

Request for Flexibility 2014-15 Proposal



INSTRUCTIONS: Please write your responses in the boxes below.

SCHOOL NAME: Shakerag Elementary

CONCEPT NAME: Class Size Waiver in Art, Music and PE

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: Improve PLC effectiveness, Advanced Strategies Lab

Concept Summary	
1) Describe the need/challenge that your school seeks to address.	We created an Advanced Strategies Lab (ASL) for students to attend weekly that is designed to challenge and engage students through the use of Lego/Robotics and hands-on activities connected to the curriculum (STEM). In order to fund this program we are looking at raising class sizes in other special area classes (Art, Music and PE), utilizing the funding associated with the itinerants we currently earn (which is based on our student population) to fund our Advanced Strategies Lab teacher.
2) Describe the proposed concept, and explain how it addresses the need/challenge identified above.	<p>The proposed concept is a waiver of class size for our Art, Music and PE classes. By raising the classroom size in these classes we can use the funding earned for our itinerant teachers to pay for our ASL teacher. Students attend 1 day of Art, Music and ASL and 2 days of PE each week (for a total of 5 special area classes each week). Grade levels with 5 or less teachers would not be affected by this waiver (in these grades each class has their own special to go to each day). The waiver will only be used if we have 6 or more teachers at a grade level. In these cases, students from each grade will attend one day of Art, Music or ASL each week and two days of PE.</p> <p>This waiver will also allow all teachers on the grade level to have common planning 5 days per week (which does not happen now). Common planning occurs when all teachers at the grade level have the same special area schedule each day at the same time, allowing them an opportunity to meet as a grade level team to collaboratively work or plan together. Additionally, this waiver will allow us to serve our Kindergarten students in ASL (our current schedule with itinerants doesn't allow us the time to serve our Kindergarten students in ASL). By raising class size in Art, Music and PE we will be able to partially or fully fund our ASL teacher to serve all students (K-5) and provide all teachers with common planning every day.</p>
3) Include any research or evidence that the concept will positively affect your school's student population. If no research exists, please	<p>We believe this concept will be successful as we have had larger class sizes in the past and were able to provide students with appropriate instruction in our special area classes.</p> <p>Larger class sizes will reduce the time teachers have for individual</p>

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<p>articulate the rationale for the likelihood of success of the concept, and describe your plans for risk mitigation.</p>	<p>students and could potentially create classroom management issues. However, our special area teachers are excellent educators, our students are extremely well-behaved and overall our school has very few student discipline concerns.</p> <p>In order to mitigate risks, will be very cautious in utilizing this waiver, looking at student numbers in each grade level to ensure we do not exceed raising class sizes by more than 8 students in Art or Music and 16 in PE. Also, we reserve the option to not raise class sizes in one or more grade levels if our numbers are excessive in any one grade level that might adversely affect instruction or the quality of our programs.</p>		
<p>4) Outline the expected results in the columns to the right.</p>	Project Outcomes	Short-Term Goals	Long-Term Outcomes
	<p>Reduction in number of itinerant teachers to fund ASL teacher.</p>	<p>Fund ASL teacher and provide all teachers with common planning five days a week.</p>	<p>Provide students in Kindergarten through 5th grade with challenging and engaging STEM activities (Focus Areas 1 and 2 of our Strategic Plan)</p>
<p>Waiver(s) Requested</p>			
<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>Waive State law: 20-2-182 and 160-5-1-.08 (class size)</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>N/A</p>		
<p>Impact on Students and Families, Personnel, Departments, Processes, and Schools</p>			
<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; 	<p>This RFF will have the following impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students: Increase class size in Art and Music by approximately 1-8 students and in PE by approximately 2-16 students (for grades with 6 or more classes only) • Students: Ensure students have a special area class 5 days per 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation; ▪ School nutrition; ▪ Teaching, learning, and assessment; ▪ Other schools; and ▪ Any other area not addressed above. 	<p>week (currently some have two specials on one day and no specials on other days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel: Reduce the number of itinerant teachers to 0 • Personnel: Increase the class size in Art, Music and PE by 1-8 students for classes (in grades with 6 or more teachers) • School schedule: Provide common planning time for all teachers at all grade levels (including Kindergarten)
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>This proposal does not require any additional funding, but will allow us to reallocate money to help pay for a full-time ASL teacher. We expect to fund between 80 and 100% of the ASL teacher through this waiver. For example, we currently earn 1.2 Art, 1.2 Music, 1.4 PE teachers and 1.4 PE paraprofessionals. By converting the .2 Art, .2 Music and .4 PE teacher we would fund 80% of our ASL teacher ($.2 + .2 + .4 = .8$ or 80%). If we further convert our .4 itinerant PE paraprofessional we would be able to fund over 100% of the ASL teacher.</p>

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