

Request for Flexibility Renewal Application: 2013-2016 SSP 2016-2017 Cycle (Due: December 9, 2016 by 12:00 pm)

INSTRUCTIONS: Please write your responses in the boxes below.

SCHOOL NAME: Shakerag Elementary School

CONCEPT NAME: Student Release Days for Teacher Development
Project/Problem Based Learning
Balanced Literacy Workshop Model
Student Portfolios

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S)
(from new strategic plan): Implement Personalized Professional Development
7-Habits

Data Analysis & Program Impact	
<p>1) Describe the impact of the RFF. To what extent were students exposed to the initiative associated with the RFF? 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 RFF-supported initiative? Be sure to include supporting quantitative data in your analysis.</p> <p><i>Contact Kimberly Richards, with Department of Strategic Planning & Program Evaluation, at richardsk@fultonschools.org, for additional support with evaluating your RFF.</i></p>	<p>Research shows the teacher in the classroom makes the biggest impact on student learning. Through the implementation of professional development days, we are able to support teachers in improving their instructional practices so they are able to align their skills with the changes and demands of our growing learners. By providing our teachers with the necessary support required to implement best practices, we are able to transform our classrooms into the modern learning environment needed for our 21st century learners.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this RFF, all teachers were exposed to critical and creative thinking strategies that they are able to apply in their classrooms to challenge all students to meet their highest learning potential. Twenty-eight teachers on staff were TAG endorsed through the GA Professional Standards Commission.</p> <p>The implementation of instructional practices learned through the course of the professional development sessions proved to make a positive impact on student achievement. We saw an increase in students scoring at the</p>

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Distinguished Learner level in 75% of subtests across grades three through five.

GA Milestones EOG Score Comparison for Spring 2015 and Spring 2016:
Language Arts

Year	3 rd Grade % Distinguished	4 th Grade % Distinguished	5 th Grade % Distinguished
2015	34	31	33
2016	43	33	26
Change	9	2	-7

Math

Year	3 rd Grade % Distinguished	4 th Grade % Distinguished	5 th Grade % Distinguished
2015	43	38	46
2016	42	39	46
Change	-1	1	0

Science

Year	3 rd Grade % Distinguished	4 th Grade % Distinguished	5 th Grade % Distinguished
2015	33	19	25
2016	42	34	32
Change	9	15	7

Social Studies

Year	3 rd Grade % Distinguished	4 th Grade % Distinguished	5 th Grade % Distinguished
2015	28	19	24
2016	33	31	29
Change	5	12	5

Rationale for Continuing RFF

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<p>2) Describe the progress your school has made toward the project outcomes and go also outlined in your original proposal. What challenges have you encountered? Detail any changes or adjustments that must be made to the original proposal for implementation during the 2016-2020 strategic plan cycle.</p>	<p>At the end of the 2015-2016 school year 58% of our classroom teachers were TAG endorsed while 100% of teachers were exposed to instructional practices designed to increase students' critical and creative problem-solving and thinking skills.</p> <p>The teachers were and continue to be enthusiastic about the opportunity to develop their professional practices throughout the school year. The challenge we encountered with our original proposal required a large amount of additional instruction, study, practice, and reflection beyond the professional release days. This resulted in not all teachers being able to commit to the full TAG endorsement program.</p> <p>Our original proposal focused all five professional development days on TAG endorsement/certification for teachers. We have learned that our professional development sessions need to be timely, and personalized to support the current needs of the teachers in alignment to our strategic plan. This is becoming increasingly important as the GA Professional Standards Commission is revamping the professional learning requirements for certification renewal. Beginning July 1, 2017, educators must successfully remediate low performance, actively participate in professional learning communities, and make satisfactory progress in meeting their Professional Learning Goals/Plans. These professional development days will allow us to support our teachers in achieving this goal so we can retain highly-qualified teachers.</p> <p>While we proposed five days in our original plan, we are now only requesting four days per year be available should we see the need throughout the duration of the 2016-2019 school strategic plan.</p>
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Principal Signature: _____

Council Chair Signature: _____

**REQUEST FOR FLEXIBILITY
2016-17 POST PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**



INSTRUCTIONS: Use this document to summarize how the Council managed the 30-day Public Comment period, responded to any significant concerns raised by your school community, and voted on the final RFF. Attachments are optional.

Public Comment	
1) List the date that the Council posted the RFF proposal to the front of the school's main and SGC webpages as well as where it was placed within the school building.	SGC Website (landing page) - Wednesday November 2 nd 2016. School's main webpage - Friday 4 th November 2016. Hard copies were placed together with comment forms and a comment collection box next to the sign-in station in the school's front Office – Friday 4 th November 2016
2) List the date(s) and location(s) of public meetings during which the School Governance Council solicited oral comments.	Meeting to solicit oral comments was held at Shakerag Elementary School, at 07:15 a.m. on Tuesday December 6 th , 2016. No member of the public chose to attend, and no oral comments were received.
3) Describe the process used to solicit written comments on the RFF proposal.	A request for comments, along with an explanation of the RFF, the actual proposed RFF application, and a link to the FCS RFF webpage were posted to the SGC Webpage. A request for comments together with the link to the SGC website was posted on the school's main webpage. On November 4 th 2016, an email was sent out to each faculty member and parent containing the request for comment along with the explanation of the RFF, a link to the actual proposed RFF application and the link to the FCS RFF webpage. On November 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , and December 2 nd , 2016, a request for comments containing a link to the SGC website and School main webpage were published in the school newsletter which goes out to parents and staff.
4) Describe any significant concerns raised during the Public Comment period. Explain how the Council has addressed these concerns.	No comments were received and no concerns were raised.
Council Vote	
5) List the date that the Council voted on the RFF and the number of affirmative votes from all voting members.	Tuesday 6 December 2016. Six council members and the school principal attended the meeting. All six members voted in the affirmative.
Attachments	

