Georgia’s High Quality Charter School Requirements
What Makes a Charter School “High-Quality”? 

- Strong Academic Results 
- Well-Trained and High-Functioning Governing Board 
- Financial Sustainability 
- Legal and Regulatory Compliance
High quality charter schools will:

• Meet the rigorous academic performance goals included in their charter contract, including growth goals

• Exceed state accountability standards

* High Quality Charter School
Petitioners are asked:

- What would having a charter allow you to do differently to increase student achievement that you could not do without a charter?
- Why do you need a charter to implement the innovations you have proposed?

Must show the following links:

- Flexibility/Waivers
- Innovations
- Student Performance
HQCS Financial Sustainability Standards

- Balanced budget
- Financial reserves
- Qualified CFO

- Limited debts or sustainable debt service
- Meeting state and local board financial reporting deadlines
HQCS Governance Standards

- Governing board composition reflects the diversity of the community
- Meets regularly and complies with Open Records and Open Meetings Laws
- Governing board sticks to governance and stays out of management
- Autonomous from local district, CMOs, EMOs and all other organizations
- Receives regular updates on academic, operational, and financial progress of the school
- Participates in regular governing board training each year
**Governing Board Autonomy**

**Indicators of Autonomy**
- Must make personnel decisions (People)
- Must make decisions about what happens in the school (Time)
- Must set school budget spending priorities (Money)
- Can contract for services provided by the district
- Must recruit/select governing board members without district or EMO/CMO assistance
- Must have independent audit firm and attorney

The school should be as close to this end as possible.
Minimum or no issues associated with federal Title programs or Special Education

Complies with Charter Schools Act, Rules, charter contract, Guidelines and Guidance

Lottery and application process are fair and legal

Incorporated as a Georgia non-profit

Participates in TRS

ESP does not employ teachers

*Fourth Generation*