



Georgia Charter System
Foundation Awards

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

Baldwin County Schools: As a Charter System, we can innovate how we teach our children by having the flexibility to tailor our instructional methods to each child to prepare them to compete and be successful in the 21st Century. By exhibiting flexibility in all that we do with our leaders, we can predict and see meaningful change in education, especially when our parents, business leaders, and community partners are empowered with the authority and flexibility to make decisions to meet the individual needs of each student. Because we know that the “Whole Child” development that occurs at school was interrupted during the pandemic, the crisis has helped highlight the importance of other skills that are often overlooked in the school context, but that should be nurtured as part of going to school, and that will merit more attention in the aftermath of the pandemic. Now, more than ever, we are focused on being flexible, being transparent, creative in our teaching methods, setting achievable academic goals, and utilizing a variety of assessment tools that are student-centered.

Barrow County Schools: Barrow County School System is committed to ensuring an exceptional education that leads each student to become a high achieving and responsible citizen. Charter flexibility has enabled the school system to implement innovative instructional practices and processes to meet the academic needs and creative interests of students. Use of distributed leadership and shared governance has provided numerous opportunities to develop local, state, and national partnerships to accomplish the mission, vision, and goals of the school system. Barrow County School System is "Boldly Committed to Student Success" and the entire staff is continuously challenged to be Barrow BOLD (Building Our Learning Differently)

Ben Hill County Schools: Ben Hill Charter System is fully committed to using its flexibility to continue to “think outside the box” and create new innovative practices to provide an individual educational model for each student to allow them to have opportunities for College, College and Career, or Career. Our Charter System flexibility has allowed us to redesign our way of thinking and how we provide services to teachers and students each day. It has allowed us to think outside the box and continue to look at new innovative ways to provide students with 21st century learning initiatives, concepts, opportunities, facilities, and futures.

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.

Coffee County Schools: The Coffee County School System (CCSS) utilized its flexibility waiver to shift from the traditional high school setting to the academy model. The wall-to-wall academy model provides interdisciplinary instruction and teaching through the lens of student interests and real-world connections. The four academies are Fine Arts, Business & Information Technology; Public Service & Education; Engineering, Agriculture & Mechanics; and Health & Human Services. Pathways exist within each academy and provides specific preparation and are designed to meet workforce demands. Project Based Learning is utilized within academies through flexibility in scheduling. CCSS also uses flexibility to offer Diploma Option B through Wiregrass Regional College and Career Academy (WRCCA). CCSS has the highest number of Diploma Option B students in the state of Georgia. The principal of WRCCA will present at Georgia School Counselors Conference in November to encourage the expansion of Diploma Option B across the state. WRCCA will be visited by the Charter System Foundation in October to highlight this innovative practice.

Evans County: The Evans County Charter School System continues to transform the lives of its students. Middle school students are earning high school credits, related courses have been combined, and course order has been resequenced. These changes are freeing students' schedules so that Option B can be pursued easily as well as traditional dual and/or work experiences become the norm for all seniors. Another celebration related to our charter system status is the hiring of industry experts. These individuals are proving to be assets to our faculty as they are able to relate everything they teach to the real world.

Lumpkin County Schools: Our mission and vision for the Lumpkin County School System is to educate and empower lifelong learners as we prepare all students for successful and productive lives in an ever-changing world. A primary tenet central to our success is the shared understanding of our educators that 'all students' means the path of success for one student can be very different from that of another. With such acknowledgement and commitment, Lumpkin County Schools, a premier charter system in Georgia, remains dedicated to a flexible and innovative approach to serving today's students.

Marietta City Schools: Marietta City Schools has been a leader in the charter movement. Educators are committed to early literacy, college and career readiness, STEM education, and the IB Programme. The district has also implemented a curriculum which provides social emotional learning and dual enrollment options for at-risk students. Stakeholders acknowledge and value the sense of family, tradition, and pride that exists in the Marietta community. Marietta City Schools is a thriving school district that meets the needs of all its students; from the highest performing to the most at-risk each and every one is given an equitable opportunity for success.