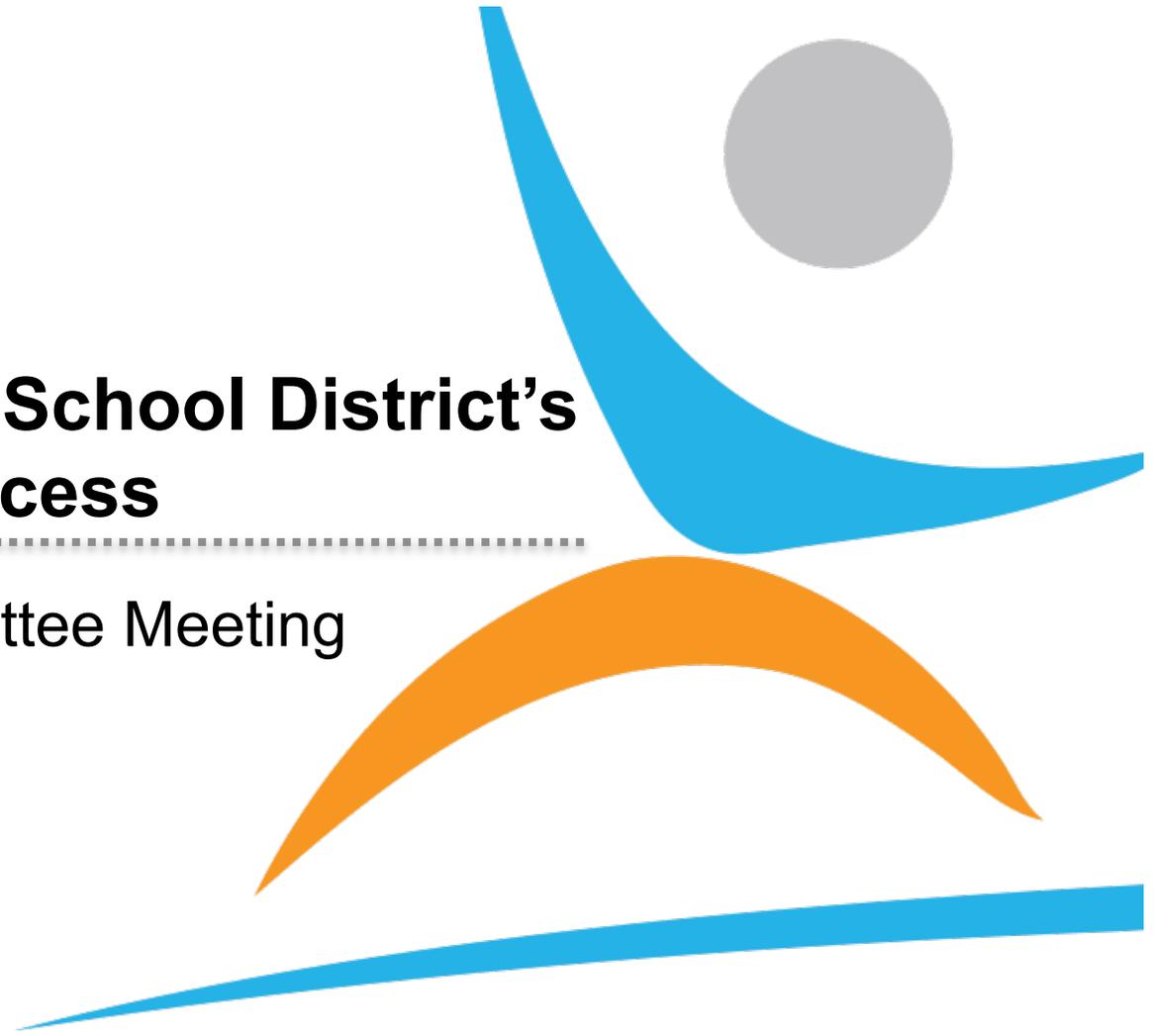


The DeKalb County School District's Charter Petition Process

Teacher Advisory Committee Meeting

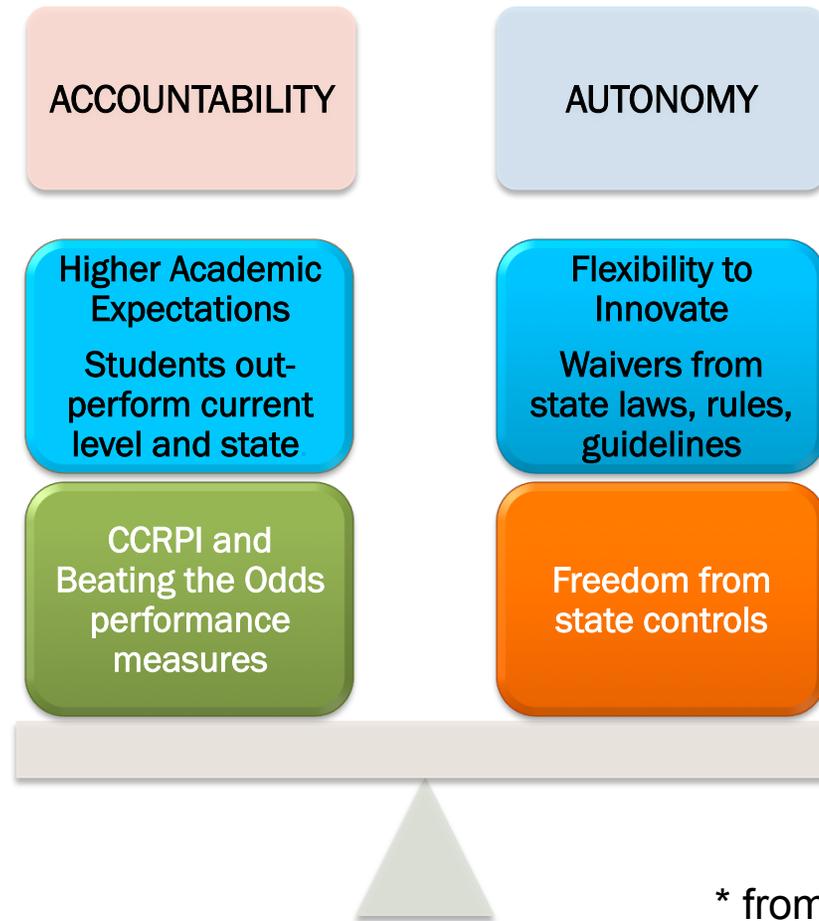


Flexibility Reminders

- O.C.G.A. § 20-2-84.3 states that “[n]o later than June 30, 2015, each local school system shall notify the [Department of Education] of its intention to request increased flexibility pursuant to this article or shall comply with subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-80.”
- According to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-80 subsection (b) “a local school system may elect not to request increased flexibility in exchange for increased accountability and defined consequences and opt to remain under current laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures....”



Flexibility Options: The Trade-Off *



* from GA DOE documents



Charter Petition Updates

- At the April 1, 2014, Business Meeting, the DeKalb County School District Superintendent informed the Board of Education of the district's intention to petition the Georgia Department of Education (GA DOE) and State Board of Education to operate as a Charter System.
- As required by the GA DOE, the district submitted its *Letter of Intent* and is now moving forward with the drafting of a charter petition.



Important Charter Petition Dates

- August 22 – Flexibility Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting;
- August 26 through September 3 – Community Engagement Sessions;
- September 8 – Board update during Work Session and first required Public Hearing;
- September 10 – Flexibility Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting;
- October 8 – Board update during Work Session and second required Public Hearing;
- October 8, 2014 – Resolution by the DeKalb Board of Education adopting the charter petition (**proposed**).



Charter Petition Elements

The GA DOE asks districts to make the case for being awarded charter status:

- What challenges will the charter allow the DeKalb County School District to address?
- What will the district accomplish with the charter that it currently cannot accomplish without a charter?
- What district-wide waivers will DeKalb seek?



Innovations From Other Charter Districts

- Individualized study high school;
- Virtual high school;
- High school credit through community partnerships;
- Open enrollment;
- Combined LEP and EIP programs;
- Flexibility in serving talented and gifted students;
- Extended school day;
- Additional days of instruction;
- Flexible staffing;
- Differentiated pay/teacher salary structures;



Charter Petition Elements

The petition must also detail the performance expectations that the district will meet. These goals will be measured two ways:

- CCRPI – A charter system must “demonstrate proficiency and/or improvement” on the College and Career Ready Performance Index.
