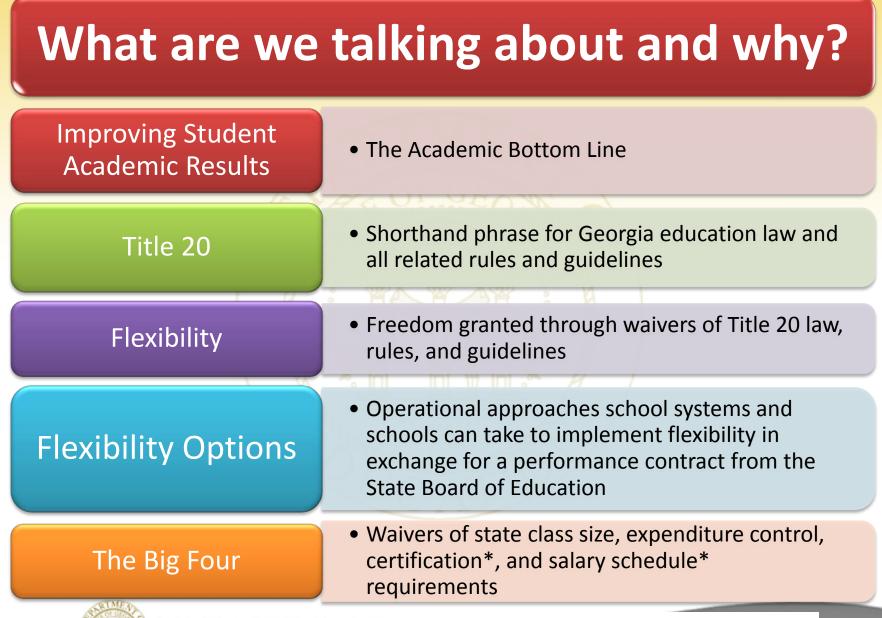
SCHOOL SYSTEM FLEXIBILITY IN GEORGIA

Overview and Comparison

Presentation to

Georgia Council of School Board Attorneys May 14, 2014



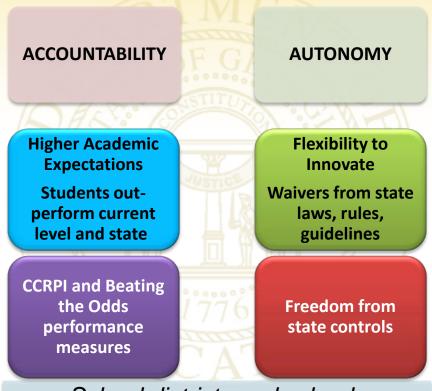




Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent "Making Education Work for All Georgians" www.gadoe.org

*IE², charter systems, and charter schools only

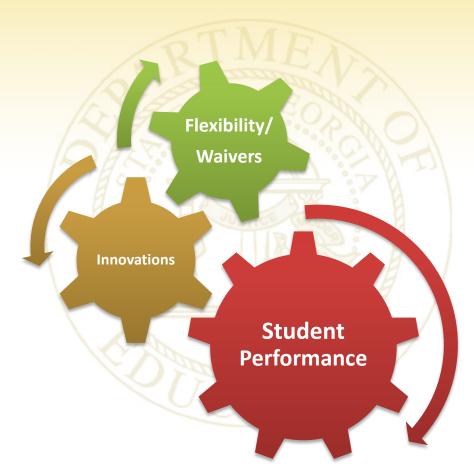
What is the basic flexibility bargain?



School districts and schools



Using flexibility to improve student achievement





Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent "Making Education Work for All Georgians" www.gadoe.org

Dr. John D. Barge, St

5/13/2014

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Selecting a Flexibility Option

- No later than June 30, 2015* each local school system must notify GaDOE that it will operate as an:
 - 1. Investing in Educational Excellence School System (IE²)
 - 2. Charter System
 - 3. Status Quo School System
- Note that the same level of flexibility provided to IE² or Charter Systems (including the "Big Four") is granted to all schools in a:
 - 4. System of Charter Clusters
 - 5. System of Charter Schools

* Per OCGA §20-2-84



What is an IE² system?

