

# Georgia

**Spotlight on a Failed Network**





# QUICK FACTS ON GÜLEN CHARTER SCHOOLS GEORGIA



## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

3 originally 1 currently (private)



## KNOWN AS

T.E.A.C.H. High School, later known as Fulton Science Academy High School "FSAHS" - Closed

Fulton Science Academy Middle School "FSAMS" - Closed

Fulton Sunshine Academy Elementary School "FSAES" - Closed

Fulton Science Academy Private School "FSAPS" - Open

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

Private

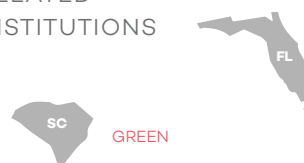
## CHARTER VENDOR

Charter Educational Services & Resources "CESR" (previously known as "The Grace Institute")

## TOTAL REVENUES

\$2,312,428

## RELATED INSTITUTIONS



River City Science, Discovery, Science Schools, Broward Math and Science, New Springs Schools, School of Math and Science

## KEY PEOPLE



Kemal Gur



Selim Ozdemir



Ali Ozer



Avni Cokavci



Levent Bulut



Vedat Akgun



Ayhan Korucu

## FINANCIAL SCANDAL

Fulton Science Academy Middle School



2001-2012

T.E.A.C.H. School



2005-2015

Fulton Sunshine Academy Elementary School



2010-2015

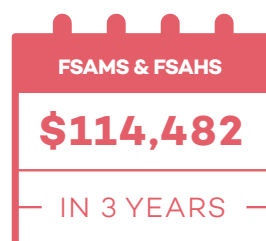
The Fulton Science schools were closed due to the results of forensic audits showing **rampant misuse of public funds**, the use of a sham corporation - Grace/CESR, conflicts of interest, nepotism, failure to follow required procurement processes, and lack of safety procedures for international trips to Turkey.

## CONFLICTING INTERESTS

School leaders **hired their own corporation** to provide their schools with services for fees between \$70,000 - \$90,000 a year—the definition of a conflict of interest.



## LEGAL & DHS FEE CORRUPTION



Research indicates that these fees were paid for not only their employees, but also the spouses and family members of their H-1B H-1B employees, as well as the H-1B employees of FSAES and FSAHS, for which they were not reimbursed.

## H-1B VISA APPLICATIONS

61 H-1B

H-1B VISA APPLICATIONS 2000 to 2016

Of the 19 employees FSAMS paid to immigrate, seven of them left shortly thereafter, which we believe demonstrates the fact that school funds were used to immigrate Gülenists as a primary concern—not recruit teachers.



All figures based on available data for 2015-2016 academic year.

## Quick Facts

- ▶ Region: Southeast
- ▶ School Names (known as):
  - ▷ T.E.A.C.H. High School, later known as Fulton Science Academy High School "FSAHS" - Closed
  - ▷ Fulton Science Academy Middle School "FSAMS" - Closed
  - ▷ Fulton Sunshine Academy Elementary School "FSAES" - Closed
  - ▷ Fulton Science Academy Private School "FSAPS" - Open
- ▶ Total # of Schools in State: 3 originally, 1 currently (private)
- ▶ Charter Holder/Governing Board(s):
  - ▷ Cosmos Science Academy, Inc., later known as Fulton Science Academy, Inc.
    - Formed in 1999
    - Organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3)
    - Operated FSAMS
  - ▷ Fulton Educational Services, Inc.
    - Formed in 2004
    - Organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3)
    - Operated T.E.A.C.H., FSAHS
  - ▷ Fulton Sunshine Academy, Inc.
    - Formed in 2006
    - Organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3)
    - Operated FSAES
  - ▷ Fulton Science Academy Private School, Inc.
    - Formed in 2012
    - Organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3)
    - Operates FSAPS
  - ▷ Oconee Science Academy, Inc.
    - Formed in 2008
    - Organized as a non-profit 501(c)(3)
    - Submitted petition to open Oconee School of Math and Science, which was denied
- ▶ Charter Management Services Vendor: The Grace Institute "Grace," now known as Charter Educational Services & Resources "CESR"
- ▶ Regional Gülen Organization Oversight Entity: Grace/CESR
- ▶ Regional Sister Networks: River City Science (FL); Discovery (FL); Science Schools (FL); Broward Math and Science (FL); New Springs Schools (FL); School of Math and Science (FL); GREEN (SC).
- ▶ Georgia Network Founders:
  - ▷ Kemal Gur: Founding Board Member, Cosmos Science Academy (GA); Owner, Westwood Productions (CA) – Gülenist vendor.<sup>1</sup>
  - ▷ Selim Ozdemir: Principal, Fulton Science Academy Middle school (GA); Bookkeeper, Registered agent, President, CEO, CFO, Grace Institute (GA); Executive Director, Fulton Science Academy High School (GA); Executive Director, Fulton Science Academy High School and Middle School (GA); Registered Agent, Fulton Sunshine Academy (GA); Board member, Grace Institute (GA).<sup>2</sup>
  - ▷ Ali Ozer: Founding Principal, T.E.A.C.H. (GA); Executive Director, Fulton Science network (GA); CEO, CFO, President, Grace Institute (GA); Curriculum Director, Fulton Science Academy Middle school (GA); 2006 Lead Petitioner, GREEN Charter School (SC) (denied in 2006, approved later).<sup>3</sup>
  - ▷ Avni Cokavci: CEO, CFO, Grace Institute (GA); Bookkeeper, Grace

