



GCSA

**GEORGIA CHARTER
SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION**

Organizational Overview
August 2022

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**

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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

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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**

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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