

Four diverse children (two girls and two boys) are standing behind a large white rectangular sign. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The child on the far left is a girl with brown hair wearing a yellow shirt. The child next to her is a boy with short brown hair wearing a red shirt. The child next to him is a girl with long dark hair wearing a blue shirt. The child on the far right is a boy with dark hair wearing a green shirt. They are all wearing blue jeans and are barefoot. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Working Backwards

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**The Key to Quality
Renewal**

Goals

- Provide information allowing you to proactively plan for the renewal of petitions;
 - Review what the GA Statutes say about renewal
 - Understand the importance of the Autonomy for Accountability Bargain;
 - Understand performance plans; the importance of collecting evidence over time.



Georgia Charter School Law

The initial term of a charter, except for a charter system, shall be for a minimum of five years, unless the petitioner shall request a shorter period of time, and shall not exceed ten years.



Georgia Charter School Law

The local board and the state board, in accordance with Code Section 20-2-2064.1, **may renew** a local charter, upon the request of the charter school, for the period of time specified in the request, **not to exceed ten years**. The state board may renew a state chartered special school, upon the request of the school, for the period of time specified in the request, **not to exceed ten years**. The initial term of a charter for a charter system shall not exceed five years. The state board may renew that charter of a charter system, upon the request of the local board, for the period of time specified in the request, **not to exceed ten years**.

20-2-2067.1



Georgia Charter School Law

Each start-up and conversion charter school and each charter system shall submit an annual report outlining the previous year's progress to the authorizing local board or state board...



Georgia Charter School Law

The annual report shall contain, but is not limited to:

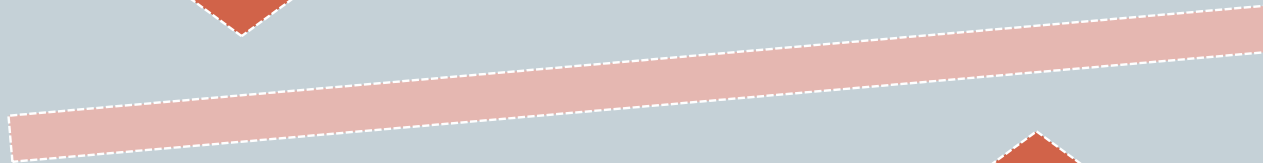
- An indication of **progress toward the goals** as included in the charter;
- **Academic data** for the previous year, including state academic accountability data, such as standardized test scores and adequate yearly progress data;
- **Unaudited financial statements** for the fiscal year ending on June 30, provided that audited statements will be forwarded to the local board and state board upon completion;
- **Updated contact information** for the school and the administrator, and for the charter systems, each system charter school and its respective administrator;
- **Proof of current nonprofit status**, if applicable;
- Any other **supplemental information**...



The Autonomy for Accountability Bargain



accountability



autonomy



The Autonomy for Accountability Bargain



Accountability

- Formal agreement to operate a public charter school
- Defined length of time to operate school
- If the school does not perform, it does not get to stay open


The Autonomy for Accountability Bargain



Autonomy

- Transfer the authority to operate a public charter school
- Control over budget, staffing, school configuration, academic program, schedule, mission and vision, etc.
- Independent governance
- Still responsible for health, safety and education of students

The Autonomy for Accountability Bargain – Why is this important to Renewal?

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- Break up into small groups;
 - Discuss the accountability / autonomy line;
 - Prepare a statement, comprehensive of all participant's opinions, indicating where the autonomy for accountability bargain intersects with renewal decision-making.

Charter School Renewal – Questions for Discussion



- Is charter renewal about past performance or promises for the future?
- Who should define what charter school performance is?
 - The authorizer?
 - The school community?
 - The school board and leadership?
- What data and evidence should be considered when making a charter renewal decision?
- How good does a school have to be to earn charter renewal?

