



CharterStart Overview and Agreement

This Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into this ____ day of _____, ____ by and between _____ (“Founder”) and the Georgia Charter Schools Association (“GCSA”) to govern the CharterStart program (“CharterStart”) provided by GCSA.

RECITALS

I. Program Description

CharterStart is a voluntary program available to individuals and founding groups who are seriously interested in submitting charter school applications to a charter school authorizer in Georgia. Two options are offered for CharterStart:

- 1. The CharterStart Program** is a comprehensive and targeted training program provided as a service of the Georgia Charter Schools Association. As provided herein, CharterStart will support founding groups through technical and hands-on assistance through the petitioning process (specific to the laws and rules of Georgia) and in the planning stages for opening and initial operations. The program consists of 4-6 months of CharterStart workshop sessions (live and via web conferencing), as well as cohort group support, and individual consulting with petitioning groups. Participants will be provided with research-based materials, information, and best practices relative to opening a quality charter school in Georgia. In addition, subject to the limitations herein, GCSA may provide Founders with feedback and technical assistance related to authorizing agencies’ expectations on charter petition drafts and foundation and public grant application expectations.
- 2. CharterStart a la Carte** provides a variety of fee based training modules and services the Founder may elect to build capacity for their charter initiative.

Attached to this agreement is a detailed description of each option.

II. Fees and Payment for Services

The CharterStart Program is offered for both GCSA members and non-members. A **\$2500 base fee is due prior to participation in training**. Upon award of a grant award or a charter petition authorization by all authorizing bodies required by state statute, the balance due within 30 days of the grant award or of the first allotment of state funds is as follows:

- Members is **\$7500**
- Non-members is **\$12,500**.

Fees will underwrite the cost of the workshops, outside expert consultants for specific areas, a small library of research-based resources, and consulting time provided over the course of a year (up to 40 hours).

CharterStart a la Carte is offered to GCSA members only. Payment for training and services is due prior to training and service delivery. The fees for services are as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> Getting Started	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance, Accounting, Funding	\$1500
<input type="checkbox"/> Governance	\$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing and Enrollment	\$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal and Regulatory	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources/Labor Relations	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Facility Procurement and Financing	\$1250
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Performance Objectives	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Education	\$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Review	\$1500
<input type="checkbox"/> Mock Interview	\$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Review	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Consulting	\$190 per hour

All membership fees are due prior to delivery of training or services and to be eligible for the GCSA member free rates.

Payment of fees may be paid by cash, certified check, money order or credit card. GCSA reserves the right to require additional documentation.

Executed agreement and payment of CharterStart program fees and GCSA membership fees are due to the Georgia Charter Schools Association offices at 600 West Peachtree Street, Ste. 1555, Atlanta, GA 30308 one week (seven calendar days) prior to engagement in services. Fees rendered for services are non-refundable. Failure to pay fees or uphold terms of this contract will be cause for GCSA to recover unpaid fees or seek recourse by whatever legal means available in the State of Georgia.

III. Additional Terms and Conditions

- A. Petitioning groups may bring a maximum group of 5 participants per school unless otherwise approved by CharterStart or GCSA staff in writing.
- B. Members, Employees, or Consultants of Educational Management (“EMO”) Companies may not participate in CharterStart training classes. EMOs must enter into a separate arrangement under the CharterStart EMO program.
- C. Resources (e.g., books, resource materials) will be provided to each school rather than each participant.
- D. Consulting hours for 1 year shall not exceed 40 hours. Consulting provided in excess of 40 hours shall

incur consulting rates charged by GCSA at the time of service. Through execution of this Agreement, Founder agrees to pay fees incurred for consulting in excess of 40 hours.

- E. Whether there are one or more participants from a petitioning body, it is vital that the same individuals attend EVERY CharterStart session for continuity. If participation is not possible, the Founder may participate at no charge in the next cohort session or, \$190 per hour consulting fee will apply for private consultation if the Founder requires training prior to the next cohort session.
- F. Staff of CharterStart and Georgia Charter School Association will not write or produce a petition document for any petitioning body within the scope of this Agreement. Services for petition writing must be entered under a separate agreement through a GCSA authorized vendor and fees will apply.
- G. Fees will not be reduced or prorated due to lack of attendance or participation by the Founder.
- H. Fees will not be reduced or prorated due to the resignation of the petitioner from the program; cessation of participation by a petitioner, by the decision not to pursue getting charter school petition approval after the petitioner has signed the CharterStart agreement, denial of a planning or implementation grant, or a petition denial by a charter authorizer.
- I. CharterStart is intended to strengthen the application and capacity of founding groups, but does not guarantee the approval or authorization of any petition or guarantee the award of any grant funds.
- J. All training materials, hand-outs, files, and GCSA-created resources provided are proprietary and may not be duplicated, reused, or transferred in whole or in part to any individual, school, or organizations outside of the Founder without the express written permission of an authorized agent of GCSA.
- K. In the event of petition denial by any charter authorizer, the charter petitioner may participate in CharterStart training sessions through another cycle (for the same proposed school) without additional fees. Fees for consulting, petition review, budget review, and mock interviews will review at the rate published for CharterStart a la Carte.
- L. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with regard to the subject matter hereof, and replaces and supersedes all other agreements or understandings, whether written or oral. No amendment or extension of the Agreement shall be binding unless in writing and signed by both parties.
- M. This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of GCSA, its successors, and assigns and the Founder and its successors and assigns. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to permit the assignment by the Founder of any of its rights or obligations hereunder, and such assignment is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of GCSA.
- N. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision.

For good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereto agreed upon by the parties, execution below indicates full agreement to enter into service with The Georgia Charter Schools Association. The Founder has been afforded the opportunity to meet at no charge with a CharterStart professional to discuss the program and its services.

Printed Name of Authorized Founder Representative

Title

Signature of Authorized Founder Representative

Today's Date

Proposed School Name

District(s)

Target Opening Date (mm/yy)

GCSA Approval _____

Title

CharterStart Program Cycle

- April-September
- October-March

CHARTERSTART APPLICATION

FOUNDING PETITIONER INFORMATION

Name:

Cell:

Work:

Email:

Current address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Type of Petitioning Group: Start-Up Group/Individual EMO

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Current employer:

Employer address:

Position:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

FOUNDING GROUP AND CHARTERSTART PARTICIPANTS

Full Name

Area of Expertise/Profession

Full Name	Area of Expertise/Profession

PRE-WORK COMPLETED

(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Understanding of charter school basics	<input type="checkbox"/> District(s) selected: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> School's focus decided: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Review of Charter Schools Act of 1998, and State Board Rule	<input type="checkbox"/> Target population determined	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades determined: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contacted district re: interest in chartering	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational philosophy developed	<input type="checkbox"/> Founding board established

Other:

Signature of Founding Group Representative _____ Date _____
Approval by GCSA _____ Date _____

Payment Record

The CharterStart Program	Date	Method
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 Deposit Paid (required)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Dues Paid	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$7500 Balance Due Paid (members)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$12,500 Balance Due Paid (non-members)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
CharterStart a la Carte		
	Date	Method
<input type="checkbox"/> Getting Started (\$1000)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance, Accounting, Funding (\$1500)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Governance (\$750)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management (\$250)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing and Enrollment (\$750)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal and Regulatory (\$1000)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources/Labor Relations (\$1000)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Facility Procurement and Financing (\$1250)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Performance Objectives (\$500)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Education (\$750)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Review (\$1500)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mock Interview (\$750)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Review (\$500)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>
<input type="checkbox"/> Consulting (\$190 per hour)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> CC # _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Exp _____ CVC _____</div>