

# 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: Spalding Drive Elementary

CONCEPT NAME: Full Release Days -- Professional Development

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE(S) (from new strategic plan): Implement data driven reading instruction using Lexile bands; Implement Writing Program using Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Writing; Implement Project Based Learning in Social Studies

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>Contact Kimberly Richards, with Department of Strategic Planning &amp; Program Evaluation, at richardsk@fultonschools.org, for additional support with evaluating your RFF.</p>	<p>Since 2014, Spalding Drive has used our RFF for release days for professional development. Specifically, we have used these days to focus on Project Based Learning, STEAM initiatives, and the Woodruff Center for Arts. In addition, we have incorporated multiple breakout sessions regarding best practices including the use of instructional technology in the classroom. As a result of these professional development days we have seen a significant increase in both our progress points and our closing of the achievement gap. Specifically, we have increased the points earned in closing the achievement gap from 5.8 to 6.7, and we have increased our progress points from 35.3 to 38.3. Our overall level of proficiency in instructional practices as measured by TKES observation improved from 2.95 in 2014 -15 to 3.034 in 2015-16. Improved student progress along with improvement in best instructional practices indicate a positive impact on student achievement.</p>
Rationale for Continuing RFF	
<p>2) Describe the progress your school has made toward the project outcomes and goals 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>During the 2015-2016 school year we requested three full release days, aligned with our feeder schools, to use for professional development directly related to our Strategic Plan. These three full release days have made a significant impact on our student achievement. This year we saw an increase in math achievement from the prior year by 11 percentage points. Currently our strategic plan in written to address reading and social studies as these areas showed a need for improvement. The only change we would make to</p>

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our RFF is the content of our professional development. For the 2017-2018 year, we will focus our PD on writing, reading best practices, and continue our work with Project Based Learning. Furthermore, parent survey data during our public comment period shows that 60% of our parents prefer that we keep the three days. Since the three full release days have worked well, and public comment shows that parents are in favor of this, we are asking to continue with this plan for the 2017-2018 school year.

Principal Signature: *Sydney Johnson*

Council Chair Signature: *Pattie*