Definition	 A local district that has a performance contract with the SBOE (State Board of Education) granting the district freedom from specific Title 20 provisions, SBOE rules, and GaDOE (Georgia Department of Education) guidelines
Facts & Features	 Contract is between the district and the SBOE GOSA (Governor's Office of Student Achievement) role: target-setting and performance monitoring District gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability
Relative Advantages/ Disadvantages	 Flexibility to innovate Financial savings possible from waivers Loss of governance over schools that fail to meet performance targets after five years
Federal/State Compliance	 Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations not waived by the IE² contract



What is a charter system?

Definition	 A local district that has an executed charter from the SBOE granting it freedom from almost all of Title 20, SBOE rules, and GaDOE guidelines
Facts & Features	 Charter is a contract between district and SBOE District gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability Distributed leadership process
Relative Advantages/ Disadvantages	 Flexibility to innovate Financial savings possible from waivers Additional per-pupil funding in QBE if appropriated School level governance required
Federal/State Compliance	 Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety)



What is a status quo system?



Definition	 A local district that has elected not to request increased flexibility in exchange for increased accountability and defined consequences and opted to remain under all current laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures 	
	STATE AND STATE	
	No performance contract	
Facts & Features	 No freedom from Title 20, State Board rules, or Department guidelines 	
	 No waivers unless extraordinary circumstances 	
	M " " " " " " H L	
Relative	 No change is required 	
Advantages/Disadvantages	 No financial savings from waivers 	
	• Must comply with all fodoral laws and regulations	
Federal/State Compliance	 Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Must comply with ALL state laws, rules and regulations 	
Dr. John D. Barge, State School	Superintendent	



What is a system of charter clusters?

Definition	 A local district that has converted all its schools into charter clusters Each cluster includes a high school and all its feeder schools
Facts & Features	 Individual charter contracts between each high school cluster, the district, and the SBOE Each cluster gains autonomy and flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability
Relative Advantages/ Disadvantages	 Flexibility to innovate Decision making is cluster-based Financial savings possible from waivers Cluster level autonomy and accountability required
Federal/State Compliance	 Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety)



What is a system of charter schools?

Definition	 A local district that has converted all its schools into charter schools
Facts & Features	 Individual charter contracts between each school's Georgia nonprofit corporation, the district and the SBOE Each school gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability
Relative Advantages/ Disadvantages	 Financial savings possible from waivers Eligible schools may compete for available federal Charter School Grant funds Decision-making is school-based
Federal/State Compliance	 Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety)



Flexibility

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 School System seeks waivers – must include at least one of the following: class size; expenditure control; certification; salary schedule 	 School System must provide examples of how broad flexibility permitted by the Charter Schools Act will be utilized to improve student achievement 	 Waivers to be granted only in the case of a extraordinary circumstances, e.g. natural disaster, financial exigency Statewide waivers expire June 30, 2015 	 Schools and clusters must state how broad flexibility per- mitted by the Charter Schools Act will be utilized to improve student achievement



Waiver Limitations

 Cannot waive: Cannot waive: Federal rules/ regulations State and local rules/regulations State and local rules/regulations<th>IE² System</th><th>Charter System</th><th>Status Quo</th><th>System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters</th>	IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
	 Federal rules/ regulations State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; accountability; QBE funding; etc. Court orders Civil rights statutes Conflicts of interest; 	 Federal rules/ regulations State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; accountability; QBE funding; etc. Court orders Civil rights statutes Conflicts of interest; 	 extraordinary circumstances, but cannot waive: Federal rules/ regulations State and local rules/regulations State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; accountability; QBE funding; etc. Court orders Civil rights statutes 	 Federal rules/ regulations State and local rules/regulations such as: insurance; physical health; school safety; accountability; QBE funding; etc. Court orders Civil rights statutes Conflicts of interest;

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Unique Features

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 School System Strategic Plan is required to drive student perform- ance goals and flexibility granted School System must conduct a public hearing to share Strategic Plan Approved by the Local School Board 	 Emphasis on school level governance and parent/ community involvement Approved by the Local Board of Education at a public meeting 	 School System must conduct a public hearing to provide notice of the system's intent to select Status Quo Local Board of Education must sign a statement that the school system has selected Status 	 Emphasis on parent/ community involvement, including maximum school level governance Approved by the Local Board of Education at a public meeting
Local School Board at a public meeting		selected Status Quo	



