

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

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.

Though Shakerag Elementary School is consistently a high-achieving school, we remain committed to improving student achievement by increasing the instructional rigor and relevance of our classroom environments. We want to increase the number of students who score in the “exceeds” category on all standardized tests, while also cultivating students’ critical thinking skills and providing each with a strong educational foundation. Our School Strategic Plan identifies two Focus Areas and two Objectives that convey these intentions:

- Focus Area #1: Instructional Rigor and Relevance. To engage students in higher order thinking and increase real-world application of knowledge
- Focus Area #2: Student Engagement. To provide an engaging instructional environment that appropriately challenges all students.
- Objective #2: Increase effectiveness of instructional strategies.
- Objective #3: Increase academically challenging environment.

In order to achieve these objectives and improve our school’s work within the identified focus areas, **Shakerag Elementary School proposes to modify our Gifted Program Service Delivery Model in order to better meet the instructional needs of all our students.**

Currently, the approved elementary school delivery model for gifted service in the Fulton County School District is the Resource Class model. In this model, students receive five segments of gifted services one day per week in a resource class. Class size is limited to the maximum specified by the State Board of Education. In order to comply with this model and operate within the guidelines set forth by the State of Georgia, our TAG (Talented and Gifted) students leave their traditional classrooms to receive gifted instruction one day each week. This current model results in the unintended

Request for Flexibility Proposal

	<p>consequence of TAG students missing the full block of math instruction on the day they attend the gifted resource class. This disruption of math instruction not only impacts individual gifted students, but it impacts the pace and fluidity of math instruction school-wide, as teachers are constantly making adjustments to their math lessons in order to keep all students on-track and successful with the rigorous math standards.</p> <p>Our proposed concept is to modify the local gifted service delivery model for students in grades 1-5. Rather than our gifted students receiving their full five segments of gifted instruction in a resource classroom, they will receive four segments of instruction in the resources classroom. For the fifth required segment of gifted instruction, students will be served by a teacher with gifted endorsement in an advanced math content course.</p> <p>This change in our instructional schedule and gifted delivery model will benefit all Shakerag students. Our gifted learners will still receive instruction in a resource setting, during which time they will still be taught the gifted curriculum. However, with this revised model, Shakerag will improve the consistency and rigor of math instruction school-wide. We will be able to challenge all students at the appropriate level in math, and ultimately meet our objectives and long-term outcomes to improve student achievement, increase the rigor of instruction, and provide all students with academically challenging learning environments. Additionally, having all teachers certified in gifted education will further help us challenge students appropriately.</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>Two fields of research provide evidence that this concept will have positive benefits for the students at Shakerag: research on the importance of effective math instruction and research on the benefits of gifted instructional strategies.</p> <p>A 2004 study by Robert Balfanz and Nettie Legters at Johns Hopkins University also found that many ninth-graders who fail algebra and are held back from entering tenth grade end up dropping out. While students at Shakerag are typically high-achieving in math (and all subject areas), we also know that the state's adoption of the Common Core Standards has shifted the curricula across the nation to hone aptitudes in critical thinking and problem solving. As we raise the bar on math, students are learning more complex subjects, earlier on in their educational lives. This trend is particularly pronounced in elementary school, where the math curriculum now introduces more complex mathematical concepts much earlier in students' classes. Ensuring that all students have equal and adequate time spent on math instruction will better equip Shakerag to help our kids master mathematics and will provide a strong foundation for their futures.</p>

Request for Flexibility Proposal



	<p>[Read more: http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news-impact/2013/01/do-the-math/#ixzz2ifSDAbD2]</p> <p>Separately, research tells us that the use of gifted instructional strategies – which focus on the development of critical thinking, higher order thinking, and research – can benefit all students and increase their academic success.</p>
Waivers/Flexibility Requested	
<p>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></p>	<p>State Board Rule 160-5-1-.08 Class Size, which defines the following maximum numbers of students that may be taught by a teacher in a class segment: Gifted Elementary Resource (K-5) = 17 (maximum individual class size)</p>
<p>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></p>	<p>Waiver of Fulton County elementary school delivery model for gifted service, as detailed in the 2013-14 Resource Manual for Gifted Education Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Class - students receive gifted services one day per week in a resource class at his or her home school. <p>Waiver of Fulton County Resolution on Class Size, which states: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that effective for the 2013-2014 school year only, the Fulton County Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to increase the class size maximums to exceed the current requirements by: 1 to 5 students in Gifted.</p> <p>This resolution thus sets the maximum class size at 22 for Elementary Gifted Classrooms.</p>
Impact on Students and Families, Personnel, Departments, Processes, and Schools	
<p>5) List any impact of the concept on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students and families; ▪ Personnel; ▪ The school schedule; ▪ Transportation; ▪ School nutrition; ▪ Teaching, learning, and assessment; ▪ School or district departments or processes not already listed; 	<p>Students and families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will receive extensive communication about the change in the gifted instructional model. Gifted students will still receive the same amount of TAG instructional time, but the model will be slightly different, with a resource model combined with an advanced math course. <p>Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakerag will need additional teachers who can provide gifted instruction for students. In order to do this, teachers will need to have a gifted endorsement. We are committed to providing

Request for Flexibility Proposal



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other schools; and ▪ Any other area not addressed above. <p><i>(Facilitators will help gather information from relevant Fulton County Schools departments for this portion of the proposal.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">this Professional Development to build the capacity of teachers.</p> <p>School schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal will impact the amount of time students are in the TAG resource classroom. • This proposal allows for uninterrupted, consistent math instruction for all students.
Budget	
<p>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).</p>	<p>We will seek SEED funding to support the cost of an in-district gifted endorsement program for all classroom teachers.</p>

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

Request for Flexibility Proposal



DIRECTIONS: Please enter the expected costs of your concept for the applicable school year(s). To calculate the totals for the *Amounts Budgeted* columns, highlight the entire table, and press F9. You may customize the budget items.

SCHOOL NAME: Shakerag Elementary School

Budget Item	Item Description (Include quantities if applicable)	2014-15		<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	Gifted Endorsement program for all teachers	\$36,000	Seed Fund	0		0		
Independent Contractor(s)		0		0		0		
Transportation		0		0		0		
Supplements	Stipend for teacher participation in Gifted Endorsement (\$2000 per teacher for 40 teachers)	\$80,000	Seed Fund	0		0		
Other Professional Services		0		0		0		
GRAND TOTALS		\$116,000.00		\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00		

*When determining the *Amount Budgeted* for personnel costs, please see the *FY14 Standard Budget Items* worksheet on the Charter System Cohort I Team Site.

**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, Federal Funds, or Other (please specify the source).

Request for Flexibility Proposal



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: _____