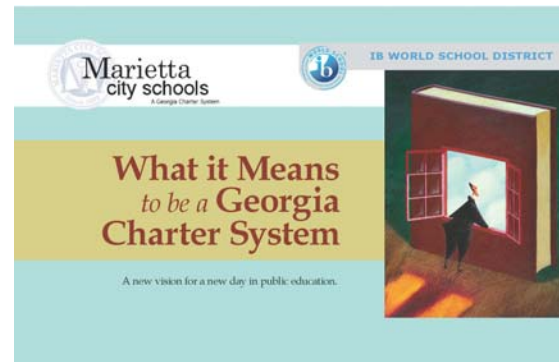


Marietta City Schools (MCS)

A Georgia Charter System

Dr. Emily Lembeck,
Superintendent
November 2, 2010



Why MCS became a Charter System

- Previous discussion with legislators
- Flexibility from rules
- Provide additional funds to innovate
- SB 39
 - It is the intent of the General Assembly to increase student achievement through academic and organizational innovation by encouraging local school systems to utilize the flexibility of a performance-based contract called a charter (O.C.G.A. §20-2-2061)



Why MCS became a Charter System

- Consistent with vision, mission, strategic plan
- Potential federal and state revenue
- Previous History
 - Elementary Imagine Start-up
 - Elementary Conversion Charter



What we hoped to achieve...

Flexibility = Innovation + Increased Accountability

- Increased gains in student achievement
- Parent satisfaction and involvement
- Retention and recruitment
 - Highly qualified teachers and leaders
- Increased Community awareness
 - Safe and cooperative learning environments in our schools
- Improved public perception
- Annual Report
 - To DOE and presented to BOE/Community



Timeline...

SB39

- Senate Date/Signed by Governor: May 18, 2007
- Effective Date: July 1, 2007
- Guidance Released by DOE – Sept. 2007
- MCS Superintendent attends Charter Advisory Board Meeting – Sept. 14, 2007
- MCS Board Work Session
 - Information Item – Oct. 5, 2007
- MCS Board Meeting Discussion – Oct. 9, 2007
- MCS Board Work Session Approved development of Planning Grant – Oct. 12, 2007

Timeline continued...

SB39

- Development of Planning Grant
 - Approval considered by Board – Oct.12, 2007
- Submit Letter of Intent
- Planning Grant Application
 - Approval considered by Board – Nov.13, 2007
- Develop Petition: Nov. – Dec. 2007
- Post Web site link
 - Community feedback, petition questions
- Educational Meetings
 - Schools and Community
- Public Hearing #1 & Public Hearing #2



Timeline continued...

SB39

- Second revised petition posted after feedback
 - Jan. 4, 2008
- MCS Board approves Petition & Resolution
 - Jan. 8, 2008
- Petition Due - Jan. 15, 2008 (extended date)
- Charter Advisory Committee Meeting to review petition - March 13, 2008
- MCS Board briefed on Recommendations received from the DOE: March 31, 2008

Timeline continued...

SB39

- Apr. 2, 2008 - Charter Advisory Committee recommends approval of “Charter System petition” to SBOE based on MCS’ intent to innovate and maximize school level governance
- Apr. 18, 2008: Revised Charter petition submitted to SBOE for approval



Timeline continued...

SB39

- May 8, 2008: Revised Charter petition to SBOE for consideration
- May 20, 2008: SBOE considers and approves only Warren County, tables other three until June
- June 12, 2008: SBOE approves Marietta City Schools as one of Georgia's first four Charter Systems
 - Little time to implement for school year



•Who is involved in the process?

Educate and listen

- Board, Parents, Employees, Community
 - Public Information sessions, Public Hearings
 - Faculty Meetings, School Council meetings
- Legal Review - Critical
- Local News/media (print)
- Web posting with ability for feedback
- Subject: ALL STAFF: Now on the Web
 - Marietta City Schools (MCS) has prepared its Charter Systems Petition. A [draft of the petition](#) is available online for public review and [feedback](#). For more information visit, www.mariettacity.k12.ga.us/aboutus/charter.asp.
- Principals challenged to think out-of-the-box



Concerns

- Class size
- Unknown of waivers
- Student involvement
- Removal of School Governance Team members
- Flexibility in funds (65% rule)
- Teacher tenure, Fair Dismissal, Salaries
- Goals
- Technical: How will this work?
 - ***A Charter System not a System of Charter Schools***



The Plan/Petition – Key Elements

- Student Achievement
 - Exceeding Standards
- Board approved what is stated in the petition with understanding that they would approve anything not explicitly waived
- Did not waive
 - Tenure, Fair Dismissal
- How to:
 - Support innovation and our strategic plan
 - Deal with personnel, principal evaluation
 - Maximize school governance



The Plan/Petition – Key Elements

- The MCS Charter System does not include either of the system's two existing charter schools
 - Marietta Imagine Charter School (Start-up charter)
 - Sawyer Road Elementary (Conversion charter)
- For reporting and grant funding purposes, Magnet school not considered part of charter system due to entrance criteria

Maximize School Governance – How?

