

# Georgia's High Quality Charter School Requirements

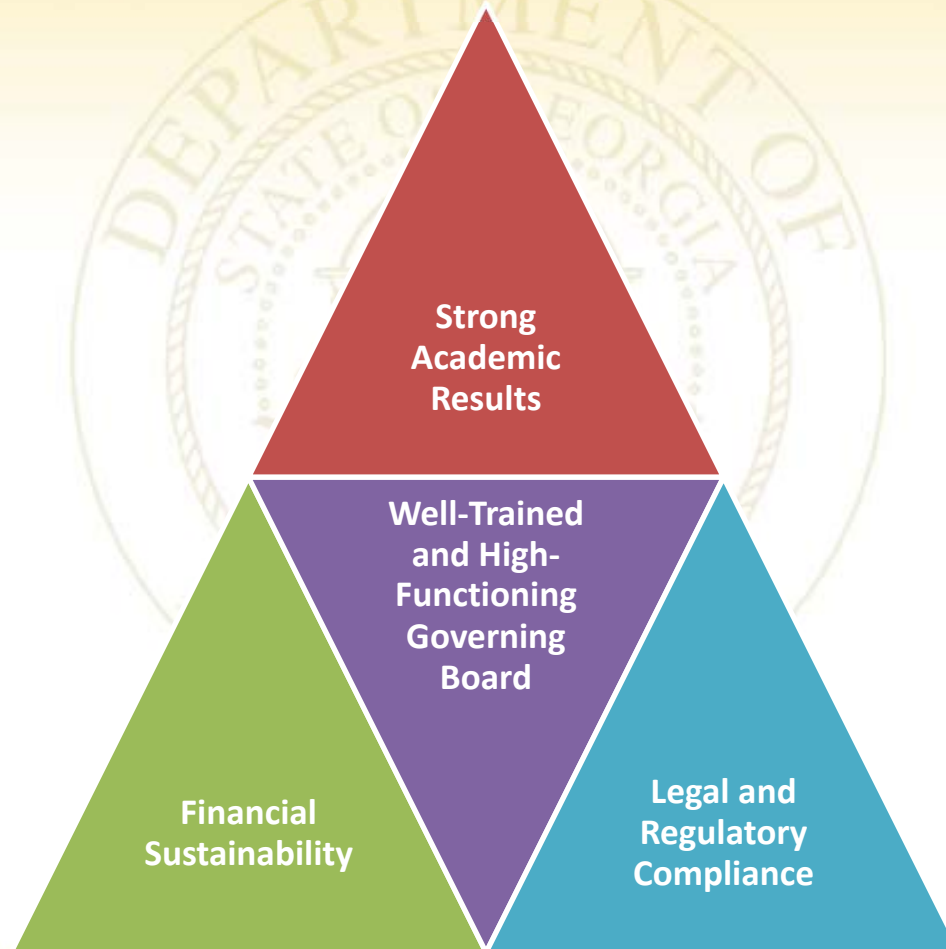


Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent  
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"  
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# What Makes a Charter School “High-Quality”?



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# HQCS\* Academic Standards

## High quality charter schools will:

- Meet the rigorous academic performance goals included in their charter contract, including growth goals
- Exceed state accountability standards

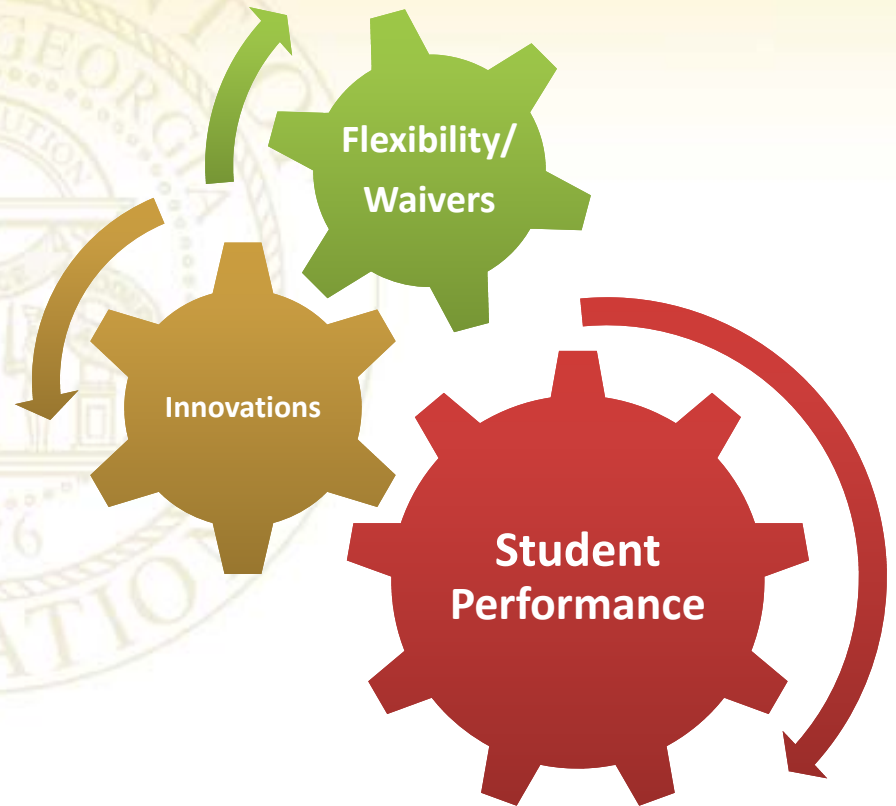
*\* High Quality Charter School*



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# HQCS Academic Standards

- Petitioners are asked: Must show the following links:
  - 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?



# 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 4G\* Legal and Regulatory Compliance

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*



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