



Charter System Renewal & Public Hearing Presentation

"Pursuing Excellence for All"





Charter School System

- A charter school system is a local school district that operates under the terms of a charter contract between the State Board of Education and the local Board of Education. The system receives broad flexibility in the form of waivers of certain state laws, rules, and guidelines in exchange for greater accountability for increased student performance and an emphasis on school-based leadership, decision-making, and innovation.



The Big Picture

Broad Flexibility
from State
Board Rules in
EXCHANGE
for:

Increased Accountability
for Student Performance

Greater Emphasis on
School-Based Leadership
and Governance

Greater Emphasis
on Innovation



Highlights from the 2011-2016 System Charter

The focus areas of the existing charter have been technology, leadership, literacy and innovation.

- The transition from one superintendent to another was smooth as the System Governance Councils have continued to progress toward a culture of transparency and collaboration. The change in culture has created an avenue for superintendent to hear the voices of all stakeholders.



Highlights from the 2011-2016 System Charter

Technology	Leadership	Literacy	Innovation
Chromebooks	Focus on culture of transparency/ collaboration	Writing Units	Scholarships for Camp Invention
Software	JRTOC	Cognitive Guided Instruction	Professional Development Schools with UNG
3-D Printers	Ron Clark Academy	Thinking Maps	Zoo Zingo Attendance Incentives
CNC Manufacturing Curriculum	Summer Student Coaching Academy	Coding in Math	Coordinator of Academic Innovation
Coding with Robotics	Graduation Coach	Bright from the Start support personnel	Engineering for Kids
ipads			6th – 12th Realignment
Blended Learning Stations			



Highlights from the 2011-2016 System Charter

The three focus areas of the current charter have been technology, leadership, and literacy.

- The transition from one superintendent to another was smooth as the System Governance Councils have continued to progress toward a culture of transparency and collaboration. The change in culture has created an avenue for superintendent to hear the voices of all stakeholders.
- Awarded innovative mini-grants to schools, which were used to purchase Chrome books and writing units for students
- Awarded scholarships for 90 students to participate in Camp Invention.
- Funded JROTC Program, graduation coach, and Bright from Start support personnel
- Provided online software/programs to schools such as: Schoology SilverPoint, GradPoint, Scantron, and Mastery Connect
- Supported PDC Partnership with University of North Georgia
- Provided Reading Ready for Riverview Elementary



Highlights from the 2011-2016 System Charter

- Funded CGI Math Institute and benchmark development for elementary
- Provided teacher stipends for CGI Summer Math Institute
- Purchased writing curriculum support materials for elementary
- Provided professional learning in use of Thinking Maps and visited Ron Clark Academy
- Purchased iPads/iPad Labs
- Supported a class size reduction teacher for third grade.
- Purchased Zoo Zingo Attendance Program
- Supported Summer Student Coaching Academy
- Funded Coordinator of Academic Innovation



Current Charter System Goals

Performance Goals

Increase academic performance in language arts and math

Increase percentage of students who exceed state standards in language arts, reading, and math

Increase graduation rate

Organizational Goals

Create 21st Century classrooms that fully utilize technology

Create performance-based report cards

Increase partnerships with universities and businesses

Increase financial transparency



Progress on Charter System Academic Goals

Increasing Academic Performance

- The number of schools in the district with "met" Beating the Odds scores improved from 2 out of 7 schools to 5 out of 7 schools within the past year.
- The district's combined reading and math scores for the SAT were within the top 20 scores of the entire state. The scores were within the top 10 scores of the Pioneer RESA district.



Progress on Charter System Academic Goals

Elementary (CRCT)

- The system elementary schools increased the number of students performing above the state average in **math** from 42% in 2013 to 83% in 2014.
- The system's elementary schools saw a 29% increase in **math** from 3rd grade in 2013 to 4th grade in 2014.
- The system's elementary schools achieved a 23.2% increase in 5th grade Social Studies from 2013 to 2014.
- The system's elementary schools achieved a 27.5% increase in 5th grade Science from 2013 to 2014.

