



Georgia Charter Schools Association

Weekly Newsletter

April 1, 2008

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Dear Jeniffer,

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

From the Staff at GCSA

CURRENT NEWS

Charter School Legislation Stuck in GA Senate

Four charter school bills (House Bills 881, 1277, 1065 and 831) currently reside in the Georgia Senate Rules Committee. All four of bills must pass through the Senate Rules Committee before the bills can be voted on by the entire Senate. With the legislative session ending on Friday of this week, Georgia Charter Schools Association continues to work with Georgia's leadership to ensure the safe passage of these important pieces of charter school legislation.

[Status quo must go](#)

Georgia needs new approaches toward educating our children

Augusta Chronicle Editorial Staff
April 01, 2008

GOP leaders make no secret that they are pushing legislation for more school choice to give parents opportunities to educate their children in a way to shake up a status quo that for decades has produced subpar test scores.

"I would argue that our ultimate intent is to strengthen public education," says Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson, R-Savannah, who sponsored the "scholarship" measure. The House has also passed a laudatory measure to allow proposed charter schools to get their plans approved by a special state panel, thus bypassing the need to get an OK from often hostile local school boards.

CHARTER NEWS

[All-girls charter school picks 1st crop of students](#)

The Atlanta Journal & Constitution

April 1, 2008

Gwinnett County's first free all-girls school held a lottery Monday night to pick its students.

[Ivy Preparatory Academy](#) plans to enroll 116 sixth-graders when the school opens in August, but 155 children applied, said Nina Gilbert, the school's executive director.

The new charter school chose its first students during a lottery ceremony at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Gilbert said. Parents and students were invited to attend, she said.

[Diversity and its Discontents](#)

Article Highlights Diversity at International Community School

Newsweek/Washington Post Online

March 30, 2008

We're part of a generation of Americans raised on the "celebrate diversity" mantra.

A few months ago, I read about a 21st century version of Hull House - a school in Decatur ([International Community School](#)), Georgia that is so diverse the weekly newsletter is published in six languages, and still many parents can't read it. An excellent [New York Times piece](#) on the school pointed out both the wonder and the warts of this institution - both the unlikely friendships that are made, and the unique educational challenges that such diversity presents.

Fulton Science Academy places 3rd in state Science Olympiad Tournament

March 29, 2008

The [Fulton Science Academy](#) Science Olympiad Team won Third Place in state science Olympiad Tournament held at Augusta State University on March 29th, 2008.

The Georgia Science Olympiad Tournament is a nationally recognized program enhancing science education and interest in science. Science teams of up to 15 students competing in age-related activities (K-2; 3-5; 6-9; 9-12) spanning all areas of science, participate in science competitions against public and private schools from across Georgia.

Georgia Charter Schools Association congratulates the students and coaches of Fulton Science Academy's Science Olympiad!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

National Charter Schools Week to Be Held May 5-9 Georgia Charter Schools Association plans activities for members

National Charter Schools Week will be celebrated May 5-9, 2008. The theme for this year's celebration is Charter Schools: Growing Excellence. A primary purpose of this annual event is to connect charter school students, parents, teachers, and leaders to policymakers so they can experience the schools and the enthusiasm of the people supporting them.

This year, we suggest using the power of the Internet to amplify the presence of charters. Each charter school is encouraged to create a short video demonstrating what makes their school great. Schools can post these videos on YouTube and email the videos to their federal, state, and local policymakers during National Charter Schools Week through The National Alliance's Legislative & Advocacy

<http://www.publiccharters.org/content/publication/detail/1866/>.

Georgia Charter Schools Association encourages all charter schools to invite policy makers and business leaders to their school during National Charter Schools Week to learn more about their school. More information is to follow soon.

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.

Save the Date!

2009 Georgia Charter Schools Association 7th Annual Conference

Wednesday, February 25th - Friday, February 27th

The Marietta Resort & Conference Center

Jeniffer Collins
Georgia Charter Schools Association

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