- Beating the Odds (BTO) – A new measurement of student growth for charter schools and systems. A school “beats the odds” when it does as good as or better than all the schools in Georgia that are similar to that school.
- Charter system renewals will be based “in part” on whether the charter system’s CCRPI score was equal to or better than the State in Year 2 of the petition and better than the state for Years 3-4 of the petition. Renewals will also be based “in part” on how well the system “beats the odds” as a system as well as individual schools.



Charter Petition Elements

A major element on which the petition must focus will be local school governance. The district must establish a clear plan to maximize school-level governance and should include:

- A transition plan to move from local school advisory councils to Local School Governance Teams (LSGT).
- How members of a LSGT will be selected, and what type of training will be required to be a member of an LSGT as well as the school's Principal.
- What level of autonomy will be provided to the LSGT.



Considerations for Local School Governance Autonomy

- Affects federal funding;
- Reduces economies of scale;
- Increases district budget;
- Impacts surrounding schools;
- Jeopardizes results in CCRPI tested areas;
- Compromises student safety;
- Interferes with maintenance and upkeep of physical spaces;
- Involves legal affairs;
- Jeopardizes comparability;



Charter Systems & Charter Schools

It is important to note that state law §20-2-2063.2 makes specific provisions regarding both conversion charter schools and start-up charter schools and their inclusion in any charter system petition.

- Schools falling under the authority of the system's charter petition are considered system charter schools;
- An existing conversion or start-up charter within a district seeking system charter status shall have the option of maintaining its current charter or terminate its existing charter and become a part of the system charter and thus a system charter school.
- A system charter school has the authority to seek conversion charter status and may petition to do so;



Innovation and Governance: Teacher Input

The DeKalb County School District is seeking your input to assist in the drafting of the charter system application, specifically in two broad areas: innovation and local-school governance.

Innovation:

- What are the greatest challenges facing the DeKalb County School District in improving student achievement?
- What innovative ideas are present among our community, both within our schools and at-large, to address these challenges?

Governance:

- What are your expectations and concerns for autonomy with Local School Governance Teams?
- What considerations should the charter petition include when developing autonomy and Local School Governance Teams?