<sup>1</sup> Information taken from: Cosmos 990 form 2001, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ky3tu84>; Business profile available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hjr9jgc> (last checked 2/15/2017); See California profile for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Information taken from: FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8.2017).

<sup>3</sup> Information taken from: FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8.2017); Fulton Educational Services 2005 990 form, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zxtjkrm> (last checked 5/4/2017).

- Institute (GA); Assistant Principal, Bookkeeper, Principal, Fulton Science Academy High School (GA).<sup>4</sup>
- ▷ Levent Bulut: CFO, Fulton Science Academy (GA); CFO, Fulton Science Academy High School (GA); CFO, Fulton Sunshine Academy (GA); Board Member, Cosmos Foundation – Harmony Public Schools (TX).<sup>5</sup>
  - ▷ Vedat Akgun: Co-founder, first Horizon Science Academies (OH);<sup>6</sup> Co-Founder, Attempted Indiana Life Sciences Academy (IN);<sup>7</sup> Founder of Concept Schools (Midwest region);<sup>8</sup> Co-founder, Breeze, Inc. and New Plan Learning, believed Gülenist landlord entities (Midwest region);<sup>9</sup> Board Member, Fulton Science (GA);<sup>10</sup> CEO, Charter Housing Corporation (GA) Fulton Science construction vendor;<sup>11</sup> CFO, Global Spectrum Foundation, Inc, D.B.A. Istanbul Center (GA);<sup>12</sup> Board member, Fulton Science Private School (GA);<sup>13</sup> President, Turkic American Federation of Southeast (GA).<sup>14</sup>
  - ▷ Ayhan Korucu: Founding Board Member, Fulton Educational Services, Inc. (GA); CEO, Fulton Science Academy Middle School (GA); CEO, Fulton Science Academy High School (GA); CEO, President, Fulton Sunshine Academy (GA); President, Fulton Science Academy Private School (GA).<sup>15</sup>

## Overview

The Fulton Science (GA) network operated publicly from 2001-2015 and was intended to serve as the hub for the Southeastern region. This is demonstrated by the GA schools' creation of their own CMO, the Grace Institute, now d.b.a. Charter Educational Services & Resources ("CESR"), which is still based in a suburb of Atlanta and provides services throughout the Southeastern region. The Fulton Science schools were closed due to the results of forensic audits

showing rampant misuse of public funds, the use of a sham corporation - Grace/CESR, conflicts of interest, nepotism, failure to follow required procurement processes, and lack of safety procedures for international trips to Turkey. When the first of the three public charter schools closed, the Gülenist leadership apparently opened a private school instead, which is still in operation in GA.

<sup>4</sup> Information taken from: FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8.2017); Cosmos/Harmony 990s available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hu9wqcl>.

<sup>5</sup> Information taken from: FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8.2017).

