



2026

Georgia Charter System of the Year Award
Charter System Leadership Development Award

AWARDS CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2026
8:00 AM

AWARD APPLICATION
GUIDELINES

1. Charter Systems may apply for one or choose to apply for both awards.
2. Previous winners must wait *two years* before they reapply for the specific award they have won.
3. No more than **500 words** per application.
4. You may submit pictures and charts if you wish.
5. In addition to the above we ask that the system submit a paragraph (**No more than 100 words**) describing your success using charter system flexibility.
This will be used for publicity purposes.
6. Award winners will be required to provide an in-person presentation at the CSF Fall Conference the following year.

Please email your application to:

pam@charter-system.org

AWARD APPLICATION IS DUE NO LATTER THAN

Monday September 21, 2026

All Applicants Must Complete the Following:

- Paragraph (no more than 100 words) describing your success using charter system flexibility.
 - *This paragraph is used on our website*



Charter System of the Year Award

Name of Charter System:

The Charter System of the Year Award recognizes the system that demonstrates the following attributes listed below.

100 Total Points Earned – Please write a short paragraph for each of the four areas mentioned below. You may attach any supporting documents, news articles, and/or pictures.

- **Adaptability & Flexibility** – Describe how your district has successfully used flexibility models to adapt to the evolving needs of students, staff, and the community. How have you effectively utilized flexibility to modify and/or create new policies, practices, and waivers leading to improved academic performance?
 - 25 Points
- **Innovative Uniqueness** – Describe how you have used innovation for your district's approach to education to improve student outcomes and impact areas of CCRPI such as academics and/or climate. How do you foster collaboration and participation among the governance team, administration, teachers, students, and the community to drive these innovations?
 - 25 Points
- **Commitment** – Describe how your district maintains transparent decision-making processes, regularly engages stakeholders, and maintains fiscal responsibility. How does the district demonstrate dedication to implementing district-wide programs with faculty, student, and community support, ensuring long-term sustainability?
 - 25 Points
- **Achievement & Student Success** – Describe how your district has demonstrated its dedication to student achievement. What role has the use of broad flexibility played in enhancing academic achievement and addressing key state-level educational priorities?
 - 25 Points

Personal Statement:

In 100 words or less, please explain why you believe you deserve the Georgia Charter System of the Year Award.



Charter System Leadership Development Award

Name of Charter System:

The Leadership Award recognizes the system that demonstrates instructional innovations at the classroom, school, or system level with a focus on initiative-driven leadership impacting the academic and community environments.

100 Total Points Earned - Please write a short paragraph for each of the three areas mentioned below. You may attach any supporting documents, news articles, and/or pictures.

- **Leadership** – Describe how your district builds leadership capacity and ensures that all leaders understand the work of the charter system. How does the district take an active leadership role within the charter system community by mentoring other charter systems and/or participating in statewide pilot programs or organizations?
 - 25 Points
- **Educator Development** – Describe how the district invests in educators to increase student success, implement outstanding and innovative programs, and foster collaboration. What leadership training and professional development is included for educators?
 - 25 Points
- **Governance** – Describe in detail how your governance teams play a critical role in leading innovation, having meaningful agendas, and effective decision making in their schools. How do you engage and empower teachers, parents, and community members to actively participate in school governance ensuring the achievement of academic and operational goals and improving student outcomes?
 - 25 Points
- **Community Involvement** – Describe your district's partnerships with families, local businesses, and community organizations. How do you establish meaningful partnerships with businesses, civic organizations, and higher education institutions (technical colleges and universities) to support educational initiatives and improve student outcomes?
 - 25 Points

Personal Statement:

In 100 words or less, please explain why you believe your district deserves the Georgia Charter System Leadership Development Award.