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State Charter Schools Foundation Awards \$194K in Grants to Schools

Fourteen State Charter Schools awarded grants from COVID-19 Relief Fund

ATLANTA, GA – April 17, 2020 – The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF), a nonprofit foundation dedicated to supporting high-quality state charter schools in Georgia, announced award recipients of \$194,000 in grants from its SCSF COVID-19 Relief Fund. Funding for the SCSF's COVID-19 Relief Fund was provided by a \$200,000 grant from the Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund, a partnership between the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and United Way of Greater Atlanta, in addition to other private donations. The SCSF awarded grants to 14 state charter schools. Grant recipients include:

- Atlanta Heights Charter School
- Brookhaven Innovation Academy
- Coweta Charter Academy
- DuBois Integrity Academy
- Ethos Classical Academy
- Fulton Leadership Academy
- Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys
- Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls
- International Charter Academy of Georgia
- International Academy of Smyrna
- Ivy Preparatory Academy
- Pataula Charter Academy
- SLAM Academy
- Utopian Academy for the Arts

The grants will help schools provide electronic devices to 160 low-income students, Internet access to 247 low-income students, and remote tutoring for 418 academically at-risk students during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michele Neely, SCSF president, said the foundation has been monitoring the needs of state charter schools since schools began closing in March to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The overwhelming request from schools was for funding to support their distance learning efforts. Specifically, school leaders and the SCSF were concerned about ensuring equitable access to distance learning opportunities. As a result, the SCSF created the COVID-19 Relief Fund for state charter schools to promote access and provide academic support.

“State charter schools are used to being flexible and adaptable, employing innovative educational approaches to meet the needs of their students and communities,” said Neely. “When schools closed, state charter schools were offering distance learning to their students from the beginning, reaching students however they could. We are proud to help state charter schools increase students’ access to educational opportunities with these grants. We know that giving schools ways to reach their students helps promote student wellbeing and maintain a sense of community.”

Neely also said support for academically at-risk students is critical. She said the grants represent a significant investment in state charter schools and their vulnerable students during this time of crisis.

“We cannot ignore the challenges that students are facing. Students who normally receive intervention or remedial support still need that extra help,” said Neely. “State charter schools want students to make academic gains and not fall behind. School may be closed. Standardized testing may be canceled. For state charter schools, though, learning continues.”

The SCSF is continuing to raise funds to support the remaining significant needs of state charter school students throughout Georgia. The SCSF is seeking funding partners to help provide devices, Internet access, and remote tutoring for state charter schools. The total estimated need tops \$1 million.

About the State Charter Schools Foundation

The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF) is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to supporting high quality state charter schools serving children throughout Georgia by leveraging resources to help schools launch, build capacity and grow. For more information about the State Charter Schools Foundation, visit www.scsfga.org