

THE CASE - "Fannin County School System"

#	Question	Challenge #1	Challenge #2	Challenge #3	Challenge #4	Challenge #5
1	What challenges is your school district facing?	Economy -The economy of Fannin County is driven greatly by tourism. The building industry played a huge economic role in the county and has suffered throughout the economic decline of the past several years. The building industry is just now beginning to pick up. The tax base (digest) is based on a huge retirement population.	Early Learning (Elementary) - Some students at the elementary levels often struggle to meet accountability measures. 64.11% of students are free/reduced which indicates that the majority of our school population comes from economically disadvantaged households.	Mathematics - Students at all levels (elementary, middle, and high school) struggle to meet expectations in mathematics. The number of students "Exceeding" has plateaued over the last few years.	Science - Students at the middle and high school levels have typically underperformed in the area of science. Historically, the elementary schools have focused on ELA and Reading.	Postsecondary/Workforce Readiness - The number of students graduating from Fannin County High School utilizing various postsecondary options has been minimal compared to the student population. Additionally, CTAE programs of study and workforce readiness will continue to be aligned with the economic needs of the community.
2	What is the rank order priority of these challenges (from most to least important)?	3	1	1	1	2
3	Which of these challenges will your school district be able to address by becoming a charter system?	As the school system graduates students who are more prepared with the academic knowledge and workforce readiness skills needed, the local economy will be positively affected so the impact of this challenge will be felt later than that of the other challenges.	YES	YES	YES	YES
4	What specific actions will your district take to address each of these challenges (listed in #3 above) during its five-year charter term?	We will improve teaching strategies to effectively teach the academic knowledge and workforce readiness skills needed by all students to become productive citizens that affect the economic development of our community.	Using the broad flexibility granted as a charter system, the Fannin County School System will utilize Flexible Service Models to individualize instruction for students as needed. Some programs areas that will be affected include EIP, gifted, remedial, and ESOL. All students will receive individualized instruction based on data that will determine how to best serve the student.	Using the broad flexibility granted as a charter system, the Fannin County School System will utilize Flexible Service Models in the areas of mathematics and science in addition to ELA/reading. This will allow needs based instruction to take place in all subject areas and provide students with the direct skills they need to achieve success and to meet performance expectations. STEAM instructional strategies will be utilized to emphasize Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics using a gradual phase in approach at the elementary and middle school levels. STEAM methodology will provide guidance to teachers as they teach the standards. Again, based on available data, Flexible Service Models may be utilized in conjunction with STEAM strategies to accelerate or remediate students as needed.	The benefits of providing a <i>College and Career Academy</i> for students in Fannin County are tremendous. A College and Career Academy will provide opportunities for students to earn high school and/or college credits simultaneously through work/field experiences or participation in dual enrollment. This initiative will promote increased school system/business partnerships that will benefit the local economy while providing students with the necessary skills needed to become productive citizens.	
5	Provide a clear explanation of how each of these specific actions (listed in #4 above) will lead to the specific challenge being addressed.	N/A				
6	Although you will be granted a broad flexibility waiver if you are granted a charter, please list the specific Georgia law or State Board rule that must be waived to allow your district to implement each specific action (listed in #4 above).	N/A	O.C.G.A § 20-2-153. Early intervention program for students at risk of not reaching or maintaining academic grade level. O.C.G.A § 20-2-156. Program for limited-English-proficient students. O.C.G.A § 20-2-154. Remedial education program. O.C.G.A § 20-2-152; O.C.G.A § 20-2-161. Gifted Program.	O.C.G.A § 20-2-152; O.C.G.A § 20-2-161. Gifted Program. O.C.G.A § 20-2-159.4. Policies and guidelines for awarding units of high school credit based on demonstrated proficiency. O.C.G.A § 20-2-159.5. Dual credit courses; requirements. O.C.G.A § 20-2-200. Regulation of certificated professional personnel by Professional Standards Commission; rules and regulations; fees. O.C.G.A § 20-2-215. "In loco parentis" status of aides and paraprofessionals.	O.C.G.A § 20-2-159.4. Policies and guidelines for awarding units of high school credit based on demonstrated proficiency. O.C.G.A § 20-2-159.5. Dual credit courses; requirements. O.C.G.A § 20-2-154. Remedial education program. O.C.G.A § 20-2-200. Regulation of certificated professional personnel by Professional Standards Commission; rules and regulations; fees.	
7	Indicate the timeline for implementation of each specific action (listed in #4 above).	Ongoing	Flexible Service Models will be implemented beginning August 2015 and continue as long as this model proves effective.	Flexible Service Models for all curriculum areas will be implemented beginning August 2015. Components of our STEAM initiative will be implemented beginning August 2015 and will be phased-in through gradual, yearly progression at the elementary and middle school levels.	FCSS will begin the organization and grant application process for the College and Career Academy during year 1 of charter system status. Yearly progress will be made towards meeting College and Career Academy goals.	
8	Indicate which of these specific actions (listed in #4 above) represents an innovation for your school district.	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