

# Town Hall Meeting

## August 2009

### Barrow County Schools: Charter System for Improving Student Achievement



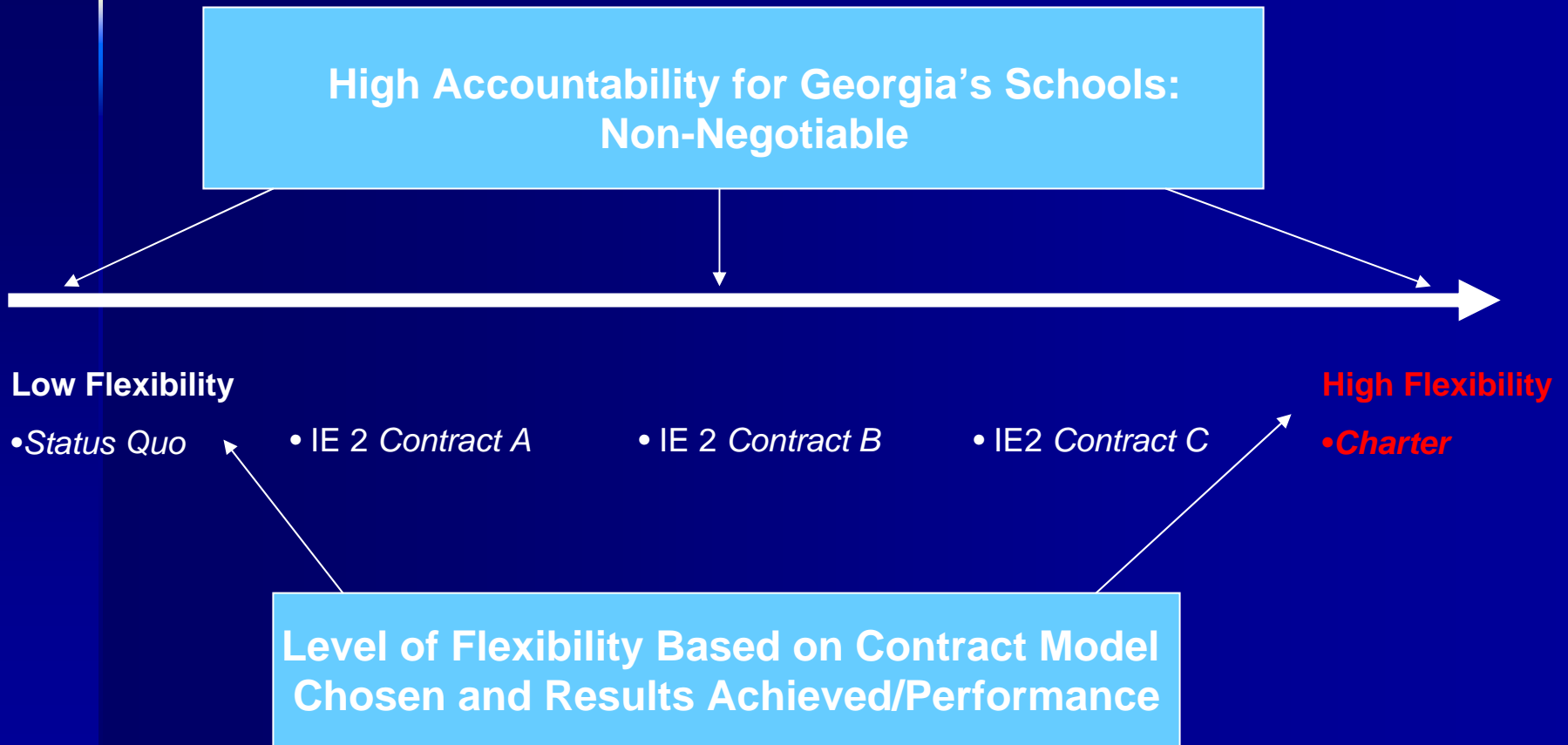
# Three Options by 2013

1. Charter System Petition
2. Investing in Educational Excellence (IE2)
3. Status Quo

# Partnership Contract Models

## Accountability/Performance/Flexibility

### Concept



# Charter Systems Act

O.C.G.A. §20-2-206

The Charter Systems Act now allows local boards of education to contract with the State Board of Education to become a Charter School System.

A Charter System provides the opportunity for teachers, administrators, parents, and school boards to have greater flexibility to determine the educational needs of students within their district.

# What is a charter system?

A charter system is one in which the schools, under the leadership of the Local BOE, design plans for academic achievement, governance, and accountability that is approved by the State BOE. The oversight is by the Local BOE with annual reports to the State BOE.

# A Charter System creates:

- A streamlined mechanism for innovative, system-wide reform;
- A catalyst for parental and community involvement;
- Flexible and innovative curriculum design;
- Focus on student achievement, accountability and outcomes;

- Exemption from many state mandates;
- Expanded local autonomy;
- The ability to prioritize resources based on student and local needs;
- Local school flexibility to meet the challenge of teacher quality retention, and recruiting.

# Why should BCS become a charter system?

- Accelerate toward our vision of providing a *World Class Education with Hometown Values*
- Engage in instructional and operational flexibility and local control
- Position the district for funding
- Begin planning for a possible Charter Career Academy

# Why should BCS become a charter system?

- Initiatives required for charter systems closely align with Barrow County Schools' Goals
- Flexibility to deliver instruction
- Strengthening of school council role
- Accountability system already in place – emphasizes commitment

# How will the current BOE be involved?

- The BOE will be in place just as it is now; they will continue to give direction and guidance to school district goals and operation
- The school councils will be in place as they are now; additional responsibilities will be decided

# Governance Model



**Central Office Staff**

**School Councils,  
Principals & School Staff**

## Possible System-level Decisions

Overall fiscal management  
Legal oversight  
Instructional expertise  
Testing  
Overall safety/maintenance of buildings  
Policy development  
Budget final approval

## Possible School-level Decisions

School level budget  
Filling specific vacancies  
Professional learning  
Materials  
School improvement/planning  
Budget input

# Steps & Timeline

- Legislation passed  
**June 30, 2007**
- Presentation to Barrow BOE about Career Academies and Charter Schools  
**January 2008**
- Presentation to Barrow BOE about charter system  
**July 31, 2008**

# Steps & Timeline

- Letter of intent to State DOE  
**April 2009**
- Meeting to discuss Charter System and IE2  
w/ BOE members  
**May 2009**
- BOE voted to pursue a system charter **July  
2009**

# Steps & Timeline

- Town Hall Meetings

**August 2009**

- First Core Planning Team Meeting

**August 2009**

- Begin committee meetings, writing the charter petition, gathering input

**August 2009**

# Steps & Timeline

- Two public hearings

**Spring 2010**

- Board of Education considers approval of submission of petition

**Summer/Fall 2010**

- Charter petition due as per Department of Education rule

**November 2010**

- Implementation year

**2011-2012 school year**

# Where do I go to get additional information about charter systems?

- Ask the superintendent's office, principals, or BOE members. They will be happy to share what they know or help get answers to your questions.
- This PowerPoint is posted on the BCS web page.  
[www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us)
- Go to the DOE web page to find out more about charter systems and to read other proposals.  
[http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/pea\\_charter.aspx](http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/pea_charter.aspx)

**Questions?**