

Request for Flexibility 2014-15 Proposal



INSTRUCTIONS: Please write your responses in the boxes below.

SCHOOL NAME:	Sweet Apple Elementary School
CONCEPT NAME:	Full Day Release for Professional Development and Student Lead Conferences
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE:	Long-term Outcomes 1, 2, 3

Concept Summary	
1) Describe the need/challenge that your school seeks to address.	With the new strategic plan there are several initiatives the school will implement including the following: design and implementation of a Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS), strengthening of instructional strategies and data disaggregation through Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), use of student lead conferences to increase student participation and accountability, and increasing the use of higher order and critical thinking strategies through staff development. The time needed to implement the above initiatives requires the flexibility to implement a modified school calendar in order to allow teachers at all grade levels the time to engage in curriculum development and planning during the instructional school year. This modified calendar is a critical component to achieve the goals of our strategic plan.
2) Describe the proposed concept, and explain how it addresses the need/challenge identified above.	In order to ensure the faculty has sufficient opportunities to be trained on PBIS, PLC's, higher order and critical thinking strategies, and student led conferences, we will need to have a significant number of contact hours outside of the regular school day. Through the use of full day release days for students, which will be spread throughout the school year, we will be able to implement a training schedule. This schedule will include Professional Learning opportunities interspersed with time for teachers to implement the strategies, followed with additional Professional learning to share, modify, and reflect on the work that will be ongoing. We are asking for four full-release days during the 2015-2016 school year. One of these days will be committed to a student / teacher / parent conference.
3) Include any research or evidence that the concept will positively affect your school's student population. If no research exists, please	The initiatives were selected based on information derived from parent and staff surveys, focus groups, test scores, and research related to best practices. Yeung, Mooney, Barker and Dobia (2009) provide evidence of a positive correlation between a PBIS and academic achievement. Based on their research, implementation of a

Request for Flexibility 2014-15 Proposal



<p>articulate the rationale for the likelihood of success of the concept, and describe your plans for risk mitigation.</p>	<p>PBIS not only gives students an environment that is conducive to learning, but it gives teachers more time to focus on academics rather than behavior issues. By giving students routines and providing clear expectations, students know what is expected and they are able to focus on the task at hand with minimal distractions.</p> <p>Because students at Sweet Apple Elementary have consistently performed well on both state and national assessments, our community of stakeholders felt we should focus on increasing the students' use of higher order and critical thinking skills. Research has definitively shown incorporating these skills into the curriculum will increase academic achievement. We want to teach students to analyze and synthesize information, evaluate their work, and create products based on their findings. According to Lewis and Smith (1993) as cited by Smith and Szymanski, "Higher order thinking occurs when a person takes new information and information stored in memory and interrelates and/or rearranges and extends this information to achieve a purpose or find possible answers in perplexing situations."</p> <p>A key component which will tie our initiatives together is the use of PLC's throughout the school to improve teaching and learning. "Researchers characterize teacher PLCs as explicitly or implicitly being about shared values and vision, a focus on student learning, taking an inquiry stance, making teaching more public, sharing experiences and expertise, willingness to experiment with alternative strategies, and engaging in reflective dialogue," (Owen, 2014). Because PLC's develop over time and in stages, using full day release days to foster the PLC's is necessary to ensuring success.</p> <p>Owen, Susanne. <i>Teacher professional learning communities: going beyond contrived collegiality toward challenging debate and collegial learning and professional growth</i>. Australian Journal of Adult Learning. Volume 54, No. 2, July 2014.</p> <p>Smith & Szymanski. <i>Critical Thinking: More Than Test Scores</i> International Journal of Educational Leadership Preparation, 2013</p> <p>Yeung, Mooney, Barker, & Dobia. <i>Does School-wide Positive Behavior System Improve Learning in Primary schools? Some Preliminary Findings</i>. New Horizons in Education, Vol. 57, No. 1, May 2009.</p>		
	Project Outcomes	Short-Term Goals	Long-Term Outcomes

Request for Flexibility 2014-15 Proposal



<p>4) Outline the expected results in the columns to the right.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase student ownership and accountability -Expand character education in all learning environments -Increase student involvement in positive decision making. -Increase student achievement in social studies -Increase student use of verbal expression across all content areas -Increase use of higher order thinking skills and questioning techniques -Increase use of instructional technology in the classroom -Increase project based and research driven learning -Increase opportunities for student, parent, teacher collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Greater percentage of students in grades 3, 4 and 5 exceeding expectations on all subject tests on the CRCT. -Increased percentage of students who show demonstrate an increased level of proficiency with use of technology
Waiver(s) Requested			
<p>5) List any waivers from state law, regulation, and/or rule required to implement the concept. (Facilitators will identify the specific laws, regulations, and/or rules requiring exemption.)</p>	NA		
<p>6) List any flexibility from Fulton County Schools' policy</p>	School Calendar Waiver		

Request for Flexibility 2014-15 Proposal



<p>required to implement the concept. (Facilitators will identify the specific Fulton County Schools policies requiring exemptions.)</p>	
Impact on Students and Families, Personnel, Departments, Processes, and Schools	
<p>7) List any impact of the concept on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students and families; ▪ Personnel; ▪ The school schedule; ▪ Transportation; ▪ School nutrition; ▪ Teaching, learning, and assessment; ▪ Other schools; and ▪ Any other area not addressed above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students & families – Schedule change with 3 additional teacher workdays and 1 additional conference day. ▪ Transportation – will not be needed for these 4 days ▪ School Nutrition – will not be needed on these 4 days. FCS will directly handle Nutrition staffing for these days.
Budget	
<p>8) Please use the budget template on the next page to provide the estimated costs of the proposed concept. In the space to the right, please identify, to the extent possible, how you plan to modify your school budget to cover additional costs. If applicable, identify external funding sources.</p>	

Request for Flexibility 2014-15 Proposal



INSTRUCTIONS: Please enter the expected costs of your concept for the applicable school year(s). To calculate the totals for the Amount Budgeted columns, highlight the entire table, and press F9. You may customize the budget items.

SCHOOL NAME:

		<i>2015-2016</i>		<i><Insert School Year></i>		<i><Insert School Year></i>		
Budget Item	Item Description (Include quantities if applicable)	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Notes
Teacher(s)		0		0		0		
Paraprofessional(s)		0		0		0		
Support Staff		0		0		0		
Additional Pay (certified)/Overtime (non-certified)		0		0		0		
Equipment		0		0		0		
Supplies/Materials		0		0		0		
Professional Development		\$33,000		0		0		
Independent Contractor(s)		0		0		0		
Transportation		0		0		0		
Supplements		0		0		0		
Other Professional Services		0		0		0		
Other		0		0		0		
Other		0		0		0		
GRAND TOTALS		\$ 33,000.00		\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00		

*When determining the *Amount Budgeted* for personnel costs, the principal should consult with the Learning Community Human Resources Director.

**For the *Proposed Funding Source(s)*, please indicate which of the following funding sources you intend to use: General Fund, Student Activities Fund, School Foundation/PTA, FCS Seed Fund, Grants, or Other (please specify the source).