<sup>6</sup> New Plan Learning, Inc. 2011A Bond Official Statement pg A-32, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zxoauxp> (last checked 9/6/2016).

<sup>7</sup> Corporation registration information available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kjr6lu4> (last checked 4/19/2017).

<sup>8</sup> New Plan Learning, Inc. 2011A Bond Official Statement pg A-32, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zxoauxp> (last checked 9/6/2016).

<sup>9</sup> 2007 Breeze Inc. 990 form, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zj9xbzx> (last checked 9/8/2016).

<sup>10</sup> 2012 990 tax return, showing Akgun as a board member, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lv8ssnk> (last checked 4/19/2017).

<sup>11</sup> Georgia Secretary of State business search for Officer Vedat Akgun, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/pa73vbw> (last checked 4/19/2017).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> LinkedIn profile, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kamsckf> (last checked 4/19/2017).

<sup>14</sup> LinkedIn profile, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kamsckf> (last checked 4/19/2017).

<sup>15</sup> Information taken from: FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8.2017); FSAPS 990 forms, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kq8yqex> (last checked 5/8/2017).

School	Grades/Dates	Authorizer	Governing Board
Fulton Science Academy Middle School	6-8 2001-2012	Fulton County School District	Fulton Science Academy, Inc.
T.E.A.C.H. School, aka Fulton Science Academy High School	9-12 2005-2015	Fulton County School District	Fulton Educational Services, Inc.
Fulton Sunshine Academy Elementary School	K-5 2010-2015	Fulton County School District	Fulton Sunshine Academy, Inc.
Fulton Science Academy Private School	K-8 2012-Present	Private	Fulton Science Academy Private School, Inc.
<i>Petition Attempts</i>			
<i>Oconee School of Math and Science</i>	<i>K-8 2008 filed petition, denied.</i>	<i>Oconee County Schools</i>	<i>Oconee Science Academy, Inc.</i>

## A History of Strategic Ambiguity and Conflicting Interests

Like the other regional hubs throughout the country, the Gülenist founders of the Southeastern region filed and created the first education foundation in Georgia in 1999. Cosmos Science Academy, Inc. even had a similar name to the first foundation in Texas, the Cosmos Foundation, which runs the Harmony (TX) network to this day. The Georgia network was developed by notable Gülenists who have appeared in charter networks throughout the country, including: Kemal Gur, prominent vendor for the Western region, Vedat Akgun, founder of Concept Schools and the Midwestern region, and Levent Bulut, founder of Harmony Public Schools and the Greater Texas region.

The first school in the Georgia network, FSAMS, opened in 2001, followed by FSAHS in 2005, an attempted petition that failed in 2008, and FSAES in 2010. The Grace Institute, the regional CMO for the Southeast, was incorporated in Georgia on May 13, 2008 by Avni Cokavci. FSAMS signed its first contract with Grace a few months later, in November of 2008. The contract was signed by Selim Ozdemir on behalf of Grace as one of its board members, even though Ozdemir at the time was the Executive Director for both FSAMS and FSAHS, a paid position. This was not the only

overlap, however—Ali Ozer, the curriculum director for FSAMS, was the president of Grace, and Kenan Sener, the principal of FSAMS, was also a board member for Grace. Grace/CESR was in all respects a corporate entity created and run by the leadership of the Fulton Science schools. Furthermore, these same school leaders hired their own corporation to provide their schools with services for fees between \$70,000 - \$90,000 a year—the definition of a conflict of interest.

These conflicts were noticed by Fulton County School district, the authorizer of the Fulton Science schools, who required the schools to sever their contracts with Grace as a result. The overlapping board members and employees of Grace and the schools separated, and a few months later, the schools signed new contracts with Grace. The schools' leadership still did not adhere to the district-required procurement process for contracts of that dollar amount. However, due to these concerns and other financial mismanagement issues that came to light during the FSAMS' renewal application process, the district commissioned an external forensic audit of FSAMS, which paid specific attention to conflicts of interest, concerns of self-dealing, and improper use of public funds.

