal Review: First Round

District leadership review petitions.

January 2027

5

Panel Interviews

Petitioners will be invited to a 90-min interview with district leadership.

February 19, 2027

6

Internal Review: Second Round

District leadership engages in a secondary review of petitions.

February 2027

Board Votes
Recommendations presented to Gwinnett BOE. Petitioners will receive recommendations 1 week prior to BOE meeting.

March 2027 *(90 days from final submission date 12/22/26)*

7

Next Steps

Approved petitions are submitted to SCSC. Rejected petitioners and SCSC will receive the decision rationale April 2027.

Open for SY28-29

Approved schools will accept students for the first day of school August 2028. Typical charter is a 5-year term.

Charter and District Roles

Petition Review Cycle

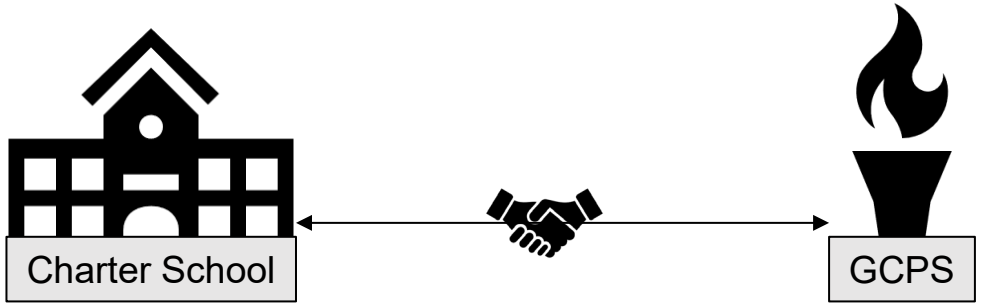


- Petitions submitted during the December 2025 submission window are being considered for a school opening for the 2027-2028 school year.
- Petitioners are required to follow all district and SCSC instructions, and are expected to provide all necessary documentation and responsive to questions or needs from GCPS.

- Any approvals or denials are the result of Board vote informed by the review committee's recommendations.
- Can not and does not provide feedback or guidance except in the form of revision requests, points of clarity, and decision rationale after Board vote.

Charter and District Roles

Approved Petitions

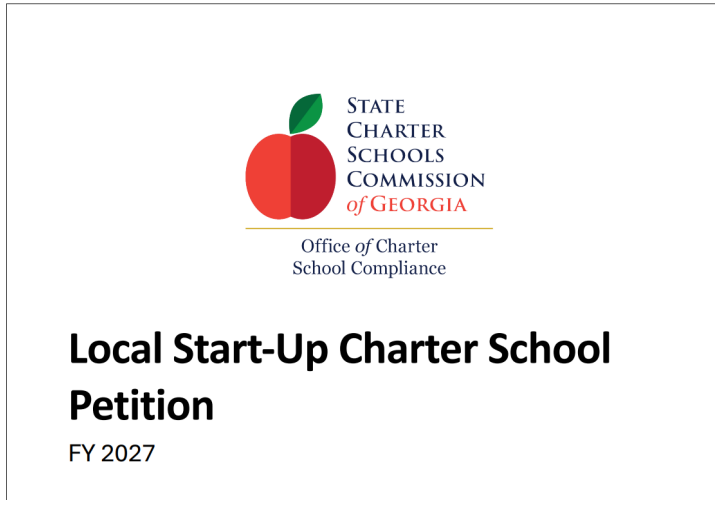


- Independent school-level governance, personnel decisions, resource allocation, instruction, student achievement, day-to-day school operations

- Ensure school receives all per-pupil and other funding to which it is entitled by agreement with the local district as its fiscal agent
- Provides accountability and oversight on results
- MOU will outline the remaining partnership components *(state reporting requirements, resource purchasing)*