Fiscal Impact

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 Possible savings through flexibility Regular QBE funding with possible waiver of expenditure controls 	 Possible savings through flexibility Regular QBE funding with no expenditure controls Possible \$80-\$90 per pupil in supplemental funding through QBE 	 No savings through flexibility 	 Possible savings through flexibility Regular QBE funding with no expenditure controls Federal charter school implemen- tation grants <i>possible</i> for autonomous charter schools



Governance

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 School System may maximize school level governance by granting local schools authority to determine how to reach goals – but no change is required 	 School System must implement school level governance and grant decision- making authority in personnel de- cisions, financial decisions, curric- ulum and instruc- tion, resource allocation, estab- lishing and moni- toring the achievement of school improve- 	 No change in school level governance required 	 School System must grant each school/cluster substantial autonomy and maximum school- level governance and decision- making
	ment goals, and school operations		15





What are the CCRPI goals of the school system?

What are the gaps between CCRPI goals and CCRPI data?

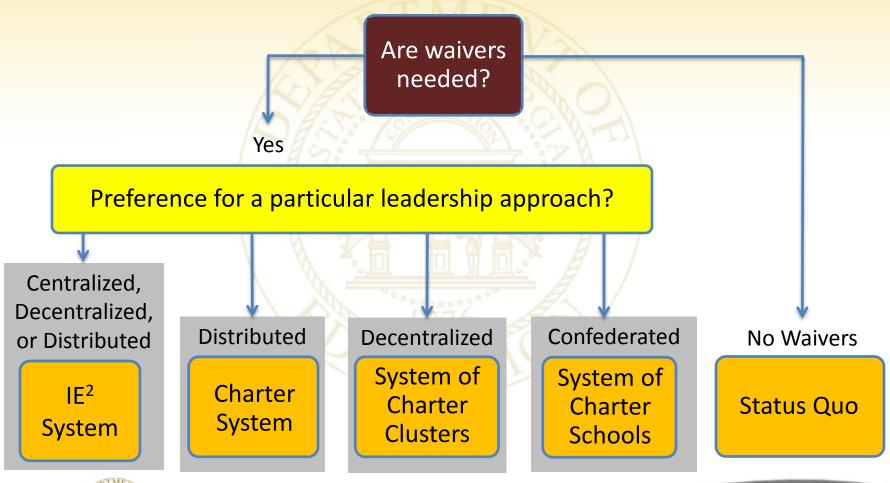
What academic and other strategies can be used to close the gap?

Which operational approach best matches the strategies?



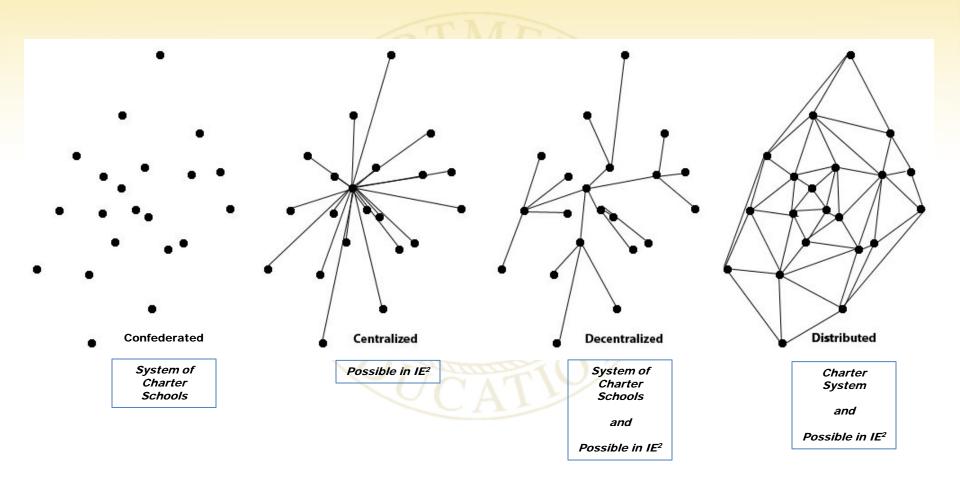
*College & Career Readiness Performance Index

Decision Structure Considerations





Decision Structures





Decision Structures -Distributed Leadership

Distributed Leadership...is a leadership approach in which collaborative working is undertaken between individuals who trust and respect each other's contribution. It occurs as a result of an open culture within and across an institution. It is an approach in which reflective practice is an integral part enabling actions to be critiqued, challenged and developed through cycles of planning, action, reflection and assessment and replanning. It happens most effectively when people at all levels engage in action, accepting leadership in their particular areas of expertise. It requires resources that support and enable collaborative environments together with a flexible approach to space, time and finance which occur as a result of diverse contextual settings in an institution. Through shared and active engagement, distributed leadership can result in the development of leadership capacity to sustain improvements in teaching and learning.

