

Introduction

This application aims to identify strategic initiatives at the school level, including both requests for flexibility in adhering to district policy and local programming requests.

This form allows schools to:

Request flexibility: Outline a situation where adhering to a specific district policy or state law might hinder a school's ability to effectively serve its students.

Propose a new program: Request a program your school would like to implement from the district program inventory or that is not currently offered in FCS.

In either case, schools will be asked to clearly articulate:

- The specific challenge or opportunity they are addressing.
- Your proposed solution, including details of the requested flexibility or the new program.
- The expected outcomes and positive impacts of their proposal.

Report on an active program: Provide an update on a program that is currently being implemented at your school to ensure Board approval for the program offering.

Discontinue an existing program: Share rationale for sunsetting a program that has traditionally been active at the school.

Please complete this form thoroughly and in consultation with your principal and fellow council members.

Note, all programs offered at Fulton County Schools must be board approved and require board certification every three years.

Value Added Flexibility Form

Select one of the following:

Submit a Programming Request or Update

Grade Level:

Middle

School *

Sandtown Middle

Programming Requests/Updates

Active Programs

Select the programs offered at your school from the following list:

- ☐ 3DE Magnet
- ☐ CTAE Magnet
- ☐ Visual & Performing Arts Magnet
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (DP) Magnet
- ☒ International Baccalaureate (MYP) Magnet
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (PYP) Magnet
- ☐ STEM Magnet
- ☐ STEAM Magnet

1) Describe the specifical goals and objectives of the program(s). How do the program(s) align with the school's Strategic Action Plan?

Sandtown is committed to advancing its progress toward IB MYP Magnet authorization, which aligns with our strategic goal of Enhancing Performance for All Students. The IB program equips our scholars with the skills and strategies to become compassionate, inquisitive, and open-minded lifelong learners dedicated to promoting a more peaceful world.

Sunsetting Programs

Select the programs being discontinued at your school from the following list:

- ☐ 3DE Magnet
- ☐ CTAE Magnet
- ☐ Visual & Performing Arts Magnet
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (DP) Magnet
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (MYP) Magnet
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (PYP) Magnet
- ☐ STEM Magnet
- ☐ STEAM Magnet

1) Describe the specific factors that led to the decision to discontinue the program(s). What is the anticipated impact of discontinuing the program(s) on current students?

New Programs

What new program are you requesting to implement at your school. The following programs are not eligible for individual school requests (AVID, College and Career Academy, Dual Language Immersion, In-School Academies, Safe Centers, School-Based Health Center, Pre-K, JROTC, Middle College).

- ☐ 3DE Magnet
- ☐ CTAE Magnet
- ☐ Visual & Performing Arts Magnet
- ☐ International Baccalaureate (DP) Magnet
- ☒ International Baccalaureate (MYP) Magnet

☐ International Baccalaureate (PYP) Magnet ☐ STEM Magnet ☐ STEAM Magnet ☐ Other

1) What need or challenge would this program address at your school? Describe the problem and how you became aware that it needed to be addressed.

At Sandtown, we are focused on ensuring that our scholars are engaged in rigorous instruction. The IB MYP Magnet program will further support the growth of both our teachers and scholars as we strive to be more inclusive and foster critical inquiry through a challenging curriculum.

2) Why do you think this program would be successful at your school? Include any research/evidence that leads you to believe that the program will accomplish the school's need.

The staff and community at Sandtown are dedicated to doing what is best for our scholars. In conversations with our community, there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that students are adequately challenged to thrive at our feeder high school, which also offers an IB MYP program. Our teachers are committed to providing the right level of challenge to adequately prepare our scholars for the demands of high school-level IB.

3) How does this program align with your School Action Plan? Draw connections between the proposed solution and the needs of your school and/or community.

The IB MYP aligns with all areas of our strategic action plan as we work to increase rigor across all content areas. This focus will engage our scholars more deeply, contributing to improved attendance rates, which is also a key goal in our strategic plan. Additionally, the funding allocated for this program supports our commitment to fiscal responsibility. Investments will be made in training and enhancements that directly benefit our scholars.

4) What steps will you take to implement this program? Include any resources, required training/professional development and/or additional implications associated with the proposal.

Currently, professional development focused on the IB mindset is crucial to our success. We have provided several professional learning opportunities, both externally and in-house. We have established clear expectations for integrating IB concepts into Fulton County instructional units and assessments. Additionally, we have sought guidance from consultants and colleagues as we navigate this journey.

Zone Superintendent Review

Zone Superintendent Decision

Comments