Accountability Non-Negotiables



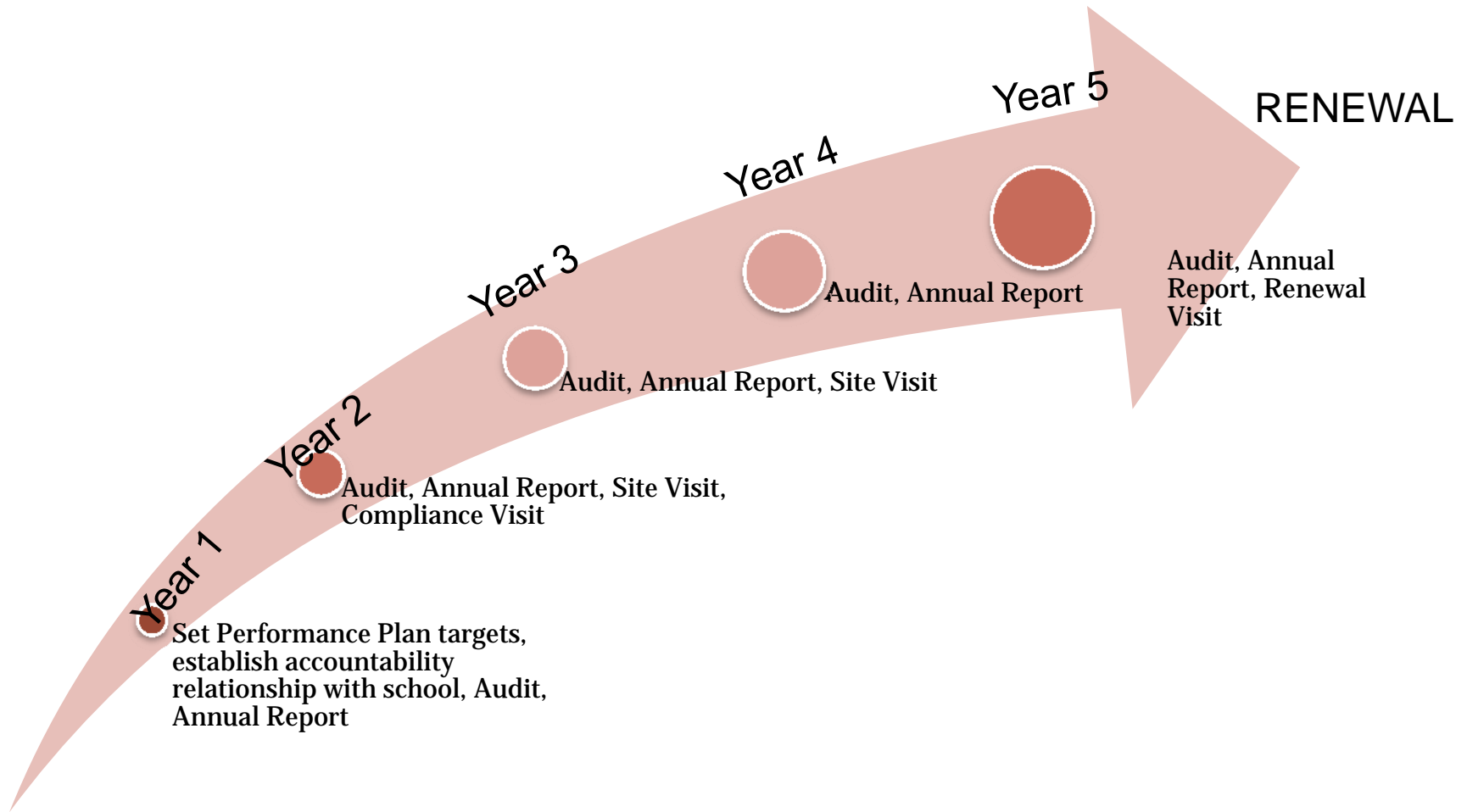
- Standards must be clear from the beginning
- There must be a framework for how decisions are to be made and by whom
- The *how good is good enough?* question must be defined by measurable outcomes

It all boils down to.....

