




# Charter System 101

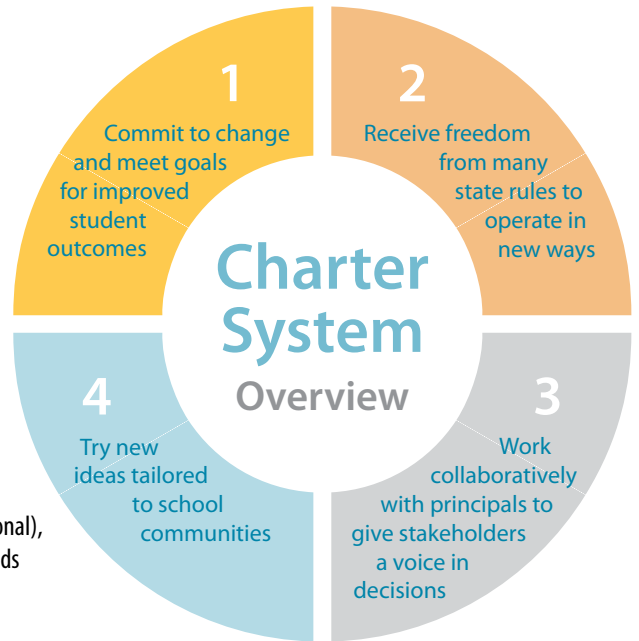
Atlanta Public Schools will become a Charter System on July 1, 2016. APS will hold events in your community, cluster and online to help you learn more about how you can get involved. You can learn more now at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/strongschools](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/strongschools).

## ► 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](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/candidatebank)


For more information about the Charter System model, visit [www.atlantapublicschools.us/strongschools](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/strongschools)





## ► Our Schools Need YOU!


**Beginning January 2016, parents, teachers and community members are needed to serve on Atlanta Public Schools' new Local School Governing Teams (LSGT @APS), also known as Go Teams.**

The Go Team is a key element of our charter system operating model designed to move decision making closer to where learning takes place. Each school's team will include the principal, three parents, three instructional staff, two community members, and one "swing" member selected by the team. The Go Team in each school will get the community, parents and teachers involved in decision making to maximize educational opportunities for our students.

 Are you focused on student learning and school improvement?

 Will you bring curiosity, honesty, and hope?

 Are you committed to the success of the whole school?

 Are you a creative and energetic collaborator?

## Ready to GO?

To serve on your Local School Governance Team, visit:  
[www.atlantapublicschools.us/candidatebank](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/candidatebank)

## ► Candidate Information Session Schedule

Candidate information sessions are underway now through December 18 in person and online. Sessions are open to everyone across the district regardless of where you live. A recording of the online session is available for those unable to attend a live session.

Date	Time (p.m.)	Host Cluster	Location
12/2	6-7:30	Douglass & CSK/B.E.S.T.	Douglass HS
12/7*	6-7:30	South Atlanta	Long MS
12/10	5:30-6:30	Grady	Grady HS
12/17	6-7:30	North Atlanta	Rivers ES

\* New date; revised on 10/27.

12/4	12-1:00	Citywide	Online
12/11	12-1:00	Citywide	Online
12/18	12-1:00	Citywide	Online

To join online, visit <https://meet.atlanta.k12.ga.us/rkaye/0YSLD6J3> or call 404-802-1010 and use conference ID: 248905

## ► Charter System and Cluster Planning

- As clusters develop and implement plans for their schools, flexibility from Georgia Board of Education mandates will be critical for removing impediments to student success.
- Cluster planning teams laid the groundwork through the creation of clusterwide vision, mission, priorities, signature programming, and strategic plans.
- Cluster Advisory Teams (CATs) will continue this work, and will consist of:
  - A Go Team representative from each school
  - A principal or principal's designee from each school
  - Additional community members

## ► Go Team Elections

**Go Team elections will be held online January 25-31, 2016.**

The APS family will be able to vote to elect their school's Go Team representatives anytime during the week. Stay tuned for more information about elections in the new year!



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