

Glossary of Terms

Blended Learning: means a formal education program in which a student learns: at least in part through online learning, with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace; at least in part in a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home; and the modalities along each student's learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience. (The Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation).

Education Service Provider (ESP): means a nonprofit or for-profit organization that contracts with charter schools to provide multiple educational, operational, or comprehensive management services, including, but not limited to, curriculum design, instructional resources, professional development, financial and operational management, facilities management, or any combination thereof.

English Learners (ELs): students whose primary or home language is other than English and who are eligible for services based on the results of an English language proficiency assessment.

Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE): means the state agency charged with the fiscal and administrative management of certain aspects of K – 12 public education, including the implementation of federal and state mandates. Such management is subject to supervision and oversight by the State Board of Education.

Governing Board: means the governing board of the nonprofit organization for a state charter school and which is the same as the governing board of the state charter school which is involved in school-level governance of the state charter school.

Georgia Professional Standards Commission: a state agency that assumes full responsibility for the preparation, certification, and professional conduct of certified personnel employed in the Georgia public schools.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): a federal law that outlines rights and regulations for students with disabilities in the United States who require special education.

Letter of Intent (LOI): an interim agreement, very similar to a Memorandum of Understanding, that summarizes the main points of a proposed partnership and/or confirms a certain course of action will be taken by one or both parties.

Local Education Agency (LEA): means a public authority legally constituted with Georgia for administrative control or direction of public elementary or secondary schools. The Charter School shall act as its own LEA pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2090 and SBOE Rule 160-4-9.04, including but not limited to data reporting, student enrollment counting procedures, student achievement reporting, and funding allocations.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): a formal agreement between two or more parties.

School Leader: means the individual with the highest authority in school administration regardless of title.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504): a federal law that protects students with disabilities from being discriminated against at school. It requires the school to give students with disabilities the same opportunities as students without disabilities.

State Board of Education (SBOE or State Board): means the constitutional authority which defines education policy for public K – 12 education agencies in Georgia.

State Charter Schools Commission (SCSC): means the state-level authorizing entity working in collaboration with the Department of Education under the authority of the State Board of Education.

State Education Agency (SEA): means the State board of education or other agency or officer primarily responsible for the supervision of public elementary and secondary schools in a State. In Georgia, the State Board of Education is the SEA.

Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS): accessed via a link in the district's Student Information System (SIS), it provides districts, schools and teachers with access to historical data, including Assessments, Attendance, Enrollment, Courses, and Grades beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

Title IX: a federal law which states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Virtual Learning: instruction in a learning environment where teacher and students are separated by time and/or space and the teacher provides course content through information and communication-based technology methods such as Internet, multimedia resources, and videoconferencing.