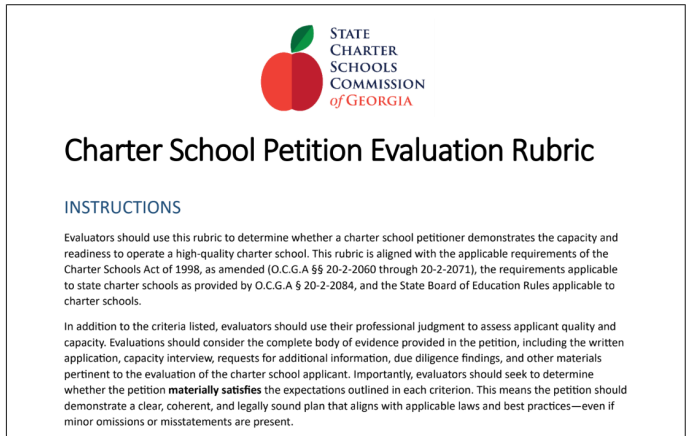
2027 Templates and Resources

Petition Template

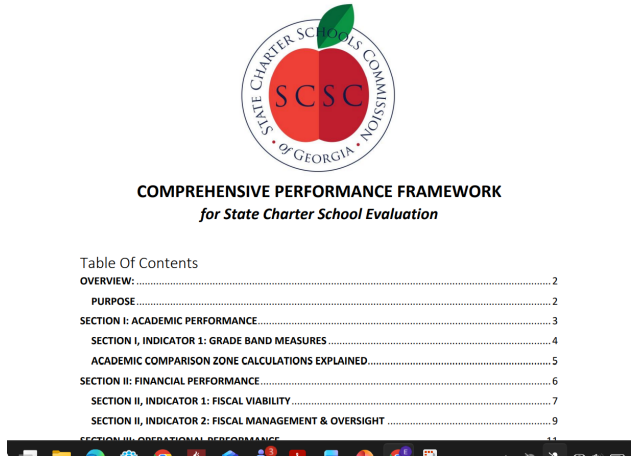


Required

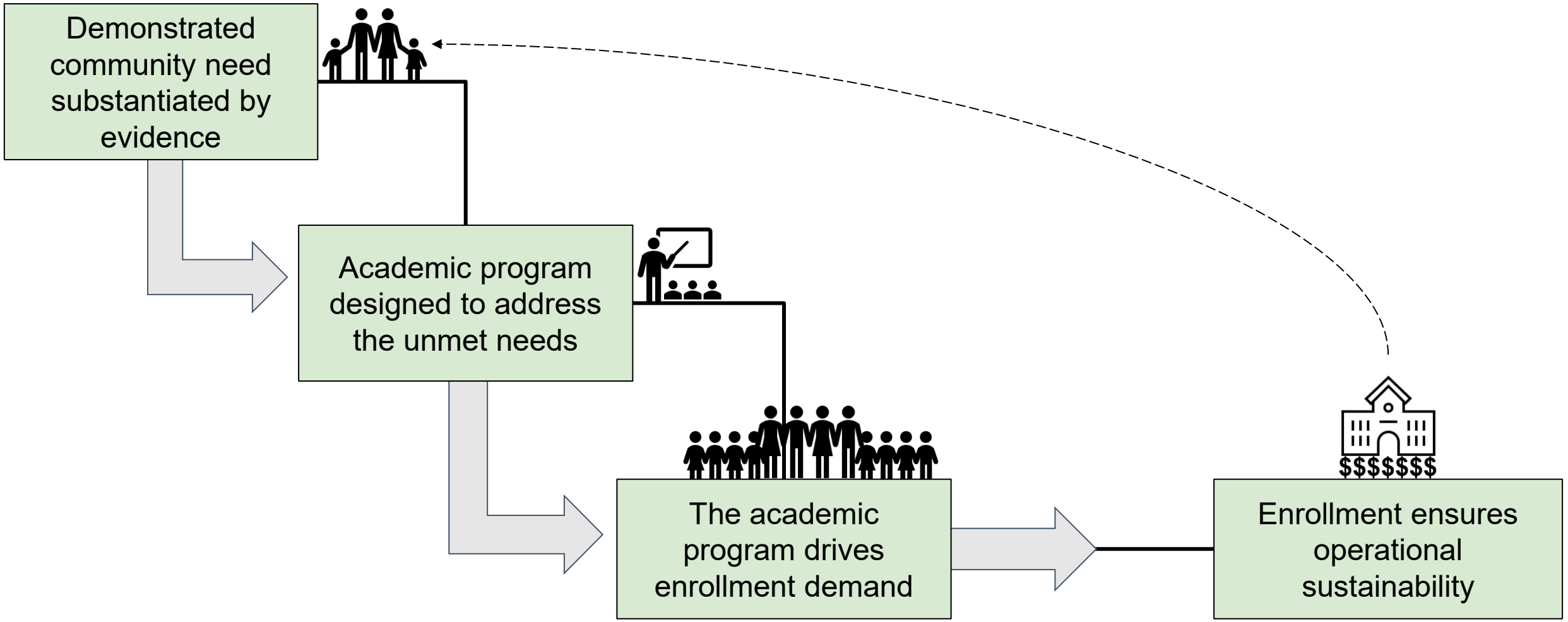
Petition Rubric



Performance Framework



Framework for Charter School Sustainability



The Center for Learner Equity (July, 2024)

Reminders

- Petition template will be emailed to you this evening along with this session's slides.
- Policy IBB Update will be provided on December 19, 2026.
- To be considered in this review cycle, intended for schools opening in August 2028, petitions must be received by 5pm on Tuesday, December 22, 2026.
    - Unfortunately, we will not provide extensions for any reason.
    - You will receive submission instructions by early December.
- The Review Committee may reach out with requests for revisions, points of clarity, and/or additional information during the review cycle but not direct feedback.
- Panel interviews will take place on February 19, 2027 - I will reach out to schedule your 2-hour time slot.
- Gwinnett BOE's vote will take place at the March Business Meeting - tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2027 *(90 days from final submission date).*
- Denied petitions will receive rationale and decision documentation by April 2027 *(one week from Board vote).*
- Optional midpoint check-in sessions will be available during the week of November 30.

Q&A

Thank you for your partnership!

The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.