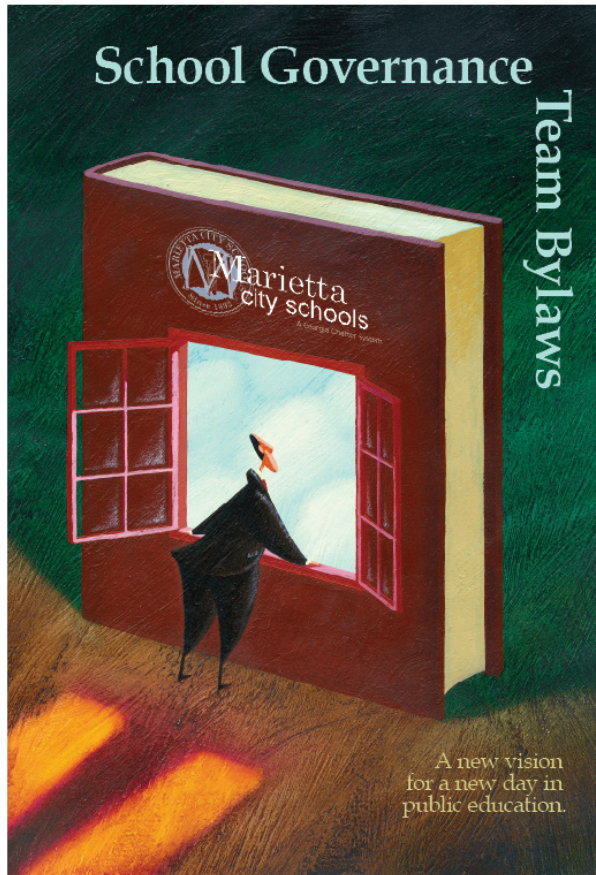
- **School-level governance is defined as** decision-making authority in personnel decisions, financial decisions, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, establishment and monitoring of school improvement goals, and school operations

Maximize School Governance – How?

- **Local school council served as the framework of an expanded governance board** known as the ***School Governance Team (SGT)***
- **Developed bylaws** governing the composition, authority, and processes of the ***School Governance Team (SGT)***

Marietta City Schools (MCS)

School Governance Team Bylaws



Maximize School Governance – How?

- **Learning process ongoing**
 - Areas for decision-making, advisory & recommendation
 - Recommendations to the Board
 - School-based and system (e.g., school calendar, policies)
 - Training (key) - developed modules
 - How to function as a highly effective Board, Budgeting, Measurement and Assessment, Special Education, Human Resources, other as requested



School Governance

- Timeline for implementation of annual actions and training
- Bi-annual meeting with Superintendent and Staff (monitor/evaluate processes, progress towards goals, concerns, share best practices among schools
 - Concerns – time, parent participation, focus on School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Dispute resolution process
- Tools: Web site, e-mail, brochures, video, handbook, surveys, co-branded logo





Charter System Information



Overview

Marietta City Schools (MCS) became one of Georgia's first Charter Systems in June 2008. The MCS charter system includes ten schools: six K-5 elementary schools, one sixth grade academy, one middle school, one high school, and one grades 3-5 elementary magnet school (Marietta Center for Advanced Academics). The MCS charter system does not include either of the system's two existing charter schools, Marietta Charter School (start-up) and Sawyer Road Elementary (conversion).

MCS also has an alternative program for grades 9-12 at the Marietta Performance Learning Center at Woods-Wilkins. This program is not listed as a "school" to be converted under the charter system. The school district also includes two SB 618 residential treatment centers: George W. Hartmann Center and Nelson Price Treatment Center. These residential treatment centers operate under Memorandums of Understanding with MCS and the Georgia Department of Education.