(Jones, Harvey, Lefoe, Ryland 2013)



Major Responsibilities of a School Board

Strategic Plan	 Adopt a five-year strategic plan
Budget	 Adopt a budget to fund the strategic plan
Superintendent	 Hire a leader to implement the strategic plan within budget while providing for the BOE's control and management of schools Adopt and keep an updated succession plan
Accountability	 Hold the leader accountable for implementing the strategic plan within budget Conduct regular self-evaluations to hold <i>itself</i> accountable



Whose authority is shared with school governance teams or governing boards?

- The Superintendent's authority is shared with schools in a charter system or a system of charter schools or charter clusters
- The authority of a local Board of Education (LBOE) is not diminished (unless it has taken over any of the Superintendent's authority)
- Georgia's Constitution says the LBOE is in control and management of the schools and state law says all local schools are under the control and management of LBOE



Who decides?

- The local Board of Education is always in control
- LBOE's have to agree to local charters for them to go forward, and they have to initiate the charter system or IE2 process
- LBOE's choose how to manage their schools in several ways – selecting and holding accountable their superintendent, approving start up and conversion charters, becoming a charter system or an IE2 system



Who decides?

- The LBOE agrees to certain limits with its superintendent and agrees to certain terms with charters
- The LBOE controls the type of local governance and management their schools will have in a charter system, charter school, and charter cluster
- It is the role of the superintendent that is changing in a charter system, charter system, and system of charter schools or clusters



What is School Level Governance?

Superintendent develops recommendations to the LBOE without school level input Superintendent incorporates school level input into recommendations to the LBOE

School Level Governance

• Decision-making authority in personnel decisions (People)

• Decision-making authority in curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, establishing and monitoring the achievement of school improvement goals, and school operations (Time)

 Decision-making authority in financial decisions (Money)



The Goal

School Governance Team Quality Standards

School Governing Team composition reflects the diversity of the community Meets regularly and complies with Open Records and Open Meetings Laws

School Governing Team exercises its school level governance responsibilities Receives regular updates on academic operational, and financial progress of the school School Governing Team sticks to governance and stays out of management

Participates in regular School Governing Team training each year



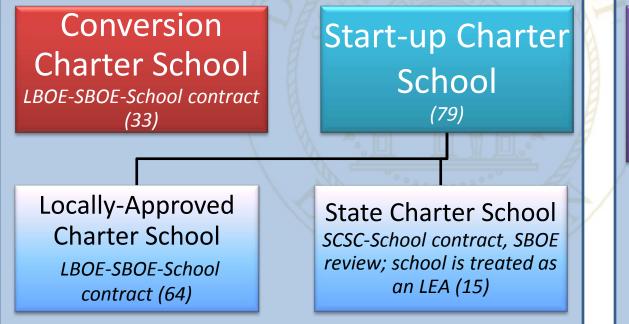
Charter systems must report annually

- Annual reports, which are due October 1, must describe the following:
- The actual authority exercised by local school governing teams in each area of school level governance
- Training received by school governing teams and school administrators
- Steps, if any, the charter system plans to take to increase school level governance in the future



Compare and Contrast: Georgia Charter Schools

Different starting points, but same end point Same starting point as a conversion charter, but a different end point



System Charter School

No contract; school included in LBOE-SBOE charter system contract (226)



What is a system charter school? • A school within a charter system. Definition • It is included in the 2-party charter contract between the LBOE and SBOE School level governance: Local school governance teams Facts & Features involved in decision-making for the school Most common type of charter school in Georgia (226) Relative School level governance frees the school to choose and implement innovation that benefit students at the school Advantages Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Federal/State Compliance • Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations that cannot be waived (e.g., health and safety)



College and Career Academies

- Since charter system schools are considered charter schools in Georgia law, and
- Since College and Career Academies must be charter schools to be eligible for TCSG capital grants,
- Charter systems have begun to create new College and Career Academies through their charter system contract – rather than through a separate charter application process for a stand-alone College and Career Academy



What is a college and career academy?