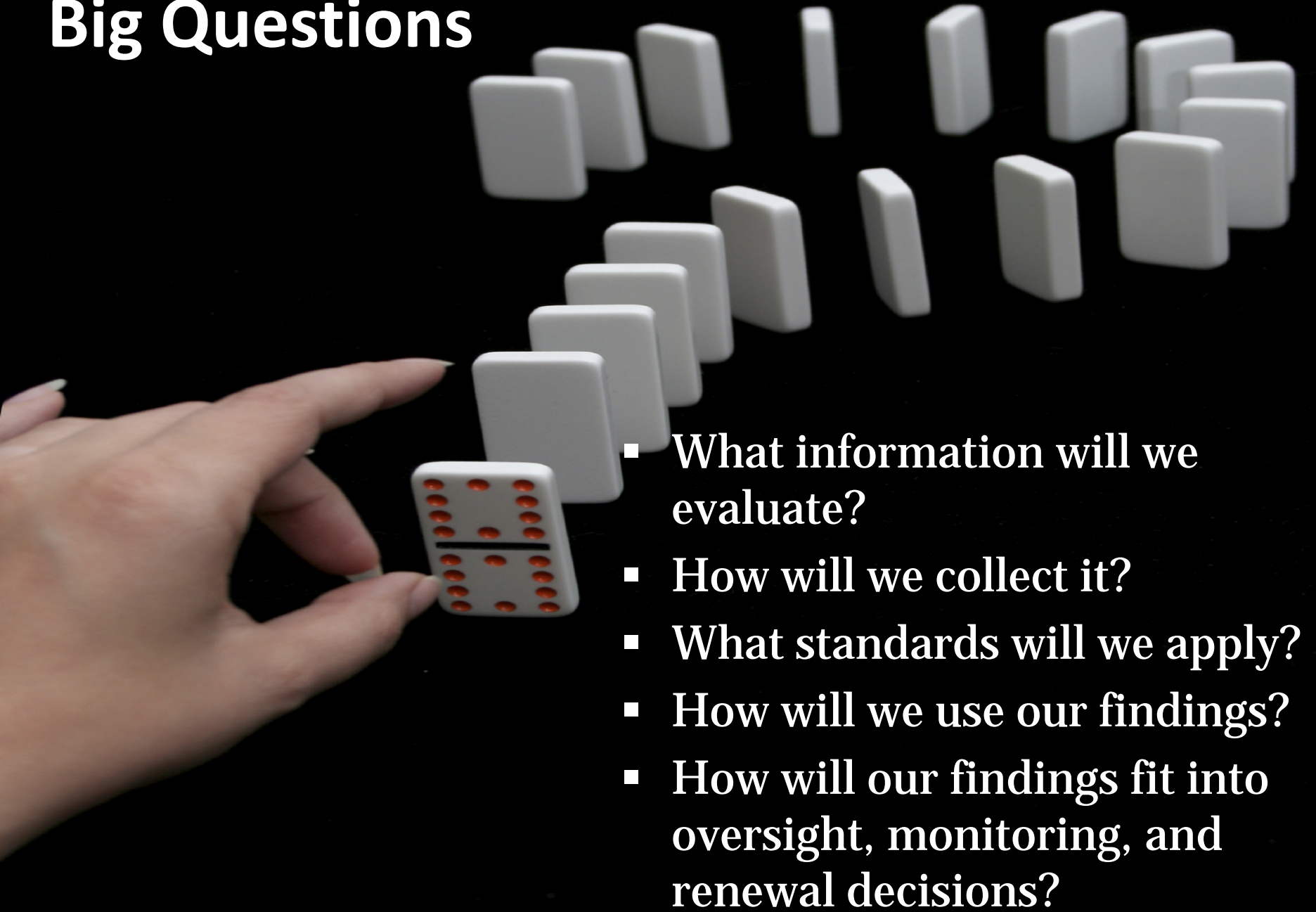


- **Based on a program review**
- **Meet statutorily required contract criteria**
- **Do not meet statutorily defined grounds for non-renewal**
- **Renewal term length**