REQUEST FOR FLEXIBILITY
2016-17 POST PUBLIC COMMENT FORM



6) Please list any supporting documents and provide them as attachments.	Attached please find document with the wording used for: School Main Webpage Posting School Newsletter Posting Email to Faculty and Parents SGC Website Posting
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SCHOOL GOVERNANCE
COUNCIL CHAIR'S
SIGNATURE:



DATE:

12-06-2016.

School Main Webpage Posting

School Governance Update

As a Cohort 1 school, Shakerag's School Council (SGC) has recently revised our strategic plan. We therefore need to update our **Requests For Flexibility (RFFs)**, which request waivers from state law or school system policy to help achieve our long-term objectives (Improve Student Achievement in Literacy, Improve Student Communication Skills, Increase Quality of Student Leadership). Our SGC is planning on submitting two RFFs for renewal this year. The 30-day public comment period for our SGC's proposed RFF submissions is open until December 5 at 12:00 p.m. After consideration of public comments received, our SGC will vote on how they wish to proceed. Further information is available at the school's front office or by visiting our SGC website which can be accessed by clicking [here](#), or via our [school website](#) .

School Newsletter Postings

School Governance

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Email to Faculty and Parents

2016-2017 Requests for Flexibility (RFF)

Shakerag School Governance Council

As a Cohort 1 school, Shakerag's School Council (SGC) has recently revised our strategic plan. We therefore need to update our requests for flexibility (RFFs), which request waivers from state law or school system policy, to help achieve our long-term objectives (Improve Student Achievement in Literacy, Improve Student Communication Skills, Increase Quality of Student Leadership).

Our SGC is planning on submitting two RFFs for renewal this year:

What are we asking for?

RFF1 – Class size in Art Music and P.E. in order to provide our students with an Advanced Strategies Lab

We desire to continue our waiver of class size for Art Music and P.E. classes. By keeping the raised classroom size in these classes, we can continue to use the funding earned for our itinerant teachers to provide an Advanced Strategies Lab teacher for our students.

RFF2 – Four Full Release Days for Teacher Training

We wish to continue our waiver of attendance requirements, to provide four (4) days in our school calendar on which students do not report for school, so that we can provide teachers with training on those days.

How will this differ from what we do now?

Since both these waivers were previously approved and are currently implemented, we are simply seeking to have them continue, and no change to our existing method of operation is envisaged.

Where do I get more information about this?

To access more information concerning the proposed RFF submissions as well as previous submissions and approvals visit our SGC website at <http://shakeragschoolgovcouncil.weebly.com/>

or via the school website under the 'About' and 'School Governance Council' dropdown menus.

Further information regarding RFF's can also be found on the Fulton County Schools website at

<http://www.fultonschools.org/en/about/charter/Pages/Request-for-Flexibility.aspx> .

All Requests for Flexibility are required to have a 30-day Public Comment Period. After consideration of public comments received, our SGC will vote how they wish to proceed.

How do I submit my comment?

Comments may be submitted by placing a written copy in the comment box located at the front office of the school, or by emailing them to our SGC Chair Mrs. Seani Serfontein at Serfontein@fultonschools.org by 12.00 p.m. on December 5, 2016 . A limited amount of time will also be available for public comments to be made in person at the beginning of the SGC meeting to be held at the school at 07:15 a.m. on December 6, 2016. Please contact our Parliamentarian Mrs. Karen James at JamesK@fultonschools.org or via the school's front office, if you wish to be placed on the sign-up sheet to address the Council at the Dec 6th SGC meeting

SGC Website posting

As a Cohort 1 school, Shakerag's School Council (SGC) has recently revised our strategic plan.

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[RFF1 Full Document](#) < Button link to document

RFF2 – Four Full Release Days for Teacher Training

We wish to continue our waiver of attendance requirements, to provide four (4) days in our school calendar on which students do not report for school, so that we can provide teachers with training on those days.

[RFF2 Full Document](#) <Button link to document

How will this differ from what we do now?

Since both these waivers were previously approved and are currently implemented, we are simply seeking to have them continue, and no change to our existing method of operation is envisaged.

Where do I get more information about this?

[Information on our previous RFF's can be found by clicking the RFFs tab above or by clicking here.](#)

Further information regarding RFF's can also be found on the Fulton County Schools website at <http://www.fultonschools.org/en/about/charter/Pages/Request-for-Flexibility.aspx> .

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[Comment Form](#) < Button link to document
