

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.

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| SCHOOL NAME: | Shakerag Elementary School |
| CONCEPT NAME: | Student Release Days for Teacher Development |
| STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S) (from new strategic plan): | Project/Problem Based Learning Balanced Literacy Workshop Model Student Portfolios 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: _____