



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

June 13th, 2019

Congratulations! The State Board of Education awarded your charter school an FY 2020 Charter School Facilities Grant of \$40,476.19 at their Monthly Meeting on June 13, 2019. Please read the information below regarding the grant and the steps your school must take in order to utilize the grant.

Background. The General Assembly in 2017 amended the Charter Schools Act (as part of HB 430) to make charter school facility funding more comparable to facility funding for traditional public schools in the state by requiring all eligible applicants to receive \$100,000 annually or such other amount as determined by the State Board of Education if insufficient funds were appropriated to fully fund the new \$100,000 requirement. Once sufficient funds were appropriated, the competitive grant program that had been in place (with \$1.4 million in annual funding) would be replaced with the new facilities grant program.

The first appropriation made for this new facility grant program was for FY 2020, in the amount of \$2 million. Added to the \$1.4 million included in the Georgia Department of Education's annual budget for the old competitive Facilities Grant Program, a grand total of \$3.4 million is available for charter schools facilities grants in FY20.

While \$3.4 million is not enough to provide \$100,000 for each eligible charter school, it is enough to provide \$40,476.19 to each of the 84 eligible charter schools. Charter schools eligible to receive a facilities grant are those that (1) submit an annual audit report (or will submit one for FY20) and (2) own or lease their own school building with a lease term of three years or longer.

Allowable Uses of the Facility Grant. Georgia law says state facility grants can be used for (1) Purchase of real property; (2) Construction of school facilities, including initial and additional equipment and furnishings; (3) purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of permanent or relocatable school facilities; (4) Purchase of vehicles to transport students to and from the charter school or state charter school; and (5) Renovation, repair, and maintenance of school facilities that the school owns or is purchasing through a lease-purchase or long-term lease of three years or longer. (O.C.G.A. 20-20-2068.2(c))

Accessing Your Facility Grant. In order to receive your award funds, your school must complete and return by **July 15, 2019** the following three items (attached to this email) to David "Kim" Wiggins via email at KWiggins@doe.k12.ga.us.

1. FY 2020 Facilities Grant Project Summary
2. FY 2020 Facilities Grant Proposed Budget Form
3. FY 2020 Facilities Grant Appendices A and B

Once these three items are signed and pre-approved by Mr. Wiggins, charter schools are then required to submit their facility grant budgets to the Consolidated Application (Con App) directly (if a state charter school) or through their local districts (if a local charter school). See attachment [4 - Con App and Completion Report Instructions](#) and [5 - GAORS Access and Procedures](#) for additional information.

The earliest that the Con App system will be available to load your pre-approved budget will be [July 1, 2019](#). Failure to submit a budget by October 1, 2019 will result in revocation of grant funds.

After review and approval within Con App by Mr. Wiggins and by GaDOE's Grants Accounting Unit, funds will be disbursed to the school's account. You must spend or obligate all funds by [April 30, 2020](#). If you have any questions, please contact Kim Wiggins via email at KWiggins@doe.k12.ga.us

Sincerely,



David "Kim" Wiggins
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