

**Request for Flexibility Renewal Application**  
2018-2019 Cycle

**Instructions:** Please write your responses in the boxes below.

SCHOOL NAME: Shakerag Elementary School

CONCEPT NAME: RFF – Class Size and Advanced Studies Lab

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S) (from new strategic plan): Student Social Skills: Focus on the whole child through character development and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills

**Data Analysis & Program Impact**

1) 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? Include quantitative data that specifically supports the continuing use of the RFF.

This class size waiver has allowed us to slightly increase the class sizes in art, music and PE so we could design and implement an Advanced Strategies Lab (ASL). All students in grades K-5 attend the ASL lab one time per week for forty-five minutes as part of our “specials” rotations (Art, Music, PE, and ASL). Our ASL lab is a student-centered learning environment that was designed to challenge and increase student engagement through the use of LEGO® Education products, robotics, and various hands-on and interactive activities while making connections to standards across multiple content areas. Each activity fosters the student’s critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities and encourages student collaboration in order to increase student engagement and achievement.

In addition to building student engagement, we continue to monitor our Student Growth Percentiles and the percent of students scoring at the Distinguished Learner level on the GA Milestones End of Grade assessment for students in grades 4-5.

Median Growth Percentiles:

	ELA		Math	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
4 <sup>th</sup>	67	63	46	55
5 <sup>th</sup>	65	51	53.5	62

	Percent Scoring Level 4 on the GA Milestones:				
		ELA		Math	
		2017	2018	2017	2018
	4 <sup>th</sup>	53	51	38	39
	5 <sup>th</sup>	29	42	46	45
<p>With the slight increase in class size numbers for art, music, and PE, we have not seen a decline in the performance of our students in these areas, and we have been able to provide them with an additional enrichment opportunity that may not be possible to maintain without the funding support from reducing our itinerant staff.</p> <p>In addition to the successes we have seen with our students, the addition of the ASL lab as a fifth special has allowed us to provide our classroom teachers with a forty-five-minute common planning period five days a week. This extra time allows them to strengthen their Professional Learning Community and increases their ability to collaborate in an effort to improve instructional practices.</p>					

**Rationale for Continuing RFF**


<p>2) Were there unique challenges to implementing the RFF that you did not originally consider? How did you overcome this challenge? Describe any changes or adjustments that must be made to the original proposal for implementation during the 2018-2022 strategic plan cycle.</p>	<p>Our Advanced Strategies Lab (ASL) is a STEM-based program where students engage in engineering, robotics, LEGOs, and coding lessons that require students to follow the Engineering Design Process. This model challenges students to think critically and problem solve. The collaboration and challenging curriculum forces our students to think outside the box and learn that it is ok to make mistakes. This program continues to support our students in learning and implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and encourages collaboration and teamwork.</p> <p>We continue to focus on increasing student collaboration and supporting students in applying their learning to solve real world problems. We have found that these skill sets will not only equip them with the tools</p>
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	<p>needed to be successful along their learning journey, however it will also support them in many facets of their lives.</p> <p>Our ASL teacher has done an amazing job learning from our past challenges and has developed a “bank” of lessons that can be used and expanded on each year. As our students learn and grow with the Engineering Design Process, she increases the rigor.</p> <p>As a learning community, the STEM teachers have started to collaborate more often and share strategies and resources.</p> <p>The Advanced Strategies Lab has become a well-established part of our “specials” rotation. Clear lessons, expectations, and procedures have been put in place to support students with their lab experience, and classroom teachers now have increased opportunities to collaborate with their team through five days of common planning.</p> <p>At this time, we do not see any additional changes or adjustments needed to continue to see success in the implementation of this Request For Flexibility (RFF).</p>
<b>Additional Considerations</b>	
<p>3) What resources (human, operational, etc.) are needed to continue implementation of the RFF? How do you plan to provide these resources?</p>	<p>We currently cash in our itinerant positions to contribute to the funding of our ASL teacher. As the number of our homeroom classes goes down, and our itinerants decrease, we use our Flexible Funds to cover additional portions of the salary and/or funds from our General Instruction- Cost Center budget.</p>

Principal Signature: 

Date: 10/9/18

Chair Signature: 

Date: 10/22/18

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