



WHO CAN JOIN GCSA?

GCSA membership is open to any charter school founding group or operator in the state of Georgia, charter school authorizers, educational service providers and businesses, organizations and individuals that support quality public charter schools in Georgia.

WHY JOIN GCSA?

The Association is you! We need you to be an active member so that we may advocate, enhance quality, and support from a position of strength in unity to benefit charter schools in the state of Georgia. Your membership is an investment in your success and the success of charters across the state, which is our ultimate aim.

All GCSA members receive:

- Year round advocacy and professional lobbying at the State Capital
- Weekly e-communication with the latest information on critical charter-related issues as well as weekly summaries of legislation during session
- Opportunities to participate in establishing the legislative agenda for charter schools
- Opportunities to participate in advisory committees to guide and inform the Association's major initiatives
- Discounted registrations for annual conference, training sessions, online professional development and more throughout the year by the Association
- Opportunity to participate in discount programs with approved corporate partners
- Free job postings on the GCSA website
- Opportunity to have the GCSA Legal Defense Fund, a revolving loan pool to help charter schools, if determined a good use of those funds
- Opportunity for parents in your school to become active with the G-PAN, the Georgia Parent Advocacy Network

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR GCSA MEMBERS?

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN....ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY WORKS

- Participate in and support the legislative agenda adopted by the advocacy committee and Board of Directors and participate in lobbying efforts of the Association on behalf of charter schools.
 - *Examples:*
 - Participate in policy discussion sessions
 - Volunteer to serve on Advocacy Committee
 - Contact legislators related to proposed bills
 - Participate in Charter Schools Rally at the Capitol
 - Host legislator visits to schools
 - Encourage parents to become members of G-PAN
- Participate in and support joint marketing campaigns and initiatives

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN ...THE LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Participate in conferences, meetings and trainings of the Association
 - *Examples:*
 - Have the annual budget reflect the funds necessary and thus committed to send at least four people to the state conference
 - Attend GCSA Board of Directors meeting (s)
 - Attend the State of the Charter Meeting each fall
- Utilize Association Services
 - *Examples:*
 - Charter School Board of Directors training
 - Petition/Petition renewal review
 - Charter School Policy offerings
- Participate in committee and taskforce work
 - *Examples:*
 - Volunteer for a sub-committee: advocacy, membership, communication or education
 - Volunteer to serve on the Awards and Recognition review team
 - Volunteer to serve as a reviewer of presentation ideas for annual conference
- Contribute to the information and knowledge base of the charter community through surveys and sharing innovative and effective practices
- Pay annual dues on time

BE A MODEL CHARTER SCHOOL IN ...OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

- Review and sign the Quality Standards Statement at time of membership or renewal
- Comply with federal and state laws and best practices that apply to charter schools
 - *Examples:*
 - Health, safety, etc
 - Financial
 - Non-discrimination
 - Governance
- Submit reports to the State of Georgia and authorizer in a complete and timely manner
 - *Examples:*
 - Audits
 - Annual Reports
- Fulfill the terms of the charter contract and maintain a good relationship with authorizer
- Demonstrate annual growth overall and academic performance and fiscal sustainability
- Conduct business and operate in legal and ethical manner