

# Request for Flexibility Proposal



**DIRECTIONS:** Please write your responses in the boxes below. Pages 1-3 constitute the school’s draft Request for Flexibility proposal; schools must complete these pages in advance of the school’s Public Comment period. Schools must complete Page 4 before the final submission of the proposal to the school’s Area Superintendent.

SCHOOL NAME: Northview High School

LONG-TERM OUTCOME: Increase students’ college and career readiness

FOCUS AREA: Rigorous and Relevant Academic Opportunities

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: INITIATIVE: Create flexibility with course/scheduling options

SPECIFIC ACTION STEP, IF APPLICABLE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Concept Summary

<p>1) Describe the proposed concept and the target population (grade, subgroup, etc.). Explain the need that the concept addresses, and describe how your concept meets this need.</p>	<p>Northview HS desires to enhance instructional delivery in support of career connections and authentic learning experiences. It is our goal to fully prepare our students for the most prominent and successful positions our global economy has to offer.</p> <p>Offering a few specific courses in an arena/lecture-style model (with larger class sizes) allows us to meet two goals: (1) allow more students to take the courses; and (2) prepare students for success in the academic experiences they will encounter in college by allowing them to experience seminar-style courses while in high school.</p> <p>Northview requests a waiver of the district rules for class size to allow a few, select courses to be offered arena-style with a class size of 50+ students. Northview aims to use the large lecture model for 2 courses: AP Psychology and Social Issues &amp; Media.</p>
<p>2) Include any research or evidence that the concept will positively affect your school’s student population. If no research exists, please articulate the rationale for the likelihood of success of the concept, and describe your plans for risk mitigation.</p>	<p>Beyond their high-school graduation, all beginning college students face enormous challenges, ranging from the academic to the social, and the first year of college marks the period of greatest vulnerability for student attrition (Feldman and Zimbler, 2011). Research has found that 28 percent of first-year students in four-year colleges do not return for their sophomore year. The reasons students struggle in their college experience are many:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are simply not intellectually or cognitively ready for the challenges of college work.</li> <li>Students lack basic skills that lead to success in college, such as time management, writing ability, effective reading strategies, note-taking skills, and knowledge of test-taking strategies.</li> <li>Students often experience large classes, in which they may experience anonymity and a sense of disconnection from their instructor (Feldman and Zimbler, 2011).</li> </ul>

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	<p>While Northview High School students traditionally experience a high level of success in high school and beyond, this research supports the need for our school to continually enhance the experiences we provide to prepare students for college success. Adding a lecture-style college-level course to our current academic offerings will allow our students to learn the skills needed to be successful in this setting, and will serve as one additional tool equipping Northview graduates for future success.</p>
<p><b>Waivers/Flexibility Requested</b></p>	
<p>3) Explain any waivers from state law, regulation, or rule required to implement the concept. <i>(Facilitators will take the lead on the development of this portion of the proposal.)</i></p>	<p>State Board Rule 160-5-1-.08 Class Size, which defines the following maximum numbers of students that may be taught by a teacher in a class segment:                  Grades 9-12 (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language) = 32 (maximum individual class size)                  Grades 9-12 (Gifted High School Resource &amp; Advanced Content) = 21 (maximum individual class size)</p>
<p>4) Explain any flexibility from Fulton County Schools policy required to implement the concept. <i>(Facilitators will identify the specific Fulton County Schools policies requiring exemptions.)</i></p>	<p>N/A – Class size is governed by state law, not by district policy.</p>
<p><b>Impact on Students and Families, Personnel, Departments, Processes, and Schools</b></p>	
<p>5) List any impact of the concept on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Students and families;</li> <li>▪ Personnel;</li> <li>▪ The school schedule;</li> <li>▪ Transportation;</li> <li>▪ School nutrition;</li> <li>▪ Teaching, learning, and assessment;</li> <li>▪ School or district departments or processes not already listed;</li> <li>▪ Other schools; and</li> <li>▪ Any other area not addressed above.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Facilitators will help gather information from relevant Fulton County Schools departments for this portion of the proposal.)</i></p>	<p>Teacher compensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a teacher instruct an academic class with a larger class size will require more work for the teacher. Northview is considering ways to compensate the teachers for the heavier workload.</li> </ul> <p>Scheduling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to hold large seminar-style courses, Northview would have to ensure the master schedule allows for it and ensure that it can be held in the appropriate instructional space.</li> </ul>

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Budget	
6) Please use the budget template on the next page to provide the estimated costs of the concept. In the space to the right, please identify, to the extent possible, how you plan to modify your school budget to support any additional funding required and/or identify external funding source(s).	This request will not have an impact on our current budget. To compensate the teacher for the larger class size, the school will pursue one of a few options: apply for Seed Funds in order to pay a special supplement to the teacher; or pursue a partnership with a local college/university to employ an upper-level college student as a Teacher Assistant.

**ATTACH THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN RELATED TO THIS REQUEST FOR FLEXIBILITY.**

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

SCHOOL NAME: Northview High School – SEE RESPONSE #6 ABOVE

Budget Item	Item Description (Include quantities if applicable)	<Insert School Year>		<Insert School Year>		<Insert School Year>		Notes
		Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	
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		0		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		
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>		

\*When determining the *Amount Budgeted* for personnel costs, please see the *FY14 Standard Budget Items* worksheet on the Charter System Cohort I Team Site.

\*\*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, Federal Funds, or Other (please specify the source).

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## Northview High School-School Initiative Action Plan Template

Initiative Title						
Waiver of Class Size Limit						
Long-term Outcome	Focus Area		Objective			
Increase students college and career readiness	Rigorous and Relevant Academic Opportunities		Increase effectiveness of Instructional Offerings			
Initiative Team Leader						
Principal						
Initiative Team Members						
Assistant Principals; Social Studies Department Chair and Teachers; Counselors						
Tasks/Action Step	Result/Deliverable	Staff Responsible	Resources	Date to be Completed	RFF	Seed \$
1. Waive maximum class size for instruction in AP Psychology and Social Issues and Media	Complete RFF & District Confirmation of Waiver	Principal	School Governance Council; Governance & Flexibility Facilitator; Teaching and Learning Department	February 1, 2014	YES	
2. Waive local/state instructional delivery model.	Complete RFF & District Confirmation of Waiver	Principal	School Governance Council; Governance & Flexibility Facilitator; Teaching and Learning Department	February 1, 2014	YES	
3. Revise master schedule to accommodate classes being taught in the auditorium	Increased student access to classes	Administration; Teachers	School Governance Council, Governance and Flexibility Facilitator; Counseling Department; Educational Partnerships	February 20, 2014		
4. Consider compensation to teachers for possible increased workload	Teacher Compensation	Principal	School Governance Council; Governance and Flexibility Facilitator; Human Resources Dept.; Budget Department	February 10, 2014		Yes