



FAST FACTS – from Charter Systems District Awards Applicants Charter Systems Successes with Charter Flexibility

Baldwin County Schools: The Baldwin County Board of Education’s strategic planning process is closely aligned to the Charter System standards, as mentioned above. That alignment has helped the District and our Local School Governance Team collaborate as a stronger and more cohesive team. It has also helped us transform the entire high school to a college and career academy in a timeframe beyond our expectations, which afforded our district the flexibility to be very intentional about our direction and how that direction is directly related to student success. The Baldwin County Charter System has seen dramatic improvements at every level, including increasing the College and Career Performance Index(CCRPI) by 10% and most notably and the graduation rate has increased from 66% to over 90%, setting record-high graduation rates for three straight years in a row. Thank you, Georgia System Foundation!

Barrow County Schools: Barrow County School System strives for academic excellence, and is committed to improving educational outcomes for all students. Charter flexibility has enabled the district to implement innovative instructional practices and opportunities to meet the diverse needs of students. Barrow County Schools has successfully managed system growth, enhanced teacher and leader quality, leveraged technology, and enhance resource effectiveness through charter flexibility. The opening of the Barrow Arts and Sciences Academy, development of postsecondary pathways partnerships with Lanier Technical College and Piedmont College, and the Project Search partnership benefiting students with disabilities through community partnerships are testaments of success using charter system flexibility.

Ben Hill County Schools: Ben Hill Charter System has over 88% of its students’ dual enrolled and have reduced the drop-out rate to less than 6 students. FHSCCA has a true graduation rate of 96% and 3 of our schools were named REWARD Schools for Growth this past year. Our General Fund balance now has over 4 million dollars in it and we are 100% one-to-one devices for all students and teachers K-12. Our Innovative PLC and RTI processes allow the tracking of every segment served on a per pupil basis in the tier process for EIP and Gifted students = Maximum FTE Funding.

Calhoun City Schools: Calhoun City Schools utilizes charter system flexibility to redefine the classroom. Innovative scheduling, flexible calendars, virtual learning and mobile learning labs have helped explore many opportunities for students. Flexible scheduling coupled with the partnership between the Calhoun College and Career Academy and Advent Health Care Clinic has been a way to enrich and support the healthcare pathway. The school / hospital partnership allows flexibility in waiving specific requirements that would be in place in a traditional urgent care to allow students to work on-site. Students practice and apply learned skills in real world environments and situations.

Cartersville City Schools: Exercising charter system flexibly provides the autonomy to create and sustain an exceptional, accountable learning environment for all students and stakeholders. A few examples are Fab Wednesdays at CHS where adjusting seat time enables students to receive critical enrichment and intervention, waiving of teacher certifications enable to us make individual choices in order to select the most qualified, capable personnel, and consolidating funds provides the flexibility and efficiency needed to obtain to most value and benefit from our resources. We strive to use flexibility to make minor adjustments that create a major impact on our students and ultimately our community.

Dougherty County Schools: The Dougherty County School System works to maximize the flexibility granted by virtue of our Charter System Status to innovate and collaborate to bring new opportunities to students and their families. Due to this flexibility, we've been able to award nearly \$1.5 million in grants to schools to foster innovations to support or develop programs such as project-based learning, literacy initiatives and STEM or multimedia programs. We've also used our flexibility to make our schools more accessible to business and community partners, create work-based learning opportunities for students and improve educator and leader development and support.

Evans County: ECCSS has fully embraced the flexibility of Georgia Charter School law by fully engaging School Governance Teams at four public schools, adding a new governing Board of Directors for the Evans Region College and Career Academy (ERCCA) opening in 2021, securing \$3 million in state funding for ERCCA, and adding a public health center to Claxton Elementary School. The nearly 2,000 students of ECSS are benefiting from community-wide engagement of parents, other governments, post-secondary partners, and at least 50 employers engaged in supporting curriculum planning and work-based learning efforts to improve the workforce and economy of Evans County.

Fulton County Schools: FCS is proud of the autonomy provided to schools. Charter system schools can request flexibility to waive policy to implement innovative ideas to support strategic plan goals. Schools have been leveraging [flexibility opportunities](#) since 2010. Recently, FCS started to revise the flexibility process to a tiered system of flexibility. Innovation starts at the school level where schools request for waivers to district policy. If those waivers show success and are repeated by multiple schools, the waivers become an opt-in/opt-out option where schools can choose if they want to participate. If the flexibility waivers continue to show effectiveness, then Fulton could implement district-wide flexibility.

Lumpkin County Schools: The Lumpkin County School System utilizes system flexibility to ensure that we are reaching our mission. Waiving certification requirements allows us to employ content experts in select areas who may not hold a teaching certificate. The knowledge brought to our students through the expertise allows for greater success in learning. Flexibility with the calendar allows for students to continue learning through an online platform during weather events that could jeopardize the safety of our students on the roads. In our current state of health concerns, our teachers did not skip a beat when transitioning to online and distance learning. Seat time has been waived allowing for credit recovery, virtual learning, and alternative seating to be more productive and successful. Flexibility with the state teacher pay scale has enabled Lumpkin County to recruit some extremely gifted and experienced educators to benefit our students and our community

Marietta City Schools: Marietta City Schools has been a leader in the charter movement, serving as a visionary for how to leverage charter flexibility and innovation to positively impact the student experience. Knowledgeable and passionate educators are committed to early literacy, college and career readiness, STEM education, and the IB Programme. The Marietta Student Life Center is a national model for comprehensive, wraparound services. Stakeholders acknowledge and value the sense of family, tradition, and pride that exists in the Marietta community. Marietta City Schools is special, different, better; but still each day we strive to be somebody in the life of a child.