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 (Senior Blended Learning)

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? *

Offering students choices and flexible scheduling helps them shape their school day in a way that works best for them. As more students explore off-campus learning options, blended courses provide a valuable alternative that mirrors a college-style schedule.

Last year, we offered only one blended ELA course: Dramatic Writing. This year, we've expanded to four:

AP Literature – 28 students

Advanced Composition – 23 students

AP Research – 26 students

Dramatic Writing – 33 students

About AP Research:
This is a new ELA elective at AHS. Students who complete it successfully may earn the AP Capstone diploma. However, AP Research does not count as one of the four required core ELA courses. Since most students have limited room in their schedules for extra electives, we scheduled AP Research as a blended class on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

This scheduling allowed us to offer AP Literature and Advanced Composition (both core ELA courses) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As a result, students pursuing the AP Capstone diploma can take two first-period classes on alternating days, giving them:

The opportunity to earn the AP Capstone diploma

A way to complete their fourth core ELA course on campus

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

Because AP Research is offered as a blended course, 26 students now have the opportunity to earn the prestigious AP Capstone diploma—an achievement that would have been out of reach without this flexible scheduling option. This isn't just a scheduling success. It is also a transformational shift in access and opportunity. Without the blended format, these students would have had no room in their schedules to pursue this advanced academic distinction.

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? *

Scheduling Complexity - Coordinating alternating-day classes (e.g., AP Research on M/W/F and AP Literature or Advanced Composition on T/Th) requires precise scheduling and communication to avoid conflicts.

Limited Student Schedules - Even with blended options, students may still struggle to fit multiple rigorous courses into their schedules, especially if they have other commitments (e.g., dual enrollment, extracurriculars).

Sustainability - Maintaining and expanding blended offerings requires ongoing administrative support, staffing, and resources.

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

There are currently no changes or adjustments.

Resources & Planning

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

There are no additional resources required at this time. Since blended courses align with standard scope, sequence, and curriculum, teachers continue their work withing PLCs to endure consistent implementations between blended and traditional courses.

Much of the planning work for blended courses may occur during the summer months. Additional PLC blended teams will be encouraged to plan during the summer months to ensure course goals are met.

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

Teachers/PLCs will determine if and when they need to meet during the summer. Otherwise, teachers/PLCs will continue to meet and plan during regularly scheduled PLC dates during the school year.

Governance & Flexibility Review

Governance & Flexibility Decision:

Comments