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May 13, 2008

Greetings!

Please see below current News on the Georgia Charter Schools movement.

From the Staff at GCSA

CURRENT NEWS

SAVE THE DATE - February 25 - 27, 2009

7TH Annual Georgia Charter Conference

Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel & Conference Center ·
Marietta, GA

Mark your school calendars NOW so you can bring a school team to the 7th annual Georgia Charter Schools Conference which will be held February 25 - 27, 2009 at the Marietta Hotel and Conference Center in Marietta, GA (just acquired by Hilton). As always, this will be the networking event of the year to connect with and learn from your colleagues and peers from across the state.

We look forward to building on the momentum created at the conference this past January to offer high-quality programming to assist administrators, teachers, board members, business officers, parents, policymakers and community leaders in making Georgia's charter schools the best in the country! Set aside the time now to make the conference an in-service experience for your school staff.

We will notify you shortly as soon as online conference registration is available. We will also let you know how you can submit proposals for presentations. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or questions related to the conference, please email GAconference2009@gacharters.org or call 404-460-9992.

CHARTER NEWS

CharterSchool Program retains all existing funding in the state budget

The Georgia state budget retained all existing funds for the state's charter school program. In a year where numerous department budgets

were decreased, the charter school program in Georgia saw no cuts, a very positive outcome.

Charter School Funding

- \$2,200,000 for charter school facilities grants
- \$600,000 for state chartered special schools
- \$145,000 for state planning grants
- \$625,000 for system charter grants
- DTAE funding for career academies (\$15,000,000)

New funding (if House Bill 881 becomes law)

- \$240,000 for the new statewide Charter Commission

House Bill 1065 is signed into law

House Bill 1065 which clarifies that local charter schools can participate in capital outlay projects was signed into law this week by Governor Perdue. House Bill 1065:

- Clarifies that charter schools can be written into local property tax referenda (e.g., SPLOST for facilities needs) and benefit from capital outlay to a district
- Specifies that all charter schools, without regard to type or sponsorship, are eligible
- Optional at the election of the local taxing authority

CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK WRAP-UP

Governor Perdue, Senator Johnny Isakson and Senator Saxby Chambliss highlight "Charter Schools Week" in Georgia

Governor Sonny Perdue signed a proclamation last week recognizing May 5th through May 11th as "Charter Schools Week" in Georgia. Charter Schools Week in Georgia is part of National Charter Schools Week, highlighting the charter school sector nationwide. Governor Perdue's proclamation recognized, "charter schools' commitment to academic achievement, accountability and innovation" while highlighting the efforts of four start-up charter schools: "FultonScienceAcademy in Alpharetta, Charter Conservatory for Liberal Arts and Technology in Statesboro, DeKalbPATHAcademy in Atlanta and OglethorpeCharterMiddle School in Savannah.

Also this week, Senator Johnny Isakson and Senator Saxby Chambliss issued press releases commending the efforts of both the charter public schools of Georgia and Georgia Charter Schools Association.

"I am proud once again to lend my support to the Georgia Charter Schools Association and National Charter Schools Week," said Isakson. "Charter schools encourage parents and families to take an active role in choosing the right learning environment to encourage success for our youth."

- [Senator Johnny Isakson's Press Release](#)
- [Senator Saxby Chambliss' Press Release](#)

[A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America](#)

Education is the cornerstone of a hopeful tomorrow. During National Charter Schools Week, we highlight the contributions of charter schools to ensuring that our Nation's future leaders have the skills and knowledge necessary for a lifetime of achievement.

U.S. Department of Education - Region IV Representatives visit charter schools

The U.S. Department of Education - Region IV, visited four of Georgia's top charter schools as part of National Charter Schools Week. The purpose of these school visits were to allow Dennis Bega - Executive Assistant to the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Education and Lavin Gartland - Deputy Secretary's Regional Representative the opportunity to tour some of Georgia's most successful charter public schools, visit with staff, parents and board members to gain an intimate knowledge of the school's innovative learning environments.

Representatives from the Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta Public Schools, DeKalb County Public Schools, Douglas County Public Schools and City of Decatur Public Schools joined Georgia Charter Schools Association to visit [International Community School](#), [Charles R. Drew Charter School](#), [Tech High Charter School](#) and [Brighten Academy Charter School](#).

HELPFUL RESOURCES

[U.S. Department of Education Charter School Program in Partnership with the Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative](#)

Registration Now Open

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative has opened registration for its free summer workshops. The workshops will be held across the country starting June 18 and will target specific grade levels and content areas. Dates and locations for the workshops are shown below. Follow the above link to learn more about a particular workshop, including viewing draft agendas for many sites.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**2008 NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS
CONFERENCE**
JUNE 22-25, 2008 - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

WHY ATTEND

Hosted by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, this conference is the ONLY national gathering of the entire charter school community. This year's conference is June 22-25 in New Orleans, LA. Participants will not find a better opportunity to learn and grow in an atmosphere of camaraderie and fun.

"Still We Rise: Achieving Academic Excellence at Scale" is the conference theme, reflecting the growth of quality public charter schools across America. The theme has special resonance in New Orleans, which boasts the nation's largest percentage of public charter school enrollment.

PROGRAMMING

Geoffrey Canada, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Harlem Children's Zone, will offer the keynote speech on Monday June 23. Throughout the rest of the conference, attendees will learn and share best practices, discuss national and state policy issues, network with colleagues and attend over 120 breakout sessions.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Attendees will have the opportunity to volunteer at local charter schools, and enjoy special evening events featuring New Orleans traditions, food and music! Questions? Call 206-463-3344 or e-mail nationalconference@publiccharters.org

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Over 3,000 people are expected to attend: charter school leaders, teachers, school board members, finance and facilities managers, policy makers, authorizers, state leaders, funders, advocates and researchers.

Save the Date!

**2009 Georgia Charter Schools Association
7th Annual Conference**

Wednesday, February 25th - Friday, February 27th

Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Resort & Conference Center

Georgia Charter Schools Association