

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



INSTRUCTIONS: Please write your responses in the boxes below.

SCHOOL NAME:	Northwood Elementary School
CONCEPT NAME:	Professional Learning Days
STRATEGIC INITIATIVE:	Provide project-based enrichment opportunities that focus on real-world, authentic learning. Differentiation of instruction based on assessments of learning styles including balancing homework requirements.

Concept Summary	
<p>1) Describe the need/challenge that your school seeks to address.</p>	<p>Based on test scores (2010-2014 CRCT Math, Science and Social Studies) we have noted that there are several areas of stagnant or decreased scores in both special and general education students.</p> <p>We have also looked at our discipline data and see that our referrals are generally referrals for boys who have difficulty sitting in their seats throughout the day. In addition, the SGC reviewed community survey results and notes that parents want more genuine, real-world, active hands-on learning opportunities for their children.</p> <p>Our goal is to create 21st century learners and increase the number of students who score above average as well as expand all students' critical thinking skills by providing more real world, hands-on experiences.</p> <p>Our challenge is finding extended, common professional learning time to train teachers to help them achieve this goal.</p>
<p>2) Describe the proposed concept, and explain how it addresses the need/challenge identified above.</p>	<p>To create 21st century learners and improve student' critical thinking skills, Northwood plans to have teachers engage in professional development opportunities focused on Project Based Learning.</p> <p>To allow for this additional professional development and collaborative team planning, Northwood will be asking for 3 full days of professional development for teachers for the 2016-2017 school year.</p> <p>These 3 days would be done in one of two ways:</p> <p>Option 1 – During the 2016-2017 school year students and teachers are off November 21-25. Students would have additional days off on November 17, 18 and 28, 2016 so that teachers may engage in professional development.</p> <p>Option 2 – During the 2016-2017 school year, students come back to school on August 8, 2016. In our plan students would not begin school until August 11, 2016 so that teachers may engage in professional development.</p> <p>The professional development is directly related to our School Strategic Plan and will enhance teacher instruction that will provide all students with an academically challenging, hands-on learning experience.</p>

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



<p>3) 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>The concept of early release time for professional development has been used by Fulton County schools in the past and is currently practiced by other counties.</p> <p>When teachers have dedicated time for Professional Learning, they are available to learn and have the opportunity to process what they are learning, collaborate and plan effectively. A great deal of research exists to support ongoing professional learning during the day at a time when teachers are available to learn and dedicate their attention to the information being shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rand Education's article, "Teachers Matter: Understanding Teachers' impact on Student Achievement" discusses that quality teaching/teachers are the most important factor in a student's academic success. It goes on to discuss that professional development is the most effective strategy to support teachers in providing quality instruction. In addition, providing a learning environment that allows teachers to learn from each other, support one another and hold each other accountable for applying what they learn gives teachers the opportunity for greater professional growth. • In an article from Education Week (2004) a major three-part study done by the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education found that "U.S. teachers generally spent more time instructing students and less time in professional learning opportunities with their peers than those in top-performing countries." <p>Northwood Elementary believes that our teachers will acquire the most benefit from professional learning that occurs over the course of several full days of instruction. We believe that using professional learning days to learn about Project Based Learning (PBL) will directly impact our teachers' ability to implement PBL in the classroom, foster academically challenging, hands-on learning opportunities and increase student achievement.</p>		
<p>4) Outline the expected results in the columns to the right. Add additional rows as necessary.</p>	<p>Project Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide teachers with professional development in Project Based Learning (PBL) • Increase teacher knowledge of PBL and strategies to support PBL • Teams will collaborate, plan and implement PBL units 	<p>Short-Term Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Based Learning workshops for teachers • Provide time for teachers to collaborate and develop PBL units of study • Increase critical thinking and hands-on learning opportunities 	<p>Long-Term Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 21st Century learners where students will demonstrate an increased use of critical thinking skills and problem solving • Increase student engagement and the percentage of high growth students using

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase teacher strategies for hands-on learning 	<p>Project Based Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase student mastery and of standards and collaboration skills through PBL Develop academically challenging, hands-on learning experiences for our students across all disciplines Increase teacher knowledge and strategies for academically challenging, hands-on learning
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>	<p>State Law O.C.G.A. § 20-2-151(b) (which sets the number of hours of instructional time for educational programs) O.C.G.A. § 20-2-168 (c) (which sets the number of instructional days per year)</p> <p>State Rule SBOE 160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees</p> <p>District Policy AE - School Year</p>		
<p>6) List any flexibility from Fulton County Schools' policy required to implement the concept. (Facilitators will identify the specific Fulton County Schools policies requiring exemptions.)</p>	<p>Northwood Elementary seeks to waive Fulton County Board Policy AE (Applicable School Year) which states: "The school year shall consist of 180 teaching days or the equivalent, except in the event of emergency school closures" for the next school year, 2016-2017.</p>		

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



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. 	<p>Students and families: With three professional learning days for staff, families will have to coordinate childcare on these days. Northwood is working to schedule these days at times where families may be off from work or planning vacations so families can potentially have more time for their possible travels.</p> <p>Personnel: Teachers will participate in the training provided while other staff would work on these days assisting with school responsibilities and/or other staff development.</p> <p>School Schedule: While the school schedule will be impacted with three less days of instructional time, students will benefit from the learning acquired by their teachers during the professional development.</p> <p>Transportation: Northwood will work with FCS to handle transportation staff implications</p> <p>School Nutrition: Northwood will work with FCS to handle school nutrition staff implications</p> <p>Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Teachers will receive staff development in Project Based Learning to support our School Strategic Plan goals. The trainings will support teacher knowledge and collaboration and will result in PBL units for each grade level.</p> <p>Other Schools: While Northwood is working to coordinate professional learning days with as little disruption to families as possible, we will look at potential professional learning dates (if applicable) from Haynes Bridge Middle School and Centennial High School and will make adjustments if necessary.</p>
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,</p>	<p>Northwood will seek funding from the Seed Fund to support the Project Based Learning professional development for the 2016-2017 school year. For subsequent years the money will be allocated within the professional learning development line item of the school's general operational budget as well as grants.</p>

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



<p>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>	
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Request for Flexibility
2015-16 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: Northwood Elementary School

Budget Item	Item Description (Include quantities if applicable)	<2016-2017>		<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		\$12,000	SEED Fund	0		0		Buck Institute PD Cost
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		\$12,000.00		\$ 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).