Definition	 A start-up or conversion charter school or a system charter school that partners with a local district, area businesses, a technical college, and/or other college/university
Facts & Features	 Many college and career academies originate from district programs College and career academy courses are a reflection of the needs of the local businesses and community Georgia has 27 college and career academies, of which 21 have their own charters and 6 were created through a charter system contract
Relative Advantages	 Local districts demonstrate their commitment to preparing their students for college and careers
Federal/State Compliance	 Must comply with all federal laws and regulations Must comply with all state laws, rules and regulations not waived by the contract



Career Clusters/Pathways

- College and Career Academies are increasingly being created to better provide for Career Clusters/ Pathways
- Georgia has 17 Career Clusters all designed with the help of Georgia businesses
 - Each Cluster has multiple Pathways students can choose
- Students take core sets of classes coupled with electives based on their Pathway



GEORGIA'S CAREER CLUSTERS

- 1. Architecture & Construction
- 2. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- 3. Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications
- 4. Business Management & Administration
- 5. Education and Training
- 6. Energy Systems
- 7. Finance
- 8. Government & Public Administration
- 9. Health Science
- **10.Hospitality & Tourism**
- **11.Human Services**
- **12.Information Technology**
- 13.Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- 14.Manufacturing
- 15.Marketing

16.Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics 17.Transportation, Distribution & Logistics





Charter System Contract

- Charter system contracts are standard except for two areas
 - Each contract includes a list of the specific innovations to be implemented by the system to improve student performance
 - Initiatives which the system does not want local school governance to affect are included in the innovations list
 - Any specific performance measures beyond the CCRPI and Beating the Odds measures



Performance Evaluation

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 GOSA Student performance goals must meet contract goals and exceed state averages and previous system performance Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures 	 Student performance goals must meet contract goals and exceed state averages and previous system performance Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures 	 Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures 	 Student performance goals must meet contract goals and exceed state averages and previous cluster or school performance Student performance must meet all federal and state accountability measures



Consequences

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 Loss of governance of non-performing schools may include, but is not limited to: Conversion to charter school Operation by another school system, or Operation by private or non- profit entity 	 Charter status revoked and school system reverts to Status Quo Possible fiscal impact when converting from Charter System to Status Quo due to loss of flexibility 	• N/A	 Charter status revoked for non- performing schools/clusters; those schools/ clusters lose all flexibility Possible fiscal impact due to loss of flexibility if school system is Status Quo



Contractual Partners

IE ² System*	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
1. State Board of Education	1. State Board of Education	N/A	1. State Board of Education
2. Local Board of Education	2. Local Board of Education		2. Local Board of Education
* Governor's Office of Student Achievement leads the IE ² performance target setting, performance monitoring, and evaluation processes			 Charter School or Cluster Governing Board



Length of Contract

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
 Initial term of contract is for 5 years Contract may be renewed if contract performance goals are met for at least three years 	 Initial term of contract is for 5 years Contract status is reviewed annually, based on student performance Subsequent contract term may range from 5 to 10 years if the charter contract goals are met 	• N/A	 Initial term of an individual cluster or school contract is for 5 years Contract status is reviewed annually, based on student performance Subsequent contract term may range from 5 to 10 years if the charter contract goals are met

