

Putnam County Charter System

What is a charter system?

Charter systems are allowed under the Charter Systems Act (OCCGA §20-2-205). A charter school system is one whose local school system and school board went through the rigorous process of applying to the state Board of Education to approve the system's proposed charter agreement with the state board. According to the state Department of Education, a charter system provides the opportunity for teachers, administrators, parents and local school board to have greater flexibility to determine the educational needs of students and requires some school-level governance in the system.

What impact does a Charter System have on Policies and Procedures?

State and BOE policies and procedures will be followed with additional local policies and procedures to support the work of School Governing Authorities in conjunction with reaching the BOE system goals and objectives.

How will the Charter System influence the organization and academics of the school system?

The charter supports the flexibility for staff and school teams to investigate programs and initiatives that are driven by data and research that support student achievement. It will allow the school to direct their resources toward initiatives and to monitor success. The School Governance Authority will work closely with the principal to oversee the school improvement plan and find ways to support staff initiatives. The expectations of student achievement will reach beyond the minimal requirements of "No Child Left Behind, NCLB" and goals for "Adequate Yearly Progress, AYP."

What is a School Governance Authority (SGA)?

Each school in Putnam County School System will have an SGA. This group of 5 to 7 individuals is composed of the principal, 2 certified teachers and 2 parents in its first year. Their primary role is to make decisions to support the learning and school improvement plan at each school.

What does it mean to be an SGA member?

An SGA member must be willing to commit to the following:

- attend monthly meetings for 10 months during the school year;
- serve for three years
- make decisions with a school-wide focus;
- attend mandatory training;

What are the duties of an SGA member?

The duties of the SGA shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- Develops local school actions consistent with BOE policies, goals, objectives and budget.
- Approves selection process; endorses principal's recommendations for all instructional staff including assistant principal; and approves recommendations for hiring of instruction staff.
- Approves school budget for recommendation to superintendent.
- Approves school curriculum for recommendation to superintendent.
- Ensures resource allocation consistent with SGA approved school budget; approves, in whole or in part any shift in resources allocation in excess of \$20K and less than \$50K; recommends, in whole or in part, to the superintendent any shift in resource allocation in excess of \$50K.
- Endorses and monitors the school improvement goals and objectives; assigns a grade based on a rubric assigned by the superintendent; presents the school report card to the superintendent for review.

How are SGAs different from school councils?

Three ways:

1. Intent. The SGAs shall primarily govern, not advise.
2. Composition. The SGAs will have more autonomy to determine their own composition. If the SGAs need a specific expertise or experience at the table, they may appoint members.
3. Leadership. The SGAs will determine their own leadership by voting for their own chair.

What do I do if I'm interested in getting involved with the Charter System?

Contact the school administration for additional information.