School Choice

Through a strategic planning process begun in 2006, MCS has already implemented certain system-wide innovations. One of these is elementary school choice ("Choice Academies"). Curriculum at our elementary schools is based on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), and enhanced by school-selected focuses:

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Dr. Donna Egan
Assistant Superintendent for Special Services and Assessment
250-B Howard Street
Marietta, GA 30060
TEL: (770) 427-4631

Resources



[What it Means to be a Georgia Charter System brochure](#)

Web site

www.marietta-city.org





School Governance

The Board of Education of the City of Marietta believes parent and community support is critical to the success of students and schools. The establishment of School Governance Teams (SGT), pursuant to the Marietta City Schools Charter System petition, is intended to help local boards of education develop and nurture participation, bring parents and the community together with teachers and school administrators to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other's concerns, and share ideas for school improvement.

Marietta City Charter System schools use the local school council as the framework of an expanded governance Board referred to as the School Governance Team (SGT). The SGT is entrusted with the responsibility of providing input, making recommendations, and rendering decisions regarding various aspects of the instructional program of the school and the school's operational scheme. SGTs replace existing School Councils at all schools, with the exception of Sawyer Road Elementary, currently a conversion charter school.

As is required by the Constitution of the State of Georgia, the management and control of public schools shall be the responsibility of the local board of education.

School Governance Teams

[A.L. Burruss Elementary](#)
[Dunleith Elementary](#)
[Hickory Hills Elementary](#)
[Lockheed Elementary](#)
[Park Street Elementary](#)
[West Side Elementary](#)
[Marietta Center for Advanced Academics](#)
[Marietta Sixth Grade Academy](#)
[Marietta Middle School](#)
[Marietta High School](#)

School Council

[Sawyer Road Elementary](#)

Contacts

[Peggie Howard](#)
 Assistant Superintendent for Operations
 and Policy Development
 250 Howard Street
 Marietta, GA 30060
 TEL: (770) 422-3500

Resources

[SGT Reviews](#)
[SGT Meeting Dates](#)

Web site

www.marietta-city.org

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Marietta City Schools (MCS)

A Georgia Charter System - Brochure



Marietta
city schools

A Georgia Charter System



IB WORLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

What it Means *to be a* Georgia Charter System

A new vision for a new day in public education.

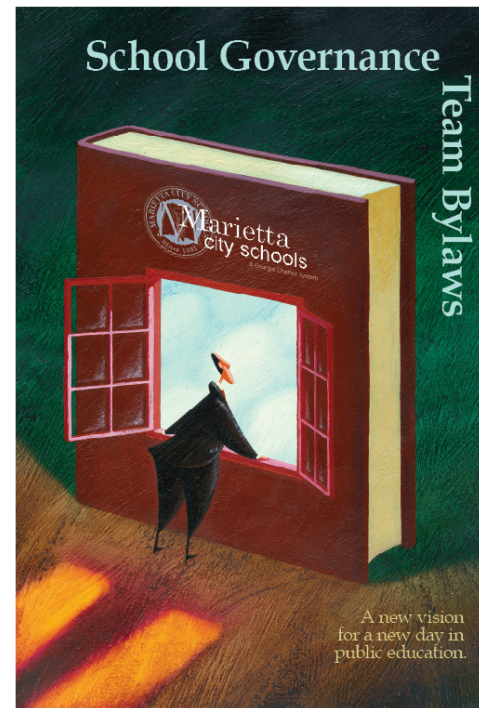
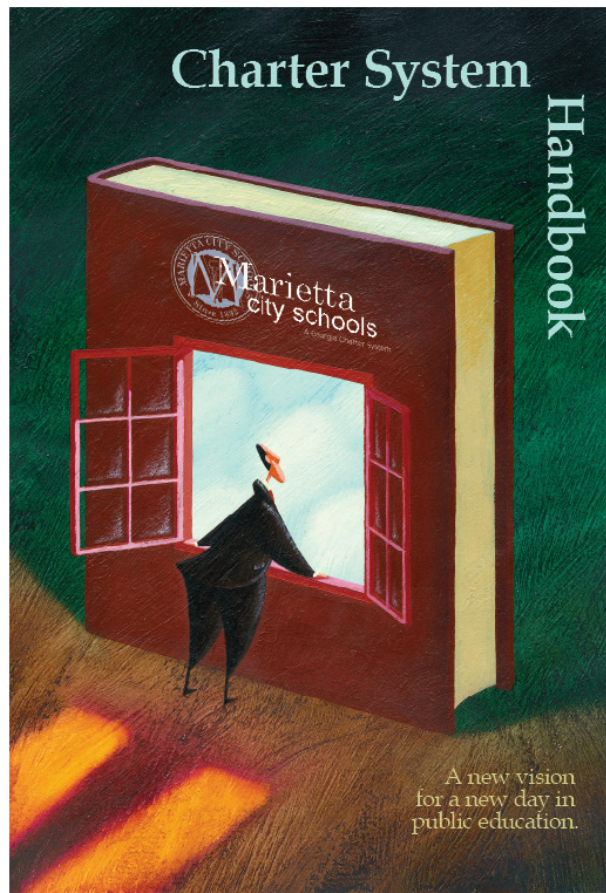


