SCHOOL GOVERNANCE
& FLEXIBILITY
STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

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: identify an opportunity where requesting flexibility from a specific district policy or state law could enhance your school's ability to meet student needs more effectively. This option allows schools to propose innovative, student-centered approaches that align with their unique context.

Report on an approved flexibility: Provide an update on the implementation of a Value-Added Flexibility and its impact on academics and school operations.

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.

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.

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

Whether requesting flexibility or proposing a new program, 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.

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

Value Added Flexibility Form

Select one of the following: *

Report on an approved flexibility

Grade Level: *

High

School *

Alpharetta High

Report on an Approved Flexibility

All schools with approved Value-Added Flexibilities are required to complete an VAF Reporting Form each year. The information you provide will be used to share the successes, challenges, and any potential changes you are making to the implementation to your flexibility requests.

Select the Value-Added Flexibility (VAF) waiver for which you would like to submit an annual report.

Alpharetta HS - Instructional Minutes (Alternative Evening Program)

Data Analysis & Program Impact

1) To what extent was there a measurable increase in student outcomes, teacher instructional practices, and/or school climate and culture as a result of the VAF supported initiative? *

The Value-Added Flexibility initiative was designed to provide students with an alternative pathway to earn first-time credit in courses they had previously been unable to take, thereby supporting on-time graduation with their cohort. By enrolling students in Fulton Virtual courses—already approved by Fulton County Schools—we were able to streamline the process, eliminating the need to develop new courses and navigate the lengthy approval procedures.

This approach not only optimized instructional time but also allowed students to focus more effectively on their coursework and make meaningful academic progress. As a direct result of this program, eight students successfully graduated with their cohort—an achievement that would not have been possible without the support of the night school program.

2) Provide quantitative data that specifically supports the continued use of the VAF. *

During the 2024–2025 school year, the AHS Night School program provided a valuable academic opportunity for 11 students. Collectively, these students completed 29 courses required to meet full graduation requirements.
The comprehensive course catalog offered through Fulton Virtual enabled students to fulfill not only core academic requirements but also elective and world language credits. The flexibility and variety of course options allowed students to select classes aligned with their interests, which helped maintain their motivation and engagement throughout the program.

For the 2025–2026 school year, we have introduced new guidelines aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and impact of the AHS Night School program. These updates are designed to enhance operational efficiency, maintain the delivery of high-quality instruction, and foster increased student motivation and confidence.
By refining our approach, we anticipate a positive influence on student outcomes and overall school climate and culture, further reinforcing our commitment to academic success and student well-being.

Challenges & Implementation

3) Were there unique challenges to implementing the VAF that you did not originally consider? If so, how did you overcome this challenge? *

As with any new initiative, the implementation of the AHS Night School program presented several challenges. One of the primary concerns involved scheduling students into Fulton Virtual courses, many of which reached capacity quickly. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Lisa Pizzuto and the Fulton Virtual team, students were successfully placed in appropriate courses in a timely manner.

Another significant challenge was securing funding to offer these courses at no cost to students. Through collaboration with Latonya Davis, Director of the Extended Learning program, we were able to arrange payment for the courses, ensuring equitable access for all participants.

Perhaps the most complex aspect of implementation was managing the logistics to ensure the program

was executed with fidelity and aligned with approved Value-Added Flexibility (VAF) guidelines. AHS Administration played a critical role in establishing an equitable and effective framework, while parent feedback provided valuable insights that will inform improvements for the upcoming school year.

4) Describe any changes or adjustments that must be made to the original VAF proposal for implementation moving forward. *

The original Value-Added Flexibility (VAF) for the Night School program was designed to serve senior students seeking first-time credit, excluding course recovery options. We propose amending the VAF to expand eligibility to all students enrolled at Alpharetta High School. This change is particularly important given the increasing number of students transferring from other states or countries—especially during the spring semester—who may require immediate access to credit-bearing courses. Broadening access will allow these students to earn necessary credits without sacrificing elective opportunities in future semesters, supporting a smoother academic transition.

Additionally, we recommend updating the VAF to include recovery credit options for student-athletes impacted by NCAA eligibility requirements. This amendment would allow students to recover credits from previously failed semesters, whether those failures occurred at AHS or prior to transferring from another school, state, or country. Providing this pathway through Night School ensures equitable access to academic recovery while maintaining compliance with NCAA standards.

Resources & Planning

5) What resources (human, financial, operational, etc.) are needed to continue implementation of the VAF? *

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- Personnel
- A dedicated Night School Program Administrator to oversee implementation with fidelity and ensure equitable access for all eligible students.
- A trained Night School Facilitator to support students during each session, monitor progress in Fulton Virtual coursework, and complete individualized weekly goal sheets for each student.
- Financial
- Continued funding support from the Extended Learning program to cover course tuition, enabling access to the full Fulton Virtual course catalog. This ensures students can enroll in a wide range of courses beyond core content areas, including electives and world languages.

6) How do you plan to provide these resources? *

We will continue offering this opportunity as long as course tuition can be supported through Extended Learning funding. Our program facilitator is already trained in Fulton Virtual progress monitoring and works closely with credit recovery students on a weekly basis. This dual role allows us to maximize her time and impact across both credit recovery and night school programs, while maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to staffing and resource allocation.

Governance & Flexibility Review

Governance & Flexibility Decision:

Comments