

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



INSTRUCTIONS: Please write your responses in the boxes below.

SCHOOL NAME: North Springs Charter High School

CONCEPT NAME: Professional Development Days

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: Implement Daggett’s Rigor, Relevance, and Relationship framework to improve results; Create and implement a school-wide digital literacy plan

Concept Summary	
<p>1) Describe the need/challenge that your school seeks to address.</p>	<p>As NSCHS pursues a STEAM focus to integrate all educational disciplines, time for increased collaboration and in-depth professional learning among counselors, teachers and administrators is necessary. NSCHS’s primary feeder school, Sandy Springs Middle School, is pursuing a STEM curriculum and as part of its strategic plan has requested (and implemented) flexibility to include full day professional development days. This RFF is geared toward continuity to best position students to continue and expand from STEM to STEAM by allowing faculty to have full days to focus on STEAM as well as digital literacy, personalized learning and other student-centric professional development. In addition, because SSMS as well as the other school in the cluster, Dunwoody Springs Elementary, have full day professional learning days, aligning professional development days at NSCHS with the others will reduce the burden on families who have children in schools within the cluster.</p>
<p>2) Describe the proposed concept, and explain how it addresses the need/challenge identified above.</p>	<p>Currently, NSCHS has had 6 annual early release days; We are now requesting support for 4 full day annual release days to be used for professional development . Specifically, the time will be used to implement the school STEAM initiatives , including curriculum development and planning as well as other student-centric professional development. .</p> <p>These efforts work in concert to positively affect our students; the protected professional development time helps ensure that our teachers achieve maximum understanding to the benefit of our students; addressing both sides of the more student-centric learning environment that is part of the school’s Long Term Outcomes.</p> <p>Currently, while early release days allow for more focus on planning, the 90 minute -2 hour planning time is not as productive as hoped and does not allow for the in depth collaborative learning and professional development time needed to implement both a new STEAM based initiative and the necessary personalized learning that will be integral to supporting students in the classroom with quality instruction and hands on learning. The four full days over the year would allow for collaborating, creating quality lesson plans, and would provide time for</p>

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



	<p>feedback and assessment about what is working well and where improvements can be made so that our strategic initiatives can be met. In the event the school is granted the requested Seed funding for STEAM initiatives, the time allowed for professional development will be primarily devoted to STEAM training consistent with the STEAM strategic plan. If the school does not receive sufficient seed money, the faculty will still benefit from a full day of student centric learning, and will also be aligned and coordinated with SSMS.</p>		
<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 STEAM initiative builds upon North Springs' proud history as a dual magnet in Math/Science and Visual and Performing Arts. Pursuing integrated STEAM curriculum is a logical next step towards rigor and relevance for students. If granted Seed funding, a STEAM coordinator will assist with guiding the administration and faculty in integrating the 4 learning academies into an integrated STEAM program, and use the four days for professional learning.</p> <p>The teachers need time in order to prepare their lesson plans, grade common assessments, and infuse the STEAM rigor and relevance into their lessons. The newest initiative to impact NSCHS will be personalized learning, and it is our belief that allowing teachers four full day opportunities will provide this preparation for our students to be successful. A detailed agenda for the 4 days of professional learning will be created for optimal use of teachers and staff time.</p> <p>NSCHS will appoint a committee to coordinate with SSMS and Dunwoody Springs in order to align on both the calendar and curriculum with the goal of creating an ever increasing STEAM rigor and relevance, commencing with Kindergarten and continuing through graduation. All of the schools will use professional development days to allow for coordinated and integrated student learning and motivate students to continue a STEAM path.</p>		
<p>4) Outline the expected results in the columns to the right. Add additional rows as necessary.</p>	<p>Project Outcomes</p> <p>The following are all project outcomes for the stakeholders:</p> <p>Faculty: Increased collaboration among PLC and departments</p>	<p>Short-Term Goals</p> <p>Increased morale of faculty due to less stress.</p> <p>Increased success of student achievement</p> <p>Classroom</p>	<p>Long-Term Outcomes</p> <p>Retain quality faculty at North Springs</p> <p>Improved ACT/SAT scores</p> <p>More students being promoted from year</p>

Request for Flexibility 2015-16 Proposal



	<p>Overall satisfaction and retention rate of faculty</p> <p>Students: Increased SAT and ACT scores due to the personalized learning efforts in class and the continued efforts on Rigor.</p> <p>Greater engagement in the classroom as evidenced by Classroom Walkthroughs</p> <p>Increase in number of 9th graders eligible to move to 10th grade (c) overall satisfaction and retention rate of faculty</p>	<p>walkthrough observations will move from quadrant A classrooms towards Quadrant D classrooms.</p> <p>Increase interdisciplinary opportunities for teachers and staff ;</p> <p>Increase collaboration among counselors, teachers, and administration.</p> <p>Improve staff skills and instructional strategies to support seamless coordination of STEM/STEAM curriculum from elementary school through high school, as well as personalized learning.</p>	<p>prior</p> <p>Graduation Rate Increases</p>
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>SBOE 160-5-1-.02 School Day and School Year for Students and Employees</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>AF - School Day</p>		



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>The impacts for the various stakeholders are listed below:</p> <p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be a loss of instructional time for the students in the classroom but an opportunity for students to have more time for ancillary and additional personalized academic time including using some of the day for additional instruction in advanced classes as warranted/planned by faculty. Subsidizing nutrition costs would be \$3626.96 (about \$10k less than if the school were to continue with 6 early release days because there are no transportation costs and fewer days off with full day release) <p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents that may have more than one child at different schools will now be able to align with other schools in the cluster to reduce tension from different schedules; parents that have students outside of the cluster may have trouble with coordinating work schedule and schools schedules • Ideally Implementation will require coordination with cluster professional development days from local elementary and middle schools <p>Faculty/Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of PD for teachers if a consultant is hired (Seed money request pending to cover this) • Teachers would need to alter lesson plans to make up for the lost instructional time <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students out of school may not have home supervision if parents are unable to take time off from work.
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, 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>	<p>The cost for the nutrition will ideally be funded through part of the seed money requested; if seed money not approved, the nutrition money will come from the local cost center budget. If approved, during the window for creating the budget, the line item will be added to include this cost and it will come from the general fund.</p>

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:

		2015		2016		2017		
Budget Item	Item Description (Include quantities if applicable)	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Amount Budgeted*	Proposed Funding Source(s)**	Notes
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		0		0		0		
Independent Contractor(s)		0		0		0		
Transportation								
Supplements		0		0		0		
Other Professional Services		0		0		0		
Other	Nutrition	\$3626.96	Cost Center	\$3626.96	Cost Center	\$3626.96	Cost Center	
Other		0		0		0		
GRAND TOTALS		\$3626.96		\$3626.96		\$3626.96		

*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).