According to the external audit reports which were publicly released, FSAMS' leadership was obstructionist and difficult during the entire auditing process. Furthermore, the audits themselves revealed numerous conflicts of interest between the schools, their employees, board governance, Grace, and other vendors chosen. The schools overpaid their affiliated vendors for dubious services received, and the auditors noted that Grace itself did not have its own employees beyond an IT person and a person who answered the phones. As a result, the auditors questioned whether Grace was in fact providing any services at all.

The audits also revealed:

- ▶ Improper and excessive use of public funds for H-1B employees, their spouses, and even the employees of other schools;
- ▶ Poor financial practices and bookkeeping;
- ▶ Failure to maintain criminal background checks for employees;
- ▶ Employee with criminal background in position of authority undetected;
- ▶ High concentration of H-1B employees;
- ▶ High attrition and turnover rate for H-1B employees;
- ▶ Excessive relationships between vendors for FSAMS; and
- ▶ Failure to adhere to district-required safety protocol for international field trips to Turkey.

Before FSAMS successfully renewed its charter contract, it entered into a bond agreement for financing for a new K-12 campus to house all three Fulton Science schools in 2011. The schools hired Noss Construction, a Gülen-affiliated construction vendor, for the work. However, FSAMS did not disclose the fact that it had ongoing issues with its

authorizer at the time of the bond statement, which could be considered a material omission of fact. As a result of FSAMS' failure to be renewed, the \$19 million bond financing ultimately defaulted, costing investors hundreds of thousands of dollars. Wells Fargo, the bond trustee, sued the schools for default. FSAMS closed its doors in 2012 and immediately converted into FSAPS, its private school incarnation, that same year.

The bond property was sold at foreclosure to TruGlobe, Inc., a Georgia corporation run by Selami Kul and Ahmed Vehbi Ugur, for a fraction of its price.<sup>16</sup> It is now owned and used by FSAPS for its school facilities.

After the FSAMS audit and non-renewal, Fulton County Schools initiated audits of FSAHS and FSAES, as well.<sup>17</sup> The FSAHS was released in August of 2012, but the FSAES audit was never completed. The FSAHS audit, however, revealed the following serious issues and concerns:

- ▶ Failure to account for bond debt default in financial reporting and records;
- ▶ Excessive truancy;
- ▶ Overlap between school leadership and paid CMO, Grace;
- ▶ Use of school employees for work Grace was paid to provide;
- ▶ Excessive use of H-1B program to hire unqualified Turkish individuals with no teaching experience and bad grades;
- ▶ Payment for H-1B immigration costs for employees and family members with school funds;
- ▶ Use of sporadic Craigslist posts for job openings;
- ▶ Failure to inform board of hiring from

<sup>16</sup> Information available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kzq4gte> (last checked 5/8/2017).

<sup>17</sup> The FSAHS audit is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kkbfnd> (last checked 5/8/2017).



Turkey or use of school funds to pay for immigration costs;

- ▶ Domination of governing board by Turkish school leadership, as reported by non-Turkish parent members;
- ▶ Failure to utilize the governing board in hiring decisions;
- ▶ Poor board governance, as reported by non-Turkish parent members on governing board;
- ▶ Improper use of personal vehicles without

insurance to transport students; and

- ▶ Failure to adhere to safety protocol for international field trips to Turkey.

Due to the findings of the FSAHS audit, Fulton County School district sought to terminate its charter contract. However, the initial hearing to terminate the school was overturned by the Georgia Department of Education due to procedural concerns regarding the process used for the hearing. The school district ultimately non-renewed both FSAHS and FSAES when their charter terms expired in 2015.

## Excessive Use of the H-1B Visa Program

Like other Gülen Organization charter networks, the Georgia Gülen charter schools utilized the H-1B visa program to immigrate large numbers of Turkish Gülenists into the United States for employment in the schools and network. The Georgia network filed at least 53 H-1B applications from 2001-2016, while CESR itself filed 8 H-1B applications during the same period.<sup>18</sup> While the Gülen Organization typically states that these H-1Bs are only to fill shortage areas for math and science teachers, these applications were filed for such positions as: principal, curriculum coordinator, business operations specialist, instructional coordinator, business manager, and Science Olympiad coordinators.