Collecting Evidence Over Time

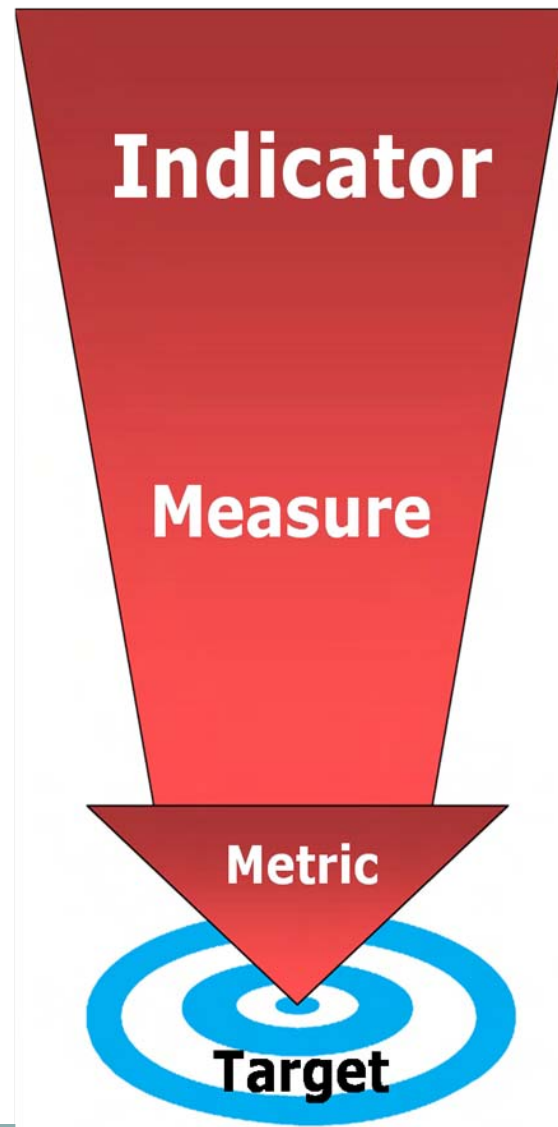


Big Questions

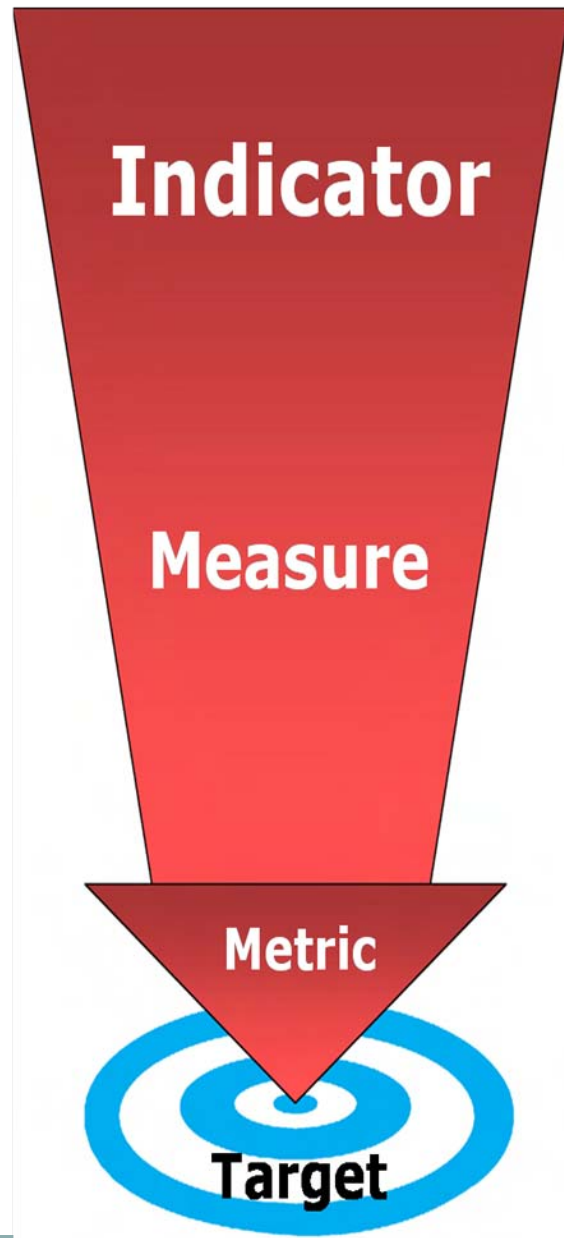


- What information will we evaluate?
- How will we collect it?
- What standards will we apply?
- How will we use our findings?