Elementary (GMAS-EOG)

- The system's scores were better than the state average in **all tested content areas** and grade levels when looking at performance levels 2,3, and 4.
- 5th grade **math** ranked 2nd in Pioneer RESA District
- 5th grade **language arts** ranked 3rd in RESA District
- 3rd grade social studies ranked 4th in RESA District



Progress on Charter System Academic Goals

Middle (CRCT)

- System's middle school **math** scores increased from 2 grades performing below state average in 2013 to all grade scoring above the state in 2014.
- In 2014, 7th math, 8th **ELA**, 6th social studies ranked 1st in RESA District.
- The system's middle school scores in social studies ranked high in state.
 - 6th grade - 7th in state of Georgia
 - 7th grade - 7th in state of Georgia
 - 8th grade - 8th in state of Georgia

Middle (GMAS-EOC)

- The system's scores were better than the state average in **all tested content areas** and grade levels when looking at performance levels 2,3, and 4.
- 6th grade social studies ranked 1st in RESA District
- 8th grade **ELA** and social studies ranked 2nd in RESA District
- 8th grade **math** ranked 3rd in RESA District.
- 7th grade social studies ranked 4th in RESA District



Progress on Charter System Academic Goals

High School (EOCT)

- The system's high school ranked 6th in the state in Biology in 2014.
- The system's high school ranked 7th in the state in **Coordinate Algebra** in 2014.
- The system's high school ranked #1 in the Pioneer RESA District in percentage of students exceeding **Analytic Geometry** in 2014.

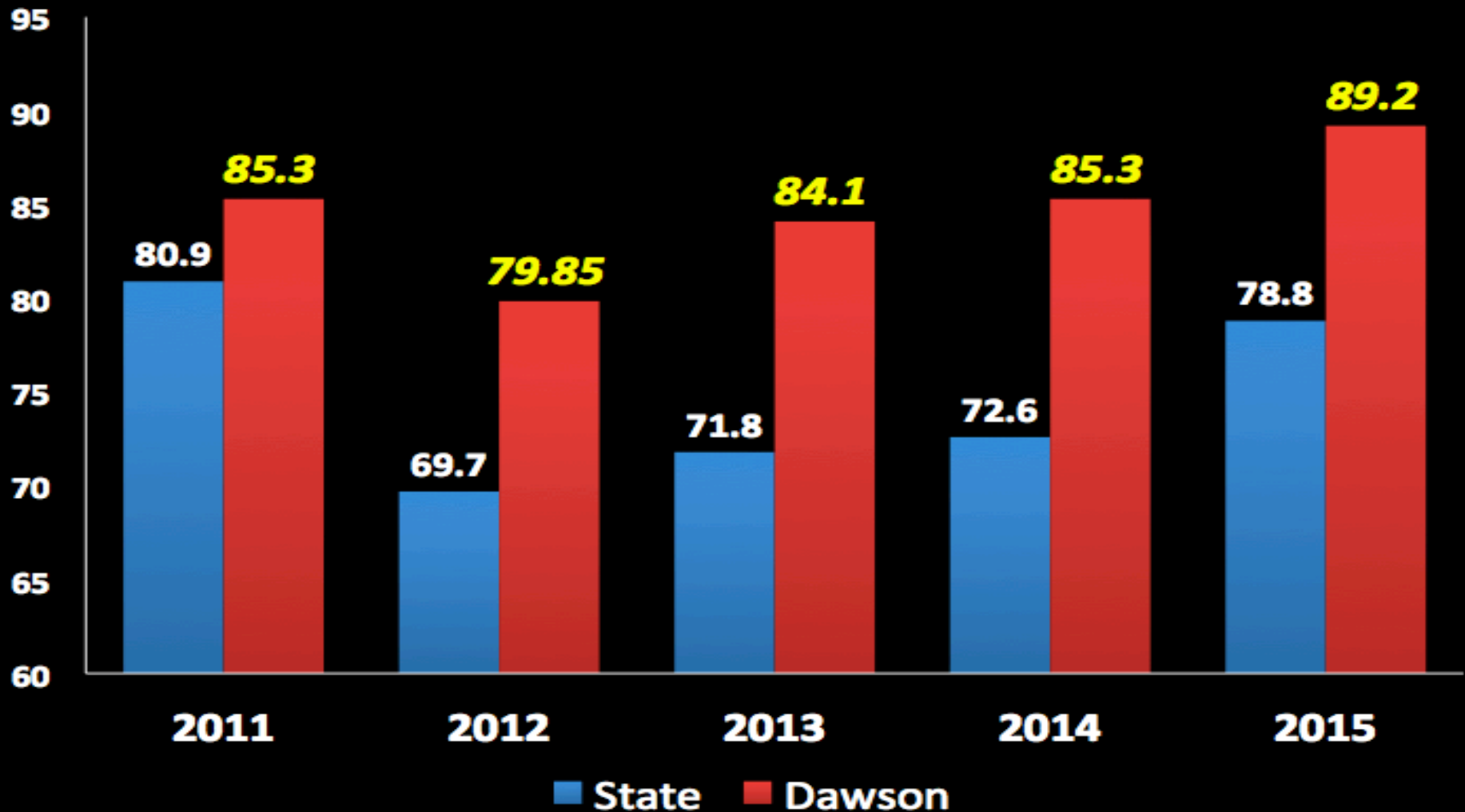
High School (GMAS-EOC)

