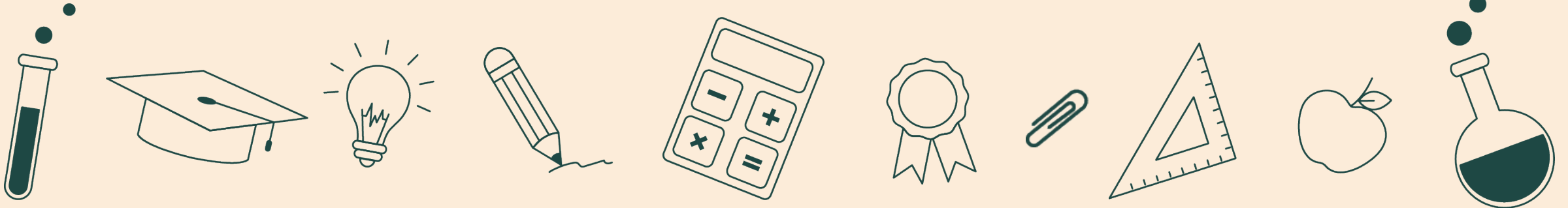




Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing



Code of Principles and Standards for Charter School Authorizers



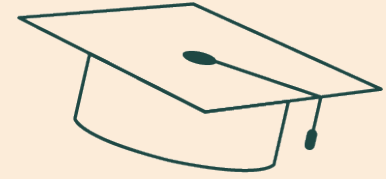
- In 2017-2018 legislative session the Governor signed HB430 into law
- § **20-2-2063.3**. Code of principles and standards for charter school authorizers
 - Georgia Code Title 20 – Education, Chapter 2 - Elementary and Secondary Education, Article 31 - Charter Schools Act of 1998
- Intent: Encourage quality charter school authorizing practices



§ 20-2-2063.3 Part A

The State Board of Education (SBOE) and the State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC) shall jointly establish a code of principles and standards of charter school authorizing to guide local boards of education, the state board, and the SCSC in meeting high-quality authorizing practices. The principles and standards shall include:

1. Maintaining high standards for approving charter petitions;
2. Establishing high academic, financial, and operational performance standards for charter schools;
3. Annually monitoring, evaluating, and reporting charter school progress in meeting academic, financial, and operational performance standards,
4. Upholding charter school autonomy in school governance, instructional program implementation, personnel, and budgeting;
5. Protecting students and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations to all students; and
6. Protecting the public interest and holding charter schools accountable for their obligations of governance, management, and oversight of public funds.



§ 20-2-2063.3 Part B, C & D



1. The SBOE shall provide for the annual review of local boards of education by an independent party (that has demonstrated history of evaluating authorizer performance) for adherence to the principles and standards of charter school authorizing practices.
 2. A charter school authorized by a local board of education that fails to meet the principles and standards of charter school authorizing on its annual evaluation for two consecutive years may petition to transfer its charter authorization to the SCSC.
 3. In its discretion, the SCSC may approve a charter school petitioning for authorization pursuant to paragraph (2)
- C. The SCSC shall ensure that its adherence to the principles and standards of charter school authorizing practices is annually reviewed by an independent body that has a demonstrated history of evaluating charter school authorizers for quality authorizing practices.
- D. The SBOE shall provide for or approve training for its staff and local board of education members on the principles and standards of charter school authorizers.



Draft Standards Overview



The SCSC and GaDOE are currently working to draft a set of principles designed to evaluate Georgia charter authorizing bodies on authorizing practices. The standards are informed by both the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing* and *Georgia laws and rules.*)

Five (5) Core Principles:

1. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity
2. The Petition Process
3. Performance Contracting
4. Oversight and Evaluation
5. Renewal and Termination



Possible Evaluation Examples



1. Authorizer Commitment & Capacity
 - Staff demonstrate adequate experience
2. The Petition Process
 - Process is free of conflicts of interest
3. Performance Contracting
 - Academic, financial, and operational performance standards are clear and based on verifiable data
4. Oversight and Evaluation
 - Authorizer's practices do not interfere with schools' autonomy
5. Renewal and Termination
 - Renewal criteria and process are published in a publicly accessible location



Tentative Timeline



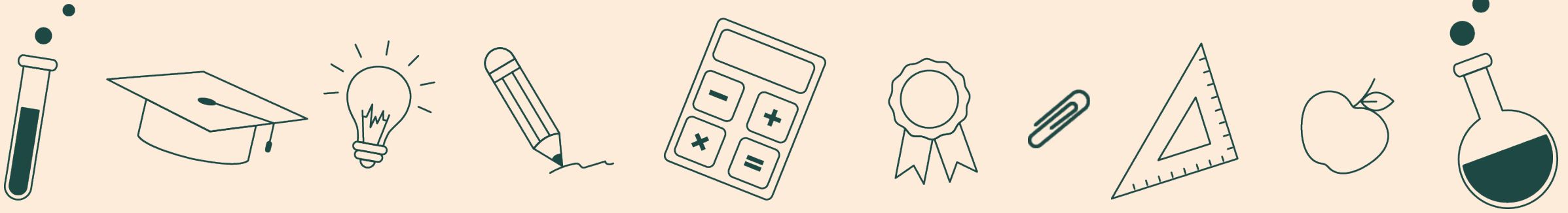
February 2021: Finish development of draft principles and standards

March 2021: Share draft with charter schools and authorizers for feedback

April 2021: Adopt final set of quality authorizing principles and standards

May 2021: Finalize evaluation process and secure 3rd party evaluator





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