Furthermore, according to the GA audits, FSAMS alone incurred \$74,846 in legal and Department of Homeland Security fees over a three-year period, and FSAHS incurred \$39,636. Our research indicates that these fees were paid for not only their employees, but also the spouses and family members of their H-1B employees, as well as the H-1B employees of FSAES and

FSAHS, for which they were not reimbursed. Of the 19 employees FSAMS paid to immigrate, seven of them left shortly thereafter, which we believe demonstrates the fact that school funds were used to immigrate Gülenists as a primary concern—not recruit teachers.<sup>19</sup>

Georgia's Gülen charter schools use the same immigration attorneys to file and process their H-1B applications as other known Gülen Organization charter networks, vendors, and cultural associations, indicating once again the existence of an overall network. For example:

- ▶ Cherie Cookorinis: the Georgia network used Cookorinis to file numerous H-1B applications.<sup>20</sup> Cookorinis also filed applications for:
  - ▷ Fulton Science (GA)
  - ▷ Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation (MD)
  - ▷ Triad Math and Science (NC)
  - ▷ Charter Educational Services & Resources (GA, FL)

<sup>18</sup> See MyVisaJobs.com for each governing board's information, 1) FSAPS, including earlier years of H-1Bs from FSAMS, <http://tinyurl.com/lscceerb>; 2) FSAMS, <http://tinyurl.com/kueotzo>; 3) FSAHS/TEACH, <http://tinyurl.com/mlgof8l> 4) FSAES, <http://tinyurl.com/k3dk3v5>.

<sup>19</sup> See FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8/2017).

<sup>20</sup> List of entities represented by Cherie Cookorinis, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/m4e6cgl> (last checked 4/27/2017).

- ▷ Grace Institute (GA, FL)
- ▷ Florida network (including: Discovery,

River City, New Springs, Neosprings, Stars Education, Galaxy)

## Whistleblower Testimony

A former employee of the Fulton Science network provided our research team with multiple interviews outlining the incidents that they witnessed at the three schools during their employment. Due to the wish for anonymity, the whistleblower will not be named by name, and the pronoun “they” will be used. Highlights of the testimony include:

- ▶ Charter Housing Corporation, a construction company owned by Fulton Science board member Vedat Akgun, was engaged to do the build-out of Fulton Sunshine Academy in 2010 while Akgun was a board member.
- ▶ Turkish board members would share housing while some went to Turkey for long trips in order to enroll their students in the school. For example, while Selim Ozdemir was in Turkey, Akgun moved into his house so that his children could enroll in Fulton Sunshine Academy. Akgun’s children were allowed to bypass the legally mandated lottery because Akgun “would become” a board member later that year.
- ▶ Board dynamics on the three schools’ governing boards were purposefully manipulated so that the Turkish board members would be in the majority. They voted in a bloc, and non-Turkish board members often reported that they did not know what was going on, who did the hiring of principals (which was supposed to be a board function), or that the schools used the H-1B program to immigrate Turkish teachers in (and paid for the costs) instead of hiring locally.
- ▶ A Fulton Sunshine parent reported that one of the governing board members

provided answers to mandated testing to her and other parents.

- ▶ The principal in each school did all of the hiring on his own without involving any of the others on the leadership team. At one point, one of the science teachers, Yucel Aktas, was promoted to “Human Resources Director.” When the whistleblower asked about why the school created a new Human Resources department at the school, Aktas told them, “No, no, no—I only handle hiring Turkish people, not a real Human Resources director for everybody.”
- ▶ Every semester, between 2-4 Turkish men would show up at the school as “interns from Georgia Tech.” These men shadowed various school employees to learn how to teach while they were learning English, however they were not really students at Georgia Tech as there was no education program at that university. They were, however, enrolled in their community English language acquisition program. These Turkish male interns were often hired by the Fulton Science schools the following year and placed in teaching roles. Some went on to become principals shortly after that and to lead other schools in Florida and North Carolina. Some of these interns include:
  - ▷ NamikSercan, who went on to become principal in the Fulton Science network and is now employed by Terra Science and Education Foundation in New York, a Gülenist landlord entity that we believe charges the NY Gülen charter schools excessive rents.
  - ▷ Murat Cetin, who went on to become a principal in the Fulton Science network.



