



2016 - 2017

Local School Plan for Improvement

Discovery High School

Howard E Taylor, *Principal*

Debbie Dees, *Executive Director*

Accountability and flexibility are hallmarks of Gwinnett County Public Schools' success. Key to that success is ensuring that each school community understands the progress being made by its schools, as well as what plans will drive improvement. Each school creates a collaborative Local School Plan for Improvement (LSPI), with targeted goals based on student achievement results. These goals are dynamic, like our schools, and are updated to reflect changes that occur in schools. Data is used to determine areas needing improvement and to identify specific, measurable, annual objectives. Schools then determine how to use research-based strategies to achieve these goals, using flexibility as needed. The LSPI development process involves teachers, parents, and community members, so the entire school community has the opportunity to be involved in conversations about school improvement. Please contact the local school principal for more information about the school's plan and progress.

• Long Term Goal

Discovery High School will increase its four year cohort graduation rate to 85% by 2019-2020.

o Annual Goal

With annual increases of at least 5% for students in all subgroups, Discovery High School will pursue 100% CCRPI Content Mastery with students in all subgroups scoring at the Proficient or Exemplary levels on the Georgia Milestones EOC assessments, including 9th Grade Literature, American Literature, Algebra I, Analytical Geometry, Biology, US History, and Economics End of Course tests.

Implementation Design

• Building Parent Capacity-Parent Night Informational Meetings/Activities

Through the school-year, informational meetings / activities will be held for parents to inform them about and involve them in their children's education and post-secondary opportunities. Topics addressed during these meetings / activities include graduation requirements, Gateway assessment requirements and make-ups, college admissions, financial aid, FAFSA, the HOPE Scholarship, and the "first year at college."

• Common Assessments

After teaching the AKS while emphasizing key content and skills, teachers teaching the same content at the same level will administer a Common Assessment by content area (e.g., Algebra I, Chemistry, Honors US History, AP Literature) to monitor, measure, and respond to student learning. At least one Common Assessment will be given each month by all teachers teaching the same content at the same level. Teachers will participate in professional learning with administrators to develop teacher's ability to analyze student data and develop reteaching and retesting opportunities to improve and re-enforce student learning.

• Common Planning

A master schedule has been created that enables teachers (including Special Education and ESOL teachers) to meet once each week to support each other to: 1) analyze the content knowledge and skills and thinking skills to be taught; 2) examine and discuss the variety of research-based instructional strategies to teach the content and skills; 3) identify and develop the best methods of assessing student learning; and 4) determine best approaches for reteaching, extending and reassessing student learning. Through collaboration, beginning teachers will be supported, even inducted into the profession, so all students benefit from the experience, knowledge and skills of seasoned teachers.

• Titan Kid Talks

A master schedule has been created that enables 9th and 10th grade teachers (including Special Education and ESOL teachers) to meet together with the administration and a counselor once every other week to support each other to discuss academic, behavioral, and social needs of the students whom they share. This collaboration supports teachers, counselors and administrators in identifying and meeting the complex needs of students.



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- **Titan Time Reteaching and Reassessing**

Teachers will use the results from Common Assessments to develop Titan Time Warm-ups that will be used during the first 15 minutes of class to reteach key curriculum for addressing weaknesses and re-enforcing understanding.

- **Transformation Teaching and Learning eCLASS Professional Learning**

At least once a month, teachers will receive training on how to use the components of eCLASS (e.g., course pages, course calendars, SchoolNet assessment, Safari Montage, etc.,) to engage students in active learning of their courses.

- o **Annual Goal**

Discovery High School will provide a positive learning environment for all students to achieve their learning potential which will be evident through at least a 5% decrease in the average number of office referrals per teacher as compared to that of the 2015-2016 school year.

Implementation Design

- **Building Parent Capacity-9th / 10th Grade Parent Meetings**

9th Grade Academy and 10th Grade teachers, administrators and counselors will meet at least once per semester to provide information about discipline, academics, attendance, activities, resources and supports specific to grade levels. Topics will include making the transition to high school, choosing career pathways / academies, and the PSAT for 9th grade parents and driving safety, now that I have chosen a career pathway / academy, and the Gateway Assessment for 10th grade students.

- **9th and 10th Grade Academic Teams**

9th and 10 grade students have been placed on academic teams of four teachers (ELA, MA, SCI, SS) who share the same students as much as possible. This arrangement fosters a sense of community among students and supports teachers, counselors, and administrators in working together to build healthy and supportive relationships with students which will result in more listening and problem-solving and fewer office referrals.

- **Titan Kid Talks**

A master schedule has been created that enables 9th and 10th grade teachers (including Special Education and ESOL teachers) to meet together with the administrative team and a counselor once every other week to discuss academic, behavioral, and social needs of the students whom they share. This collaboration supports teachers, counselors and administrators toward identifying and meeting the complex needs of students which will result in more listening and problem-solving and fewer referrals.

- **Long Term Goal**

While working toward 100% student proficiency, the percentage of Discovery High School first time test takers on the Gateway Social Studies and Science assessments will increase at least 5% each year over the 2015-2016 scores so that by 2019-2020 at least 87% of all first time test takers will receive a score of "Meet" or "Exceed" in Science and at least 95% in Social Studies.

- o **Annual Goal**

While working toward 100% student proficiency, the percentage of Discovery High School first time test takers on the 2016-2017 Gateway Social Studies and Science assessments will increase at least 5% over the 2015-2016 scores so that at least 72% of all 2016-2017 first time test takers will receive a score of Meet or Exceed in Science and at least 80% in Social Studies.

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- **Building Parent Capacity-Parent Gateway Informational Meetings/Activities**

Parent information meetings will be provided (Fall and Spring) to all parents, with a focus on the parents of 9th and 10th grade students and students who have previously failed either of the assessments, to inform them about the nature of the Science and Social Studies writing assessments that is required for graduation, as well as to provide them with information about the re-teaching and make-up testing opportunities available. Parents will also be trained in how to help students organize their thinking and arguments via visual organizers.

- **Document Based Writing Professional Learning**

9th and 10th grade Science, Social Studies, Language Arts teachers, Special Education and ESOL teachers will receive embedded professional learning each month on how to teach students to interpret documents (charts, graphs, political cartoons, photographs, pictures, written excerpts, etc.) and use prior learning and information included in documents to explain a situation or process and support an argument.

- **Gateway Bootcamp**

Science, Social Studies and Language Arts teachers will work with members of the Administrative Team to provide "training camps" after hours for students to prepare for taking and / or retaking the Gateway assessment in Science and/or Social Studies.

- **Transformation Teaching and Learning eCLASS Professional Learning**

At least once a month, teachers will receive training on how to use the components of eCLASS (e.g., course pages, course calendars, SchoolNet assessment, Safari Montage, etc.) to engage students in active learning of their courses.

- **Long Term Goal**

Discovery High School will build parent capacity to support student achievement by implementing the activities outlined in the Parent Involvement Policy and School/Parent Compact.