- How will our findings fit into oversight, monitoring, and renewal decisions?

Indicators, Measures & Metrics



Indicators, Measures & Metrics



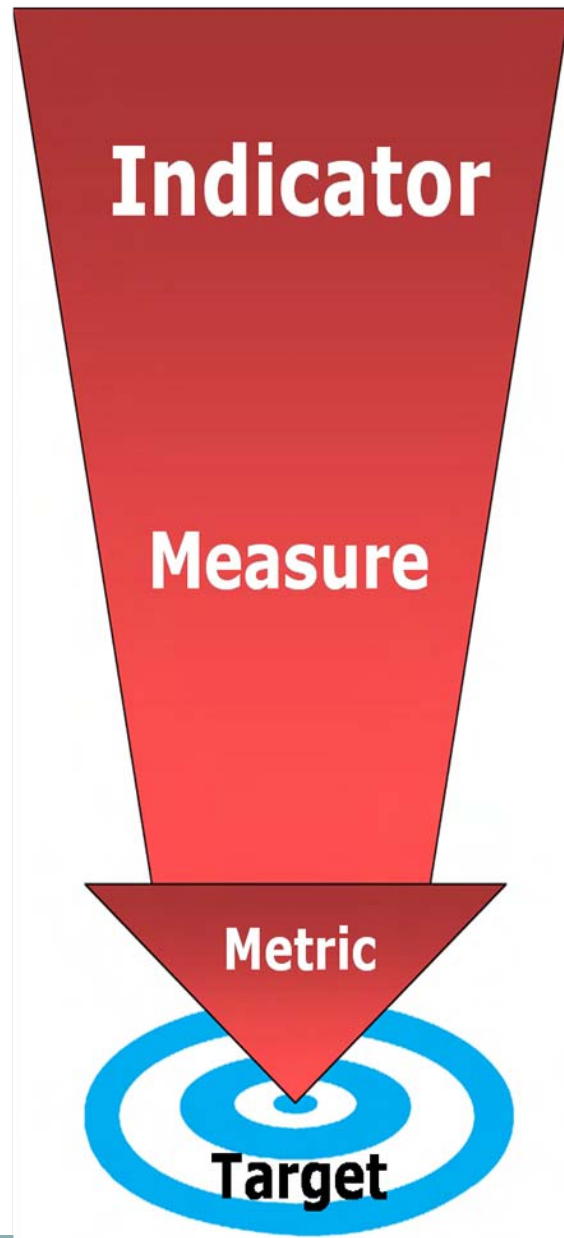
Indicators = The 'big buckets', general dimensions of quality or achievement (ex – Student Achievement Levels)

