

# District Flexibility & Charter Schools Update State Board of Education Retreat April 26, 2021

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Policy, Flexibility, & External Affairs

# SB 153

## System Collaborative State Charter Schools

# Legislative Details

- **Sponsors:** Sen. Greg Dolezal and Sen. Blake Tillery
- **Status:** Passed both House and Senate; awaiting Governor's signature
- **Primary impetus:** To address the funding structure of current System Collaborative Charter Schools, as defined in the bill.
- **Schools immediately impacted (current System Collaborative Charter Schools):**
  - Foothills Charter
  - Mountain Ed
  - Coastal Plains

# Legislative Definitions

- **Alternative Charter School** – a local charter school authorized by one or more local school systems, which provides alternative education programs and services focused on dropout recovery or high school credit recovery.
- **Charter Petitioner (SB 153 only)** – one or more private individuals, private organizations, state or local public entities, or adult learning providers, or any group of these working in collaboration, that submits or initiates a petition to establish an alternative charter school as a local charter school.
- **System Collaborative State Charter School** – a charter school authorized by the State Charter Schools Commission that provides programs and services for dropout recovery or high school credit recovery and is governed by a board of directors which may include the personnel of the local board or boards of education from the geographic region which the charter school serves.

# Legislative Definitions cont....

- **State Chartered Special School (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2062)** – a charter school created as a special school that is operating under the terms of a charter between the charter petitioner and the state board.

# System-Collaborative State Charter Schools

- Authorized by the SCSC
- Support non-traditional students in earning a high-school diploma
- Focus on dropout recovery or high school credit recovery
- Serve multiple districts; include district leadership on charter board
- Funded by QBE and State Charter Supplement

		Current (QBE + State Charter Supplement)			
	FTEs	QBE	Charter Supplement	Total	Total/FTE
Mountain Education Charter HS	2,527	\$13,447,917	\$13,746,105	\$27,194,022	\$11,849.25
Foothills Education Charter HS	2,333	\$11,618,588	\$16,038,567	\$27,657,155	\$12,978.49
Coastal Plains Education Charter HS	1,316	\$6,641,009	\$8,379,281	\$15,020,290	\$11,404.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,176</b>	<b>\$31,707,514</b>	<b>\$38,163,953</b>	<b>\$69,871,467</b>	<b>\$12,166.37</b>



# Mountain Education Charter High School

**Superintendent:** Wayne Lovell

**Opened:** 2007

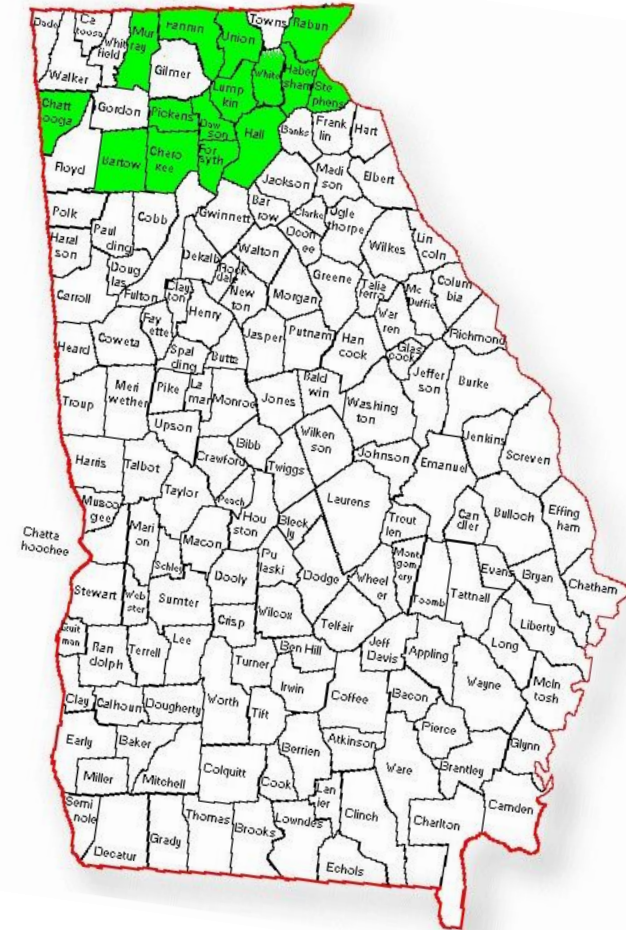
**Contract End Date:** 6/30/2023

**Central Office/Headquarters:** White County

**Grades Served:** 9-12

**FY21 Enrollment:** 2,527

**Local System Sites:** Bartow, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Gilmer, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin, Murray, Pickens, Rabun, Stephens, Union and White





