

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: Shakerag Elementary School

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: Increase Academically Challenging Environment & Obtain Gifted Endorsement for all teachers

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>At Shakerag ES, our primary purpose is to ensure excellent academic achievement of all students. We want all our students to be successful in mastering the curriculum standards at each grade level. As a high achieving school, we want to continue to increase the number of students who “Exceed” or score significantly above average on all standardized tests, while cultivating their critical thinking skills and providing each with a strong educational foundation. In order to achieve this goal, Shakerag ES will focus on developing the capacity of our instructional staff and providing the time and resources necessary for teachers to collaborate and engage in professional learning.</p> <p>To allow for this additional staff training & collaborative team planning, Shakerag ES will incorporate early release days into the existing school-year calendar (i.e., releasing students at 12:00 pm six times during the year). Three days will be requested each semester (September, October, November, January, February and March).</p> <p>This model has been used successfully in Fulton County by Spalding Drive Charter ES as part of their Charter School Contract (they are also making this request for the 2014-15 school year).</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>The concept of early release time to allow for teacher professional development has been used by Fulton County schools in the past, and is current practice for many large school districts in Georgia (notably Forsyth County).</p> <p>In March 2006, the Fulton County Board of Education approved a request from the Alpharetta and Milton clusters to implement the Learning Matters Initiative—five early release days for teachers to participate in professional development during the 2006-07 school year. In November 2006, the Board</p>

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	<p>approved the expansion of the implementation to all Fulton County Schools during the 2007-08 school year. The Assessment and Evaluation Department, in compliance with Board policy, evaluated the pilot initiative; the evaluation focuses on the implementation during the first three of the five early release days in 2006-07. The results of the evaluation should inform the expanded implementation in 2007-08.</p> <p>The evaluation results are captured below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the online teacher survey, teachers’ opinions of the early release days were positive, with high average ratings for the quality of the sessions. A majority of teachers reported that the “longer block of focused time” improved the quality of the professional development provided. • A team of administrators observing implementation of the early release days reported that participants appeared actively engaged and positive about the sessions, and the session instructors appeared well-organized with activities to meet the learning needs of adults. • Analyses of student attendance data suggest that the implementation of the early release days did not contribute to an increase in student absences. The percentage of students absent on the early release days in the Alpharetta/ Milton clusters was compared to that in other Fulton County Schools on the same day and was also compared to the percentage of students absent on the same day one week earlier. • The change in student schedules did not appear to result in high numbers of students remaining at schools after dismissal. Only a few students remained at participating schools on the early release days.
Waivers/Flexibility Requested	
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>	Waiver of length of school day/instructional minutes to accommodate early release (12:00 pm dismissal for students) for 6 days of the school year.
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>	Waiver of length of school day/instructional minutes to accommodate early release (12:00 pm dismissal for students) for 6 days of the school year.

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Impact on Students and Families, Personnel, Departments, Processes, and Schools

- 5) List any impact of the concept on:
- Students and families;
 - Personnel;
 - The school schedule;
 - Transportation;
 - School nutrition;
 - Teaching, learning, and assessment;
 - School or district departments or processes not already listed;
 - Other schools; and
 - Any other area not addressed above.

(Facilitators will help gather information from relevant Fulton County Schools departments for this portion of the proposal.)

Teaching & Learning:

Core content area instruction will be minimally compromised, as reading and math will be scheduled to ensure students receive adequate instructional time. Special area schedules will be modified to minimize disruption throughout the year. All students will be served/offered lunch prior to dismissal.

Students & Families:

Families will have to coordinate for childcare on the days of early dismissal. Shakerag will work to communicate early and often with our families to ensure that parents are able to plan accordingly.

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).

Total amount TBD. We will seek SEED funding to support any transportation cost associated with this request. Last year, Spalding Drive ES utilized Early Release Days at the cost of \$2500 (paid for by Cost Center funds); we expect the actual amount to be higher based on our enrollment and are awaiting estimates from our Transportation Department.

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

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DIRECTIONS: The *Evidence of Public Notification and Comment* section will not be included in the draft proposal provided for Public Comment, but it must be included in the final RFF proposal that your school submits to Fulton County Schools. The *Attachments* section may or may not be included in the draft proposal provided for Public Comment.

Evidence of Public Notification and Comment	
7) List the date that your school posted the draft proposal to the school’s webpage and where it was posted in the school building.	Draft proposal posted on website 11/11/13 and on front desk in main lobby.
8) List the date(s) and location(s) of public meetings during which the School Governance Council solicited oral comments.	Comments available online 11/11/13 through 12/11/13. Public can also physically come in and comment at SGC meeting on 12/6/13 at 7:30 AM.
9) Describe the process used to solicit written comments on the draft proposal.	Comment form posted on website, included in Principal Newsletter and copies available at front desk.
10) Explain how you have addressed any significant concerns raised through the Public Comment process in the final proposal.	
Attachments	
11) Please list any supporting documents and provide them as attachments. Must attach Strategic Initiative Action Plan.	

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

CHAIR’S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____