



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

Georgia Charter Schools Program FAQ

Charter School Program Grant (CSP)

Remote Learning and Access Due to COVID-19

November 2020

What is the Remote Learning COVID-19 Grant?

The Georgia Department of Education's District Flexibility and Charter School Division has been granted a waiver by U.S. Department of Education to utilize a portion of its available CSP Grant Funds to assist Georgia Charter schools with remote learning expenses incurred due to COVID-19.

Are all Charter schools eligible to receive the grant?

All Charter Schools that meet the Federal definition of a Charter School are eligible to apply, **except** for those charter schools with a current, active CSP grant and charter schools with virtual programs in place before March 14, 2020. Given the finite amount of funds available, the Department will rank order applicants prioritizing Title I-eligible schools by the percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price lunch at the school. If funds remain after this ranking, other eligible charter schools in Georgia will be considered. If a Charter School has a current active CSP Grant, they are **not** eligible to apply for these funds, but they may be able to seek an amendment of their current CSP budgets to reflect the need for remote learning expenses.

What is the anticipated average award amount?

Award size will be based on each school's need and allowable expenses. We anticipate that most awards will be in the range of \$100,000 - \$150,000.

Is this a competitive grant?

No, this grant is non-competitive and discretionary.

When will the grant start and end?

The performance and budget period for the grant will begin on the date of approval by the GaDOE board at one of its monthly board meetings. The end date of the grant will be September 30, 2021.

Will remote learning expenses incurred before the grant start date be allowable under this grant?

Yes, allowable expenses incurred between March 14th, 2020 and June 12th, 2020 may be reimbursable if eligible charter schools purchased these items to facilitate their remote-learning needs to address the impact of COVID-19.

What are considered allowable expenses?

Allowable expenses include computers, peripherals (e.g., flash drive, mouse, printer), software, and internet access for teachers and students, particularly low-income students and students with special needs who do not have access to these materials at home; and software and internet supports necessary to access educational programs from their homes. Additionally, expenses incurred in transitioning from COVID-related virtual instruction implementation back to face-to-face instruction are also allowable.

How will my expenses be approved once I am awarded a grant and have loaded my budget?

District-approved schools will have their expenses approved by their district before drawing down funds. SCSC approved schools must email their expenses to GaDOE District Flexibility and Charter School Division for approval before drawing down funds.

Are there any stipulations on these funds or limitations on its use?

The Federal regulations that apply to the CSP Grant still apply to the COVID-19 Grant. Grantees will sign a list of grant-related assurances and must agree to grant monitoring and data-sharing related to the grant.

If I have already received the CSP Planning and Implementation Grant previously do I still qualify for this grant?

Previous CSP grant recipients who adhered to all guidelines and were not found to have any findings of improper use with their previous grant, are eligible for this grant opportunity. Charter Schools with current, active CSP grants are not eligible to apply for this grant opportunity, but may be able to seek an amendment of their current CSP budgets to reflect the need for remote learning expenses.

Do I receive my award up front or is this a reimbursement grant?

This is a reimbursement grant. Grantees must provide documentation of eligible expenses and proof of payment to draw down the grant funds.

What are the steps of the process to receive the grant?

The RFA, grant application, and related documents will be posted on the GaDOE website on Friday, November 13 and notice sent through the charter listserv. A webinar will be held on Friday, November 13 discussing grant details. Applicants must file an LOI (letter of intent to apply) with GaDOE by Friday, November 20. Applicants having filed an LOI by the due date must then submit a completed application by Friday, December 4. Applications will then be reviewed and an award list will be established based on the grant

criteria, the number of eligible applicants, and the funds available for the grant. This list will then be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval. Successful grantees will then be notified of their award and asked to load their budgets in the Con App system. Once GaDOE approves the budgets, the school may submit paid invoices and proof of payment to either their district finance personnel (for locally-approved charter schools) or to GaDOE (for SCSC schools). Once the invoices are approved, drawdowns may commence.

If I have additional questions not answered in this FAQ, who can I contact?

Contact information is listed below:

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