Indicators, Measures & Metrics



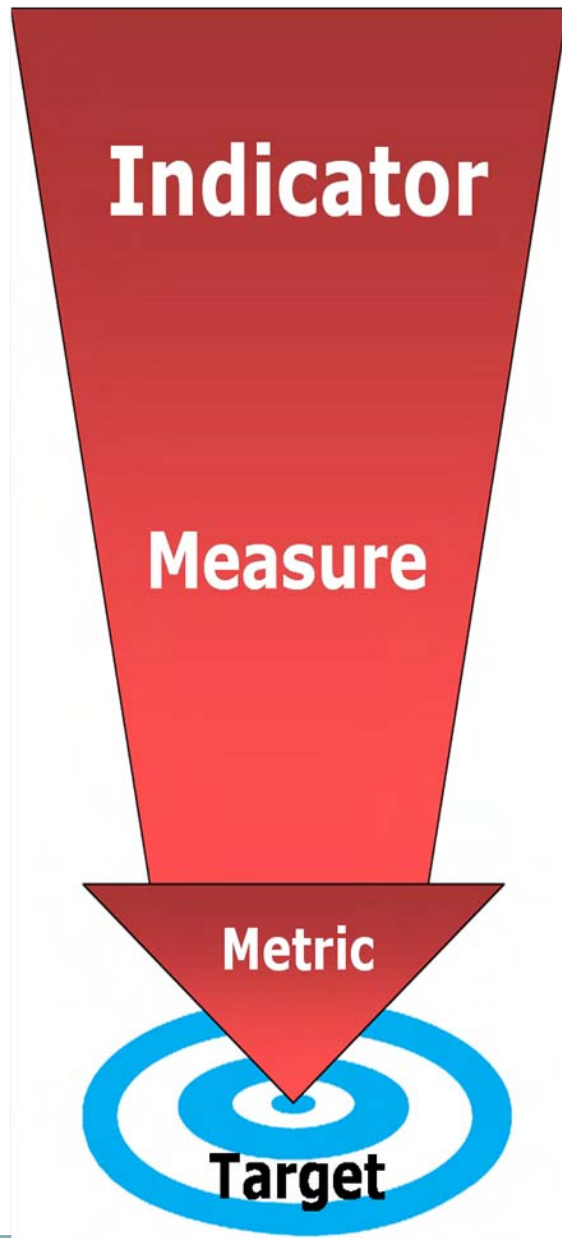
Measures = General instruments or means to assess performance; require application of specific metrics or calculation methods (ex – High School Completion)

Indicators, Measures & Metrics



Metrics = Specify a quantification, calculation method or formula for a given measure (ex – Graduation Rate [percentage of ninth-graders graduating in four years])

Indicators, Measures & Metrics



Target = Specific, quantifiable objectives that set expectations or define what will constitute success on particular measures within a certain period of time (ex – a graduation rate target might be “90% of ninth-graders graduating within four years)

THE CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PLAN



- An accountability agreement between an authorizer and the charter school that it oversees;
- Component of the charter school contract;
- The ‘work plan’ by which authorizers monitor school performance over the course of the charter term;
- Complete set of indicators, measures, metrics and targets around;
 - Academic program performance;
 - Operational program performance;
 - School design
- Provide a common, agreed upon work plan for authorizers and schools to follow when measuring school performance over the charter term;
- Common set of rulers and rubrics.

THE CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PLAN



- Most indicators in a Performance Plan are non-negotiable and common to all charter schools that the authorizer oversees;
- Some metrics and targets are non negotiable (example – those linked with school academic status as defined by federal AYP standards);
- Authorizers complete these metrics and targets prior to present the Performance Plan to schools (pre-populated);
- Some metrics and targets are completed at appropriate intervals as testing results become available;
- Targets set by authorizers and schools together should be in line with the school's charter (contract, statute), outcome based, realistic, and measured at appropriate intervals;
- If a charter school fails to meet a majority of the targets in its Performance Plan, or fails to make substantial progress toward meeting a majority of the targets = Non Renewal.

THE CHARTER SCHOOL MONITORING TABLE



- A sequence of monitoring activities from Pre-opening requirements through to renewal decision making;
- Displayed sequencing of the monitoring events by focus area;
 - Compliance;
 - Academic;
 - Operational/fiscal

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL SCENARIOS



How will Georgia's authorizers approach the charter school renewal process?

- Provide information allowing you to proactively plan for the renewal of petitions;
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