# Foothills Education Charter High School

**Superintendent:** Sherrie Gibney-Sherman

**Opened:** 2015

**Contract End Date:** 6/30/2024

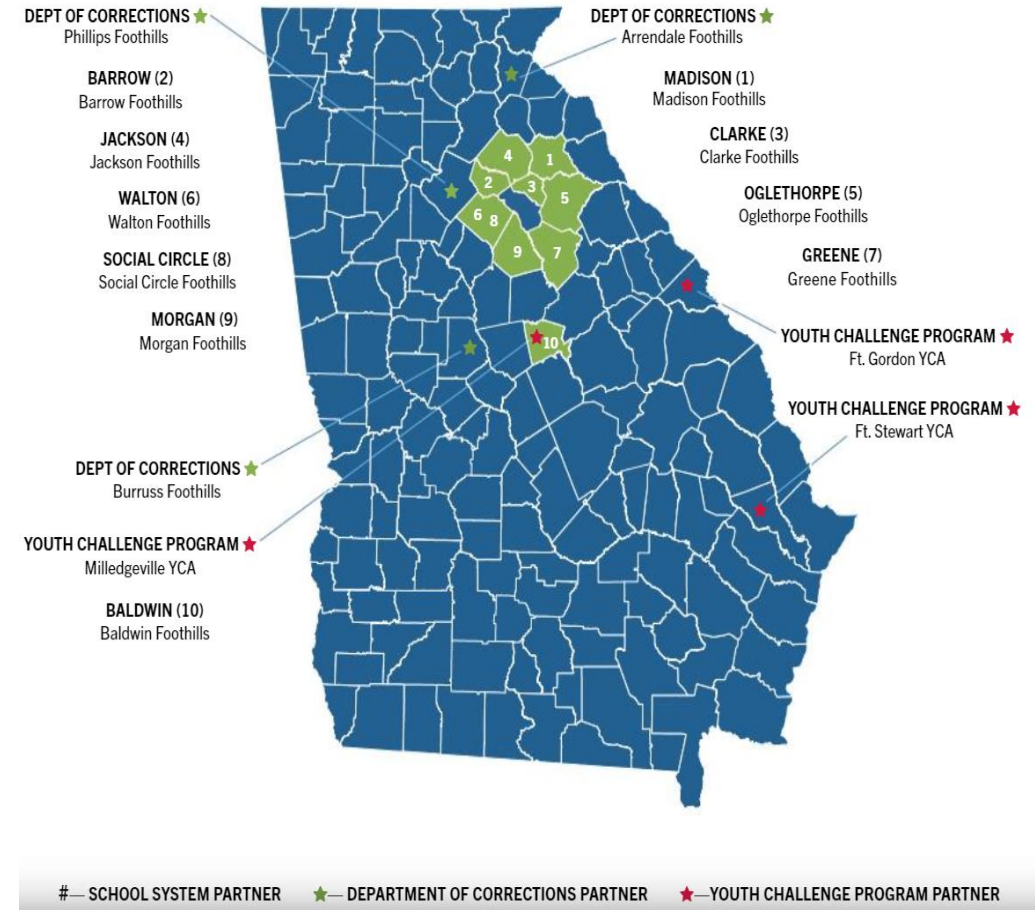
**Central Office/Headquarters:** Clarke County

**Grades Served:** 9-12

**FY21 Enrollment:** 2,333

**Local System Sites :** Baldwin, Barrow, Clarke, Department of Corrections, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Social Circle, and Walton

