GCSA Mission

The Georgia Charter Schools Association supports, fosters, and advocates for the development of high-quality public charter schools and networks that improve opportunities for students throughout the state.

Est. 2001 as a Georgia non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation and the membership organization for charter schools and petitioners.

Membership = operational charter schools, charter school petitioners, charter school developers, and charter school operators. (Approximately 85% of Georgia charter schools are active GCSA members.)

Areas of Focus

• Policy and Advocacy (Legislative and Regulatory Focus)
• School Success (Direct-To-School Services)
• Charter Pipeline Development ("Incubating" New Charter Schools)
• Charter School Facilities Support (GCSA Facility Resource Center)
Focus Area—POLICY & ADVOCACY

What We Do:

- Advocate for legislation that positively impacts charter schools
- Advance public awareness of charter schools
- Communicate charter school needs to policymakers

Policy Priorities

- Equity
- Autonomy
- Access
- Quality

Policy Channels

- Appropriations
- Legislation
- Rule
- Organization-Level
Focus Area—**SCHOOL SUCCESS**

**What We Do:**

- Governing Board Training and Support
- Alternative Teacher Certification (GaTAPP)
- Financial Management Certification Program
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training
- Communications Support
- Professional Development
- Charter Renewal Support
- Data Analysis for School Improvement
- Leadership Coaching
Focus Area—**PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT**

**What We Do:**

- Charter School Incubation (New School Development)
- Founding Governing Board Support
- Charter School Replication & Expansion
- Recruitment Support (Staff and Students)
- Community Education
- Operational, Financial, and Academic Program Development
Focus Area: **CHARTER FACILITIES**

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**What We Do:**

- Help Schools Plan for Growth
- Identify Charter School Facility Sites
- Negotiate Facility-Related Contracts
- Develop Facility Project Budgets
- Create School-Specific Facility Timelines
- Help Schools Procure Financing

**FRC Origin Story:** A 2019 study of GA’s charter school facility/financing environment revealed that charter schools spend TWICE what districts spend on facilities despite lacking access to dedicated funding streams like ESPLOST dollars and revenue bonds that traditional public schools use to offset capital costs. The primary recommendation from this study was to create a statewide facilities “hub” that could address GA’s multifaceted issues. **As a result, GCSA launched its FRC in July 2020.**
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