Marietta
city schools

A Georgia Charter System

Marietta City Schools (MCS)

A Georgia Charter System - Handbook



Marietta City Schools (MCS)

A Georgia Charter System - Logo



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Marietta City Schools (MCS)

A Georgia Charter System - Video



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IB WORLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

What it Means
to be a Georgia
Charter System

A new vision for a new day in public education.

Click here to play Video

The video thumbnail features a central illustration of a man in a dark suit and hat standing on a wooden floor, looking out of a window that is part of a large, thick book. The scene is lit with warm, golden light. The background of the thumbnail is divided into horizontal bands of light blue, yellow, and light blue. Logos for Marietta City Schools and IB World School District are positioned at the top.

Financial Resources & Flexibility

- **Charter System status positions the district to** potentially capture charter grant funds, and other funds, that will enable schools to purchase technological tools and instructional resources to improve student achievement

Financial Resources & Flexibility

- Planning Grant
 - \$5,000 (Dec. 2007)
- State Charter Implementation Grants
 - \$125,000 to SGTs
- Federal Charter Implementation Grants
 - Not received

Financial Resources & Flexibility

- **Additional QBE funding**

- HB 881 amended O.C.G.A. 20-2-165.1 to “earn 3.785 percent of the base amount established pursuant to subsection (a) of Code section 20-2-161 for each full-time equivalent student in each school within the charter system”
 - SGTs determine use for innovation tied to school improvement plans
- Flexibility in use of existing and reduced resources/funds

Financial Resources & Flexibility

- **The ability to develop programming unrestricted by the parameters of state rules and regulations** provides our schools with increased capacity to offer valuable learning experiences

Impacting Students

A Charter System not a System of Charter Schools

- Ability to implement segments that are not constrained by artificial time and space barriers
- Flex time for staff to meet needs of students
- Ability to create flexible groupings that allow us to target remediation and enhance activities without the constraint of funding floors and maximum class size



Financial Resources & Flexibility

- Supports Choice Academies, IB-MYP, STEM = Innovation
- Middle School Funding
 - Middles grades vs. middles school funding
- Alternative Education Program Waivers
- Required Seat Time Waivers
 - Reduced HS seat time to accommodate advisement period

Financial Resources & Flexibility

- **Calendar Flexibility**
 - Instructional days reduced (180 to 178 days)
- **Class Size Waivers**
 - +2 above local/state maximums, system averaging
- **Flex grouping of students**
 - W/out max class size concerns

Impacting Students

A Charter System not a System of Charter Schools

- List of innovations
 - Complete, in progress, TBD
- Consideration of a Career Academy
- Teacher incentives (Performance Pay)
- Text-a-Cop

Impacting Students

A Charter System not a System of Charter Schools

	Completed	In Progress	To Be Done
Choice Academies			
Career Pathways			
Small communities of learning for administrators, teachers and students			
8 th - 9 th transition academy (Saturdays and/or summer experience prior to entering 9 th grade)			
Creation of additional career pathways at the secondary level			
Teacher leadership academy for development of high performance leaders			
Exploration of horticulture, ecology, teacher preparation, and other emerging career pathways			
Experiences and internships to contextualize classroom learning			
Real world classroom experiences and authentic assessments			
Web-based learning and assessment			
Looping cohorts- (a particular group of students who started their education together staying with the same teacher for two years)			
Digital portfolios of student work			
Early college pathways (Page 28 of 78)			
Consortium model partnerships with higher education and specific businesses			
Teacher innovation grants and performance incentives for piloting new materials and/or delivery models			
Increased individualization through differentiation			
Development/implementation of career inventories in upper elementary grades/ middle grades to begin conversations with students regarding post secondary/career interests			
Financial incentives for teaching in critical needs areas			
Decrease in the digital divide			



Impacting Students

64% F/R, 45% African American, 30% Hispanic, 19% white

- **48.3% of MCS students (Grades 3-8) exceeded standards** in at least one area of the 2010 CRCT
 - Strong reduction in Level 1 students
- **Graduation rate 80.5%**
- **Title I Distinguished District**
- **All schools and system made 2010 AYP** on first release
- **Parent satisfaction survey**
 - Increase from 81% to 89%