- The system's scores were better than the state average in **all tested content areas** and grade levels when looking at performance levels 2,3, and 4.
- **Analytic Geometry** ranked 1st in Pioneer RESA District
- Biology ranked 3rd in Pioneer RESA District



Progress on Charter System Academic Goals

Cohort Grad Rate





Progress on Charter System Organizational Goals

Increase partnerships with universities and businesses

- Dawson County School System has partnered with the University of North Georgia College of Education to form Professional Development Schools
- Planning phase of partnering with University of North Georgia to offer college credit classes in Dawson County.
- Strong dual enrollment with Lanier Tech
- Partnering with Nordson to provide Club Invention After School Program for elementary schools students.
- Engineers in the Classroom sponsored by Lockheed



Progress on Charter System Organizational Goals

Other Organizational Goals

- Developed Performance-based report cards K-2
- 21st century classrooms, provided additional technology to students through Charter Mini-Grant opportunities
- System was awarded Distinction for Excellence in Financial Reporting in 2014-2015.



Goals for the 2016-2026 Charter “The Case”

The current charter focus areas of technology, leadership, literacy and innovation will continue to be a priority. The following have been identified as additional focus areas for our next charter.

- **Focus Area #1: Improve low district performance in math, science, and social studies.**
- **Focus Area #2: Provide extended, rigorous learning opportunities for all students.**
- **Focus Area #3: Implement a consistent method of measuring and monitoring the impact of professional learning on student achievement.**



Goals for the 2016-2026 Charter “The Case”

Performance Goals

Exceed the state CCRPI scores

Exceed state average on all state assessments

Reduce the achievement gap between subgroups on all assessments

Increase graduation rate

Organizational Goals

Increase extended, rigorous learning opportunities for students

Innovation Mini-Grant opportunities

Develop a system-wide way to measure the impact of professional learning on student achievement.



Action Steps for Focus Area #1

Improve low district performance in math, science, and social studies.

Action Steps

1. Provide charter funds to award innovative grants to teachers to improve student achievement in math science and social studies. The provision of innovative grants allows schools the flexibility in use of financial resources to address specific, identified academic challenges
2. Align curriculum and teaching strategies. Continue common assessments and monitor student achievement data (both formative and summative) each quarter through use of district-approved data collection documents



Action Steps for Focus Area #2

Provide extended, rigorous learning opportunities for all students.

Action Steps

1. Through the realignment we will accelerate the curriculum and offer high school credit to 8th grade students
2. Provide summer learning communities that will include STEM Camps, remediation support, and job skill development
3. Provide partnerships with post-secondary institutions that will allow enrichment opportunities for students such as Move on When Ready and offering college credit classes in Dawson County.
4. Provide tutorial support services during the school year (before/after school and during lunch) that will give academic support to students who have difficulties participating in be opportunities that require parents to transport



Action Steps for Focus Area #3

Implement a consistent method of measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of high level, quality, job-embedded professional learning and its impact on student achievement.

Action Steps

1. Develop district-wide process for measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of professional learning, which will help create a common standard for assessing district needs. This will assist with planning and budgeting resources
2. Schools will report the progress of the implementation of the professional learning measure format quarterly. Surveys, face-to-face meetings with administrators, and student data will be used to determine the effectiveness of professional learning activities



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The DCSS Charter Renewal Documents are posted to our district website. You can access the information by clicking on “About DCSS” and “Charter System”.

Documents to Review:

Charter Renewal Application 15-16

Charter Renewal Addendum 15-16

DCS- Charter Annual Report 2014

DCS- Charter Annual Report 2015



THANK YOU FOR BEING
A PART OF OUR TEAM!

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