- ▷ Alper Tekin, who went on to work in the North Carolina Gülen Organization charter schools (Triad).
  - ▷ Gothepi, who went on to work in the Florida Gülen Organization charter schools.
- ▶ As shared by other whistleblowers, many of the newly immigrated Turkish male teachers and interns lived together in the same apartment complex, Lexington Apartments in Alpharetta, Georgia.
- ▶ Fulton Science Academy Middle School was treated as a model school; anything created by the teachers at the middle school was taken by their CMO vendor Grace Institute and shipped out to other schools throughout the region.
- ▶ Turkish leadership and employees in the Fulton Science network often talked about the other “districts,” referred to in this report as regions. The whistleblower, though American, was aware of Harmony Public Schools in the Texas district, Magnolia Public Schools in California, Horizon Science in Ohio, and even Putnam Science Academy in Connecticut, one of the few Gülen private schools in the Gülen Organization, because of the Turkish teachers and administrators’ talk of these other districts. The whistleblower was also aware of these other districts because of the rapid movement between schools and regions by the Turkish employees.
- ▶ The whistleblower confirmed other whistleblowers’ reports of intense favoritism shown to select students in the Fulton Science network. The special students would be taken on camping trips, special studying sessions, and given junk food during the school day in front of other students. This testimony corroborates the recruitment of special students by Turkish employees of the schools, documented elsewhere in this report.
- ▶ The whistleblower stated that Sercan, one of the interns previously, was a poor teacher who students reported would fall asleep at his desk. Regardless, Sercan was immediately promoted to principal at Fulton Science Academy High School after a very short period of time in the classroom, and he wrote the majority of the Fulton Sunshine charter petition. Sercan would periodically not show up for work, which the whistleblower learned he was given time to write the petition for the elementary school.

## Notable Turkish Vendors

- ▶ **Charter Educational Services & Resources “CESR”, formerly known as Grace Institute:** CESR is a smaller-scale charter management organization that oversees the Southeastern region of the Gülen Organization, including the Florida networks and the failed Fulton Science (GA) network. CESR is incorporated by former Fulton Science (GA) administrator, Avni Cokavci, and receives a per-head amount in fees from each of its customer charter schools, allegedly for curricular support, professional development, and student information management systems. In Florida, River City Science schools, Tallahassee School of Math and Science, Orlando Science Schools, Seminole Science, Broward Math and Science, Osceola Science, New Springs Schools, Discovery Academy of Science all use CESR for student information services, as well as Fulton Science private

school (GA) and Green Charter School (SC).<sup>21</sup> The GA forensic audits uncovered extensive conflicts of interest between the administrators and board members of the GA charter schools and Grace/CESR, and interviews with the schools' Turkish employees revealed that work Grace/CESR was paid for was actually conducted by the schools' H-1B employees.<sup>22</sup>

- **Atlantic Wind Group, a.k.a Atlantic Wind Production:** Atlantic Wind Group (AWG) is owned and operated by Baybars Bakay and serves the Southeast region of the Gülen Organization. AWG provided video production, advertising, marketing, and website design services to the Fulton Science network. Prior to starting AWG, Bakay was employed at FSAMS as their computer teacher through July 31, 2010. Bakay filed the corporate paperwork to incorporate AWG just a month prior, on June 1, 2010. AWG received its first payment from FSAMS just a few months later, in December of 2010. When GA auditors asked the FSAMS principal about Bakay, he claimed

to not know him and was unaware that Bakay had been an employee of his school the year before. AWG's Internet domain was registered to an employee of Grace/CESR and a former FSAHS teacher at the time, and after the audits began, AWG's website removed all mention to Bakay.<sup>23</sup>

- **Core Group/Core Design & Production:** The Fulton Science network purchased school uniform shirts from Core, which is a known Gülenist vendor for the Concept-controlled Midwestern region. The GA auditors revealed that Core's pricing was high relative to other vendors, and that the schools kept a large, unused quantity of the shirts in storage at all times that had no bearing on actual demand for the shirts in the schools. The Core Group, owned by Ertugrul Gurbuz, is currently under federal investigation as one of the vendors Concept used allegedly to defraud the E-Rate program.<sup>24</sup> The company and its subsidiaries have received over \$3.2 million dollars from Concept schools.<sup>25</sup>

## Individuals Caught in the Gülen Organization Web

It is quite common for the Gülen Organization charter networks within a region to shuffle their Turkish H-1B visa teachers from school to school, as well as between regions. This is just a small number of individuals with these overlapping ties throughout the region, which further demonstrates the region's interconnections. Notably, this shuffling only occurs with Turkish employees.

