



ANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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EXHIBIT 5: Description of Charter System:

The vision of the Fannin County School System is to be “*recognized as a world class school system that holds a vision of excellence for all students with successful progression at each level and a 100% graduation rate.*” This vision will be attained through increasing the rigor of student learning, increasing educational opportunities for all students, and integrating community and post-secondary partnerships. This continued focus will strengthen the district’s mission, “*Developing Young Futures...Learning for Tomorrow, Today*” by providing flexible student-focused instructional opportunities. A comprehensive approach to serving the diversified needs of the students will begin in kindergarten and extend through twelfth grade. Three innovations will serve as the focus for our charter system implementation. The innovations that will be implemented include:

1. **Flexible Service Models** - Fannin County School System will implement Flexible Service Models to serve students based on their individual needs rather than their state-identified label. While students will be identified for services, their status of EIP or EL will only be used for state funding purposes and not for prescribed instructional services. Services for students will be integrated to best serve the needs of all students. Other potential program areas that will utilize Flexible Service Models include remedial education and gifted education. The implementation of Flexible Service Models will greatly impact the efficiency and effectiveness of personnel and fiscal management.
2. **STEAM Methodology** - The Fannin County School System will offer a unique approach to increase student exploration, application and evaluation through the development and utilization of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) methodology. While the STEM concept was originally the direction that Fannin County Schools wished to pursue, further discussion noted

that there was also a need to include the arts. By integrating the arts in instruction we will be able to meet the needs of all learners no matter what learning style works best for them and offer additional creative hands-on outlets for students.

The implementation of STEAM instructional strategies will be a gradual process that is customized for each participating school. This phase-in approach will be utilized beginning at the elementary level and continue into the middle school level. Elementary school students will explore curriculum concepts using inquiry-based instructional strategies and related hands-on activities. Middle school students will apply these instructional strategies to specific grade-level math, science, and arts curriculum. Instructors will require groups of students to apply research through data collection and analysis relative to student interest and alignment with standards. Students will have the opportunity to earn various high school credits while in middle school not only in the college track but also in the area of CTAE. This will allow students with varied interests to complete additional pathways at the high school level through the proposed College and Career Academy.

The purpose of using STEAM methodology in instruction is to provide a foundation for elementary school students to learn through exploration and to provide learning opportunities for middle school students to apply prior knowledge and problem solving skills. Immersion in STEAM principles at these levels should enable students entering high school to use evaluation skills at a much higher level than our students currently possess. The integration of science, technology, art, and mathematics throughout the curriculum will help to ensure mastery of standards and an increase in student achievement. The integration of STEAM concepts and instructional strategies that will be possible in multiple settings (including STEAM laboratories, indoor classrooms, outdoor venues, field trips, guest speakers, etc.) will afford students hands-on experiences and the tools required for skill attainment. The abundance of local natural resources will provide numerous varied opportunities to extend the learning beyond the traditional classroom. This will result in increased interest in learning for students as well as provide a connection to the real world that will make these educational experiences meaningful.

3. College and Career Academy - The Fannin County School System will expand postsecondary options and partnerships to include both academic and CTAE opportunities for all students based on the needs of the student population and the regional economic community. Partnerships with area postsecondary schools are not currently being fully utilized. North Georgia Technical College, Appalachian Technical College, Young Harris College, and the Ellijay Campus of Dalton State College are within easy driving distance from Fannin County High School. Additionally, a satellite campus of University of North Georgia is currently in the planning and development stages to be located in Blue Ridge, Georgia. With increased partnerships with these institutions, more students will receive postsecondary credits through dual enrollment. Accelerated courses such as ACCEL, Advanced Placement offerings, and/or Move on When Ready will also provide students with another avenue to earn additional postsecondary credits while fulfilling high school graduation requirements.

Students will also be able to earn high school/graduation credits for internships completed with local businesses through the College and Career Academy. One of the goals of the College and Career Academy will be to continually monitor the needs of the school system and local economy to ensure that students are mastering the skills necessary to be successful in the workforce. Providing postsecondary opportunities to students while enrolled in high school will bridge the gap between K-12 education and the real world experiences that our students will encounter.

Continuous study of the economic work force will drive the course offerings and opportunities for students. As a result of these additional course offerings, Fannin County High School graduates will be better prepared to fill local jobs deemed to be critical for the regional work force and economy.