




Charter System 101

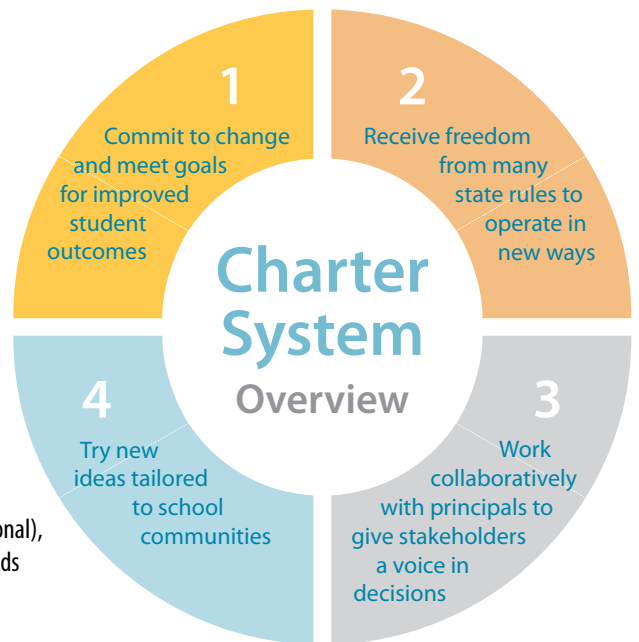
Atlanta Public Schools will become a Charter System on July 1, 2016. APS will hold events in your community, cluster and online to help you learn more about how you can get involved. You can learn more now at www.atlantapublicschools.us/strongschools.

► What is a Charter System?

A contract (charter) between the school district and the Georgia Board of Education to increase student achievement in exchange for freedom from certain state laws and rules. District leaders agree to give local school communities freedom and flexibility to decide what changes their schools need to make in order to increase student performance. This is done through each school creating a local school governance team (LSGT), called **Go Teams** in APS.

The Georgia Board of Education unanimously approved APS to become a Charter System District in September 2015. As a Charter System, APS will have flexibility to try ideas like:

-  Flexibility in instructional time, pacing and programming that meets the needs of students
-  Redirecting resources to provide wrap-around services (psychological/social/emotional), instructional support (instructional coaches, coordinators, etc.) based on school needs
-  Creating a College and Career Academy



Governance in a Charter System

Local Board of Education – Role Stays the Same

- Responsible for hiring and holding superintendent accountable, district policy and governance

Superintendent – Role Changes

- Distributes authority from central office to school level
- Delegates some of his/her authority to LSGTs to make school-level decisions that will increase student improvement

Local School Governance Team (LSGT) – New Role

- Focused on governance
- Attention to school-level strategic planning, budgeting and school improvement

► What exactly is a GO Team (LSGT)?

Local School Governance Teams (GO Teams) are a requirement of Charter Systems and replace the Local School Councils required for traditional school districts. As a member of the GO Team, principals work to make decisions collaboratively about:

- Personnel (input in principal selection)
- Finance and resource allocations (school budget)
- Curriculum, school improvement and operations (school strategic plan)

► What will the GO Team structure look like?

There are nine voting members for elementary and middle schools. High School teams will have 10 voting members, including one student:

- Three parents/guardians elected by parents/guardians
- Three instructional staff members elected by staff members
- Two community members nominated by principal and ratified by GO Team
- One swing seat recruited by principal/GO Team and ratified by GO Team
- Principal (non-voting member)
- One student (voting member) at high school level, nominated by GO Team

► How can I get more information or get involved?

To serve on your Local School Governance Team, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us/candidatebank

For more information about the Charter System model, visit www.atlantapublicschools.us/strongschools