**Additional Sites:** Youth Challenge Program (Ft. Gordon, Ft. Stewart, and Milledgeville)







# Coastal Plains Charter High School

**Superintendent:** Richard Rentz

**Opened:** 2017

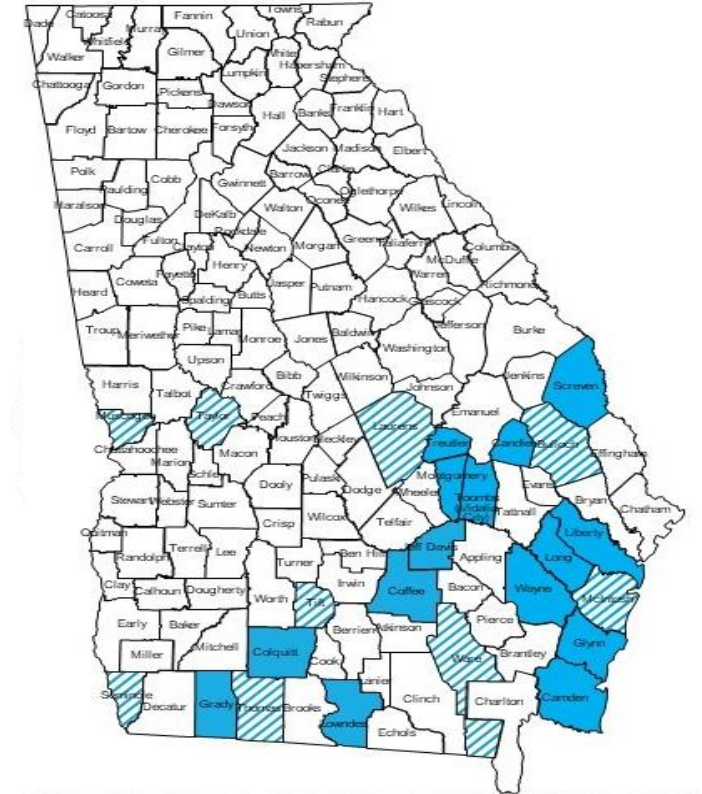
**Contract End Date:** 6/30/2023

**Central Office/Headquarters:** Candler County

**Grades Served:** 9-12

**FY21 Enrollment:** 1,316

**Local System Sites:** Candler, Camden, Coffee, Colquitt, Evans, Glynn, Grady, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, Lowndes, Screven, Vidalia, and Wayne



# General Legislative Requirements

- Requires the establishment of a process to designate alternative charter schools.
- Requires the transfer of system-collaborative state charter schools to state chartered special schools (except those that transitioned to alternative charter schools) authorized directly by the SBOE. **Deadline July 1, 2021**
- Requires the transfer of existing system collaborative state charter schools to alternative charter schools by the end of each school's current charter contract.
- Outlines temporary funding and expansion provisions during transition period.

# State Board Requirements

- Establish (with GaDOE) a process to designate alternative charter schools (*in consultation with authorizing local school system(s)*).
- Provide for the transfer and designation of existing system-collaborative state charter schools to state chartered special schools by July 1, 2021 (*except for those schools which have transitioned to become an alternative charter school; in consultation with SCSC*).
- Authorized to approve an attendance zone for state chartered special school that includes one or more local school systems or state-wide attendance zone.
- Provide for transfer and designation of existing system-collaborative state charter schools to alternative charter schools by the end of the school's current charter contract (*in consultation with authorizing local school system(s), SCSC, and system-collaborative state charter schools*).

# Dept of Education Requirements

- Establish (with SBOE) a process to designate alternative charter schools (*in consultation with authorizing local school system(s)*).
- Collect and analyze data from and about alternative charter schools on matters consisting of, but not limited to, alternative charter school effectiveness (*in collaboration with GOSA*).

# Legislative Funding and School Growth Provisions

- **Temporary Maintenance of Funding:** For duration of current contract, each school that transitions to a state chartered special school may receive funding in an amount that it would have received as a system-collaborative state charter school.
- **Temporary Growth Restrictions:** SBOE shall not provide for the expansion, extension, renewal, or replication of these schools as state chartered special schools; HOWEVER, schools MAY:
  - Increase student enrollment by **no more than 3%** each school year;
  - Add **no more than one (1)** school site each school year;
- **Site Restrictions:** Any school site opened after July 1, 2021:
  - must be within same RESA service area where former system-collaborative state charter school's headquarters were located on January 1, 2021.
  - shall not be included in the former system collaborative state charter school's funding calculation but shall be eligible to receive QBE formula earnings.

# Model Considerations

## State Chartered Special Schools

- System-collaboratives retain status as LEAs
- Single authorizer – SBOE
- Structures and framework available to build upon to support the schools
- State continues full payment short-term
- Local buy-in requirements/procedures would need to be developed for long-term option

## Alternative Charter Schools

- System collaboratives become schools instead of LEAs
- Multiple authorizers, multiple operating standards/requirements
- Participating districts provide local funding as alternative education programs (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-154.1)
- Structure necessary for system collaboratives to retain school status instead of program

# Next Steps

## Phase 1: July 1 Transition

- Meetings with system-collaborative state charter schools, SCSC, and GaDOE charter and budget teams (ongoing)
- Contracts for transition to state special charter schools
- Support considerations for 2021-2022 and contract terms
- Schools added to Alternative Education Advisory Group

## Phase 2: Long-term Considerations

- Authorizing structure that recognizes statewide attendance zone and includes local buy-in

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