- **Emre Akbaba:** Science Teacher, Fulton Science Academy High School/TEACH (GA); River City Science Principal, New Spring Science Elementary and Middle School (FL); Principal, Discovery Academy of Science (FL).<sup>26</sup>
- **Murat Cetin:** Principal, Fulton Sunshine

<sup>21</sup> All of the following school websites contain the language "Powered by Charter Educational Services & Resources," evidencing the tie between CESR's Gülenist charter school customers, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/l54sqwb>, <http://tinyurl.com/mm9s22a>, <http://tinyurl.com/kofnlk4>, <http://tinyurl.com/krpzqs>, <http://tinyurl.com/k35qx8y>, <http://tinyurl.com/lke2m4c>, <http://tinyurl.com/m2vxrfu>, <http://tinyurl.com/lv23dcd>, <http://tinyurl.com/kxth73j>, <http://tinyurl.com/l78cvd3>.

<sup>22</sup> FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8/2017).

<sup>23</sup> FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8/2017).

<sup>24</sup> See Mihalopoulos, Dan. *Targeted Firms Still Get Tax Money After Charter Raids*, Chicago Sun-Times <http://tinyurl.com/jzmzevh> (last checked 9/8/2016).

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> Information taken from: Pinellas charter schools, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/m2q4z2l> (last checked 5/2/2017); Bio, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/m473l24>; Newsletter, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lmz6yvs>

Academy (GA); Teacher, Fulton Science Academy Middle School (GA); Principal, Osceola Science Charter School (FL).<sup>27</sup>

- **Namik Sercan:** Teacher, Fulton Science Academy Middle School (GA); CEO, Registered Agent, Board Secretary, Fulton Sunshine Academy (GA); Bookkeeper, Fulton Science Academy High School/TEACH (GA); Board Secretary, Grace Institute (GA); Principal, Registered Agent, Fulton Science Academy High School/TEACH (GA); Author of article in *The Fountain* magazine, 2008, a Gülenist publication; Chief Education Officer, Central Jersey College Prep; Board member, Syracuse Science (NY); Executive Director, Terra Foundation – believed Gülenist land-lord entity (NY).<sup>28</sup>

- **Alaaddin Akgul:** Teacher, Fulton Science Academy Middle School (GA); Board Member, Fulton Sunshine Academy (GA); Science Coach & Gifted Education Consultant, CESR (Southeastern); Dean, River City Science Academy (FL); Principal, River City Science Elementary (FL); Regional Director, Science Olympiad (FL); Principal, River City Science Mandarin (FL).<sup>29</sup>

- **Baybars Bakay:** Teacher, Fulton Science Academy Middle School (GA); Owner, Atlantic Wind Group – Gülenist vendor for Southeast region.<sup>30</sup>

## Notable Articles regarding the Georgia Network

- Copsey, Jonathan. *Fulton Science Academy opens as private school*. Forsyth Herald. 31 August 2015. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/moaxra2> (4 May 2017).
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<sup>28</sup> Information taken from: FSAMS Audit pg 68-70, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8/2017); Linkedin Profile, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lc5vxh9> (last checked 5/8/2017); Namik Sercan; CEO of Central Jersey College Prep; 3.2.17; article available from <http://tinyurl.com/mfrp6ck> (last checked 5/8/2017); *The Fountain*; Issue 63, May-June 2008; <http://tinyurl.com/k3kch2l>.

<sup>29</sup> Information taken from: Linkedin Profile, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/l59zuqz> (last checked 5/2/2017); FSAMS Audit, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TATHiy> (last checked 5/8/2017).

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