



Georgia Charter Schools Association

Weekly Newsletter

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Save the Date!

2009 Georgia Charter Schools Association Annual Conference

After receiving numerous responses from Georgia Charter Schools Association's members, GCSA has set aside Wednesday February 25th - Friday February 27th, 2009 for the Georgia Charter Schools Annual Conference. The 7th Annual Conference will be held again at [The Marietta Resort & Conference Center](#). We hope you will reserve this date for school leaders and teachers.

More information on the conference is to follow in the weeks ahead.

Join our list

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March 26, 2008

Dear Jeniffer,

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

From the Staff at GCSA

CURRENT NEWS

[Does school choice work?](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution wants to hear from you

March 26, 2008

A story in today's newspaper examined the push behind different bills in the state Legislature to give parents options to send their kids to private schools or non-traditional public schools.

These "choice programs" cover everything from tuition tax credits to vouchers to charter schools. Similar bills have popped up in state legislatures across the country and have become part of a national platform.

But do these programs work? For every study touting how great it is there is another arguing the benefits are minor or non-existent.

The idea that healthy competition improves all schools is one of the arguments behind these marketplace programs. As expected, many public school leaders don't buy this argument.

What do you think? Does choice improve public schools for all children or is it an escape route for a lucky few?

[Healthy choice](#)

March 25, 2008

Rather than questioning elected officials' motives, representatives of Georgia's public education system should ask: Should generation after generation of students be forced to attend schools whose track records prove they are unfit for training young minds for life beyond 12th grade?

If a century-old model of education cannot solve truancy, poor performance and failure, shouldn't lawmakers ease the way for innovations that could make children excited to go to school and perhaps do better?

CHARTER NEWS

Charter School Sweeps the GA Academic Team Association State Meet

Winning is no trivial matter, as the [Baconton Community Charter School](#) Varsity Academic Team demonstrated. They swept the Georgia Academic Team Association (GATA) Varsity State Meet by winning all five rounds and earning the most points of the day. After years of working to achieve this goal, the Varsity team, composed of Seniors Anna Cramer, Matt Faircloth, Preston Maier and underclassmen Jessica Coalson and Jaimin Patel, captured the most sought after title -- State Champion. The Junior Varsity Team took fourth place in the JV State meet. The JV team is composed of Dean Morey, Lillian Harvey, Ben Saponaro, Collin Suggs and Bryce Geistfeld. The teams are coached by history teacher Gabe Council and Assistant Principal Missy Briggs.

[Georgia Legislature Considers New Help for Charter Schools](#)

March, 2008

A poll released in January by the Georgia Charter Schools Association and My School My Choice Georgia--a statewide grassroots charter school advocacy group--shows strong support for more education choices.

The poll was based on 659 interviews completed between December 13 and 15. According to the results, 52 percent of respondents were either not at all satisfied or not very satisfied with public schools; 72 percent said other groups, in addition to local school boards, should have the authority to approve charter schools.

[Familiarity Breeds Content: As the Charter Movement Grows, So Does Public Approval](#)

March, 2008

Analyzing 28 national and state-level polls conducted on charter schools over the past nine years, this issue brief finds support for charter schools grows as citizens become more familiar with them. A consistent finding across the

polls showed a persistently large, yet decreasing, percentage of the public was uninformed about charter schools, or had misconceptions. However, when they were provided a simple definition of charter schools, the polls found significant increase in charter school support.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REGISTER BEFORE APRIL 27 TO GET LOWEST
REGISTRATION RATES

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.

Jeniffer Collins
Georgia Charter Schools Association

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