



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, transparent, and creative in our teaching methods, setting achievable academic goals, and utilizing various student-centered assessment tools.

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. The use of consolidated funds to support STEM initiatives in grades P-12 with their model of traditional libraries into Media, College & Career Centers has also been pivotal to the success of our students.

Candler County Schools: We have experienced tremendous benefits by virtue of our charter distinction. The flexibility afforded to us has enabled us to be proactive in our hiring policies and our students have been the beneficiaries of our efforts. We approach each initiative with the mindset that we need to be as creative and flexible as possible with the central guiding tenet of “what is best for our students”. The creation of Metter College & Career Academy has been a working culmination of our district wide soft skill development program, while allowing us tremendous flexibility in offering students the opportunity to gain real world, practical career development opportunities.

Chattahoochee County Schools: Charter flexibility has allowed ChattCo to reach our mission of preparing all students for college career readiness to grow and be productive contributors in society. With flexibility as a charter system, enrollment, courses, certification, and use of funding have successfully positioned Chattahoochee County Schools as a charter system that focuses on innovatively utilizing 1:1 technology, creating career pathways for workforce development, and integrating meaningful STEM instruction. Student outcomes, like 60% of students reaching national growth targets in reading and math and being recognized as a Literacy Leader School, are a testament to the successes of charter flexibility and innovation.

Coffee County Schools: Coffee County Schools aims to fulfill our mission of “Destination Graduation for College, Career, and Life”, with a focus on purposely equipping students with the skills to navigate life beyond graduation. Utilizing charter system flexibility, the district successfully transitioned to the high school academy model, established various Accelerated Career options, and launched a new Aviation program. The district maximizes learning experiences that support diverse needs and interests to tie the thread for college, career, and life. The Coffee County School System is committed to providing an equitable and excellent education to every student.

Dublin City Schools: Since becoming a charter school district in 2011, Dublin City Schools has maximized its charter flexibility to meet the needs of its students through the creation of its college and career academy. Meeting local industry needs, the pathways have immediate real-world implications and make its graduates almost instantly employable upon pathway completion. With a wide variety of options, coupled with viable and evolving partnerships with business and industry, Dublin City Schools is ensuring that current and future graduates keep our community green and growing for years to come.

Fulton County Schools: Fulton County Schools embraces its diverse student population and unique physical layout but faces policy challenges. They've established a tiered model enabling School Governance Councils to seek autonomy from state and district policies. Through the Value-Added Flexibility (VAF) process, schools can implement customized solutions for student success. FCS recently granted waivers related to instructional time, graduation criteria, curriculum delivery, attendance rules, and credit recovery to district schools engaged in VAF requests, facilitating adaptation to local needs.

Liberty County Schools: The mission of the Liberty County School System is to provide all students an education which promotes excellence, good citizenship, and a love of learning. Our vision is that all students will receive a high-quality education providing them the knowledge and skills to be successful, contributing members of a global society. Having the flexibility as a Charter System ensures that our mission and vision can be carried out to the fullest extent. Overall, we focus to improve literacy and mathematics foundations and graduate our scholars to be successful after they leave our schools. The flexibility has allowed us to redesign our way of thinking and how we provide services to students and to our staff. We strive to ensure that all students have opportunities for innovative practices, to be introduced to career awareness, and understand there are two options to a high school diploma, continuing to increase our graduation rate. *“Excellence in Everything”* is what Liberty County Schools stands for and a charter system we are making that happen!

Lumpkin County Schools: A primary tenet central to our success in Lumpkin County Schools 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. Whether it is waiving certification requirements for a highly qualified, but not traditionally certified, teacher or simply waiving seat time for a student with a non-traditional path to success, we are focused on educating and empowering ALL students in Lumpkin County as we maximize our flexibility with our continued relentless pursuit of student success.

Putnam County Schools: It is our belief that the flexibility of being a charter system affords PCCSS along with innovative practices and accountability a measured result in our students exceeding the standards. One powerful incentive is the transfer of power in a meaningful way to teachers, parents, students, and other stakeholders. This transfer of power creates an environment where innovation can flourish and will start from the bottom up, rather than top down, resulting in increased student achievement.

Union County Schools: UCS utilizes its charter system's flexibility to focus on innovative district-wide student success through its seat time waiver. Examples include our STEM program, which integrates Biology and Healthcare pathway courses, and our College and Career Academy, which integrates Automotive and Construction courses with Math, English, and Business courses and Government/Public Administration with American Government/Civics. Our innovative outlook on teaching and learning guarantees equitable educational opportunities for all stakeholders, aligning with our unwavering dedication to our vision of “Success for ALL.” As a result, UCS consistently earns recognition as a top-performing district in our RESA.