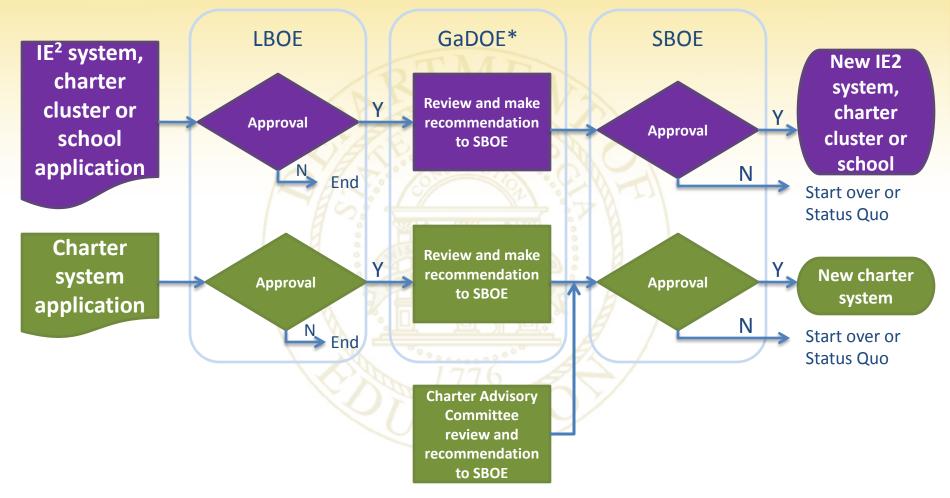


Charter System Application

- 1. What will you be able to do with a charter that you can't do without a charter?
- 2. What are your school system's student performance objectives for the proposed charter term?
- 3. What specific actions will your school system take to achieve your student performance objectives during the proposed charter term?
- 4. What is the system's plan to maximize school level governance?



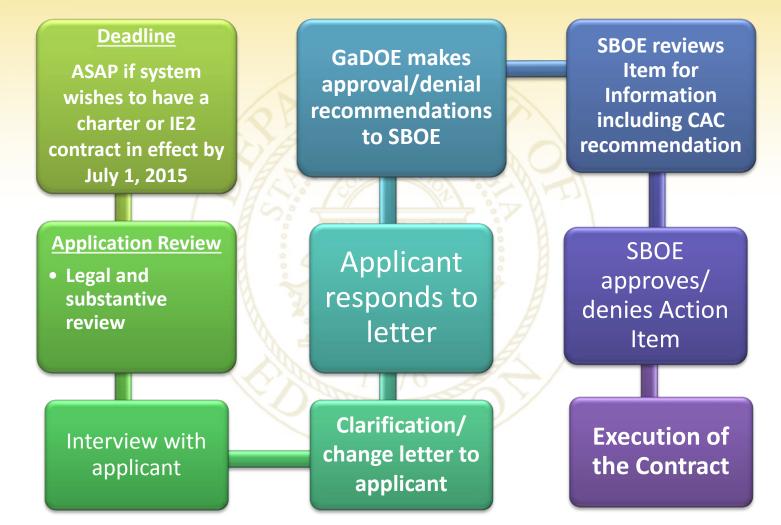
Contract Approval Process



*GOSA included for IE²



What Application Review Process





Application Review Process

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
1. Approved by local board	1. Approved by local board	• N/A	1. Approved by local board
2. Contract vetted by GOSA and GaDOE	2. Petition vetted by GaDOE staff		2. Petition vetted by GaDOE staff
staff 3. Board item vetted	3. Petition vetted by GaDOE Cabinet		3. Petition vetted by GaDOE Cabinet
by GaDOE Cabinet4. State Board of Education approves	4. State Board of Education approves or denies		4. State Board of Education approves or denies
or denies5. If approved, contract signed by	5. If approved, contract signed by all parties		5. If approved, contract signed by all parties
all parties Time from receipt of	Time from receipt of petition to SBOE		Time from receipt of petition to SBOE
petition to SBOE approval and contract =	approval and contract = 3 to 6 months		approval and contract = 3 to 6 months
8 to 24 months	e.org		41

Legal References*

IE ² System	Charter System	Status Quo	System of Charter Schools or Charter Clusters
O.C.G.A.	O.C.G.A.	O.C.G.A.	O.C.G.A.
§20-2-80	§20-2-84.4	§20-2-80	§20-2-2062
§20-2-81	§20-2-84.5	§20-2-84.3	§20-2-2063.1
§20-2-82	§20-2-2062		§20-2-2063.2
§20-2-83	§20-2-2063		§20-2-2064.1
§20-2-84	§20-2-2065		§20-2-2065
§20-2-84.1	§20-2-2067.1		§20-2-2066
§20-2-84.2	§20-2-2068		§20-2-2067
§20-2-84.3	§20-2-2069		§20-2-2067.1
§20-2-84.4			§20-2-2068
			§20-2-2068.1
			§20-2-2068.2
			§20-2-2069
			§20-2-2070
			§20-2-2071



Flexibility Orientation

- Local Boards of Education make a significant legal commitment when they sign a charter system, charter school, charter cluster, or IE2 contract.
- It is therefore critical that both new Board of Education members and new Superintendents receive a detailed orientation on their charter system, charter school, charter cluster, and IE2 commitments as part of their "on-boarding" process



Additional Information

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