



# 2011 - 2012 Local School Plan For Improvement

## LSPI Objectives

### DACULA HIGH

Donnie W Nutt, *Principal*

Dr. Steven W Flynt, *Area Superintendent*

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.

#### 2011-2012 Long Term Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** Academic performance for all students in all subgroups will increase in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

**Objective:** Dacula High School will increase academic performance for all student subgroups.

**Objective:** Dacula High School will increase academic performance and participation in all Advanced Placement courses offered at DHS to meet and exceed annual targets.

**Goal:** The goal in the Dacula Cluster is to develop within students a deep conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts and applications resulting in an increase in the percentage of students scoring in the "exceeds" level as measured by local and state assessments.

**Objective:** Dacula High School will increase academic performance for all students in math to the "exceed " annual targets.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

Donnie W Nutt, *Principal*

Dr. Steven W Flynt, *Area Superintendent*

### 2011-2012 Long Term Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** Working together as a cluster, the goal is for every student (K-12) to improve writing skills and achievement. The percentage of students scoring in the exceeds level will increase as measured by local and state assessments.

**Objective:** Dacula High School will increase academic performance for all students in writing to the "exceed " annual targets.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### Schools Goals - DACULA HIGH

Goal Title	Goal	Start School Year	End School Year
Mathematics to Exceed Level	The goal in the Dacula Cluster is to develop within students a deep conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts and applications resulting in an increase in the percentage of students scoring in the “exceeds” level as measured by local and state assessments.	2011-12	2013-14
Student Achievement	Academic performance for all students in all subgroups will increase in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.	2010-11	2013-14
Writing to Exceed	Working together as a cluster, the goal is for every student (K-12) to improve writing skills and achievement. The percentage of students scoring in the exceeds level will increase as measured by local and state assessments.	2010-11	2013-14

### Annual Objective

Dacula High School will increase academic performance for all student subgroups.

### Associated Goals

**Goal:** Student Achievement

### Implementation Design

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### **Falcon Success Program for Student Support**

DHS will continue to use a bell schedule that maximizes time for remediation and intervention during the school day in all academic areas. Mandatory tutoring will be provided for students failing multiple core courses. An extensive freshman orientation program will be required for all ninth graders to support them in the transition to high school. The freshman orientation program will align with advisement for continued support throughout the year. A peer mentoring program will be developed to support struggling students and increase student leadership. A privilege based system linked to both discipline and grades will be used to encourage students to focus their efforts in a positive direction. The bell schedule will allow for increased student access to the media center, computer lab, and voluntary tutoring rooms during the school day. All RTI intervention programs will also be offered during the extended tutoring time. All certified staff members (with the exception of self-contained special education) are responsible for the implementation of this plan, as they have tutoring duties, supervision duties, or duties working with intervention programs.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPi Continued

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### **Focus on Teacher Collaboration and Team Building**

Required course team collaboration at least once a week for all teams. Activities during Planning Period Learning Sessions (PPL) focusing on collaboration and team building; common formative assessments; and ways for teams to collaboratively look at student data and develop a response to student performance. Collaboration required between regular and special education teachers.

#### **SD: Course Team Collaboration**

Course teams are expected to collaborate at least once a week to discuss curriculum issues, instruction, and common assessment data.

#### **SD: Dacula Cluster Vertical Team**

A select group of teachers that represent the school grade levels will participate in a vertical team to discuss writing and math to increase the academic performance across the schools. Teachers will participate in writing workshops designed to help students write on the "exceeds" level. Teachers will also develop lessons that incorporate AP questions at all levels through problem solving and critical thinking.

#### **SD: MATH STAFF DEVELOPMENT - HIGH SCHOOL**

This course is designed to provide staff development sessions 5 times throughout the year. The sessions are imbedded with the Quality-Plus teaching strategies and aligned with the mathematics instructional calendars. The courses available are: • Integrated Algebra I and Integrated Algebra I Strategies • Accelerated Integrated Algebra I • Integrated Geometry and Integrated Geometry Strategies • Accelerated Integrated Geometry • Integrated Algebra 2 and Integrated Algebra 2 Strategies All teachers are encouraged to attend. This includes, veteran, new, ELL, special education, and gifted. A follow-up session will be provided through Elluminate. Additional follow-up after each session should be provided at the local school.

#### **SD: PPL for Increased Course Team Performance**

The Planning Period Learning Series for the entire year will focus on improving the work of our course teams. Topics will include issues such as examining student work and data with the course team, as well as designing a team intervention response for students who are struggling.

### **Lunchtime Tutoring Programs**

As part of the Falcon Success Program, students can take advantage of lunchtime tutoring programs. Students can take responsibility to attend tutoring during the lunch periods in order to maintain or improve their academic progress.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### Special Education Teacher Preparedness

Recruit and employ HiQ Special Ed Teachers in Math, Science, LA. Collaboration of Special Ed Teachers with Regular Education Teams.

#### SD: Course Team Collaboration

Special Education teachers are expected to collaborate at least once per week with the regular education team in their subject area on curriculum issues, instruction, and common assessments.

#### SD: New Special Education Teacher Training

This is a district training offered to new Special Education teachers to discuss instruction as well as Special Education caseloads and paperwork.

#### SD: Student Achievement Through Quality IEPs

PLU course for Special Education teachers focused on the components of the IEP--student's strengths/weaknesses/needs, goals/objectives, etc.--and how these things should work as a cohesive whole in order to increase achievement for the student.

### Annual Objective

Dacula High School will increase academic performance for all students in writing to the "exceed " annual targets.

### Associated Goals

**Goal:** Writing to Exceed

### Implementation Design

#### Persuasive Writing Across the Curriculum

All teachers in all subject areas must include persuasive writing activities to prepare students for the GHSWT.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### **SD: Writing to Exceed Dacula Cluster Vertical Teaming**

A select group of elementary, middle and high school teachers will attend workshops to help students write at an "exceed" level. Select language arts teachers will be given release time to participate in training. The training will focus on assessing student writing and instructional strategies to enable students to develop ideas and style in their writing.

### **Vertical Writing Initiative**

The language arts department collaboration groups continue to work vertically to identify key elements of the writing process and key components of the essay to target with each grade level. They have also worked to "exceed" with the honors/gifted students by identifying separate standards for those students that have increased rigor.

### **SD: Language Arts Course Team Collaboration**

The Language Arts teachers are required to collaborate once per week to discuss curriculum issues, instruction, and common assessments.

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

All students will write in all classes on various topics with given parameters and rubrics. Course teams will discuss the various purposes for writing and will use student writing for learning as well as for evaluation. Feedback will be given on all writing assignments for which the purpose is to evaluate student learning.

### **SD: Planning Period Learning Series**

Planning Period Learning Series will focus on building teachers' capacity to collaborate, and one of the areas we will discuss is collaboration for success on written assignments across subject areas.

### **Writing Folders**

The language arts department will use student writing folders to build skills, correct common errors in writing, and increase overall quality of writing.

### **SD: Language Arts Course Team Collaboration**

The language arts teachers are required to collaborate once per week to discuss curriculum issues, instruction, and common assessments.

## **Annual Objective**

Dacula High School will increase academic performance for all students in math to the "exceed " annual targets.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### Associated Goals

Goal: Mathematics to Exceed Level

### Implementation Design

#### Classroom-Based "Exceeds" Initiatives

The math department has implemented several initiatives to push students to the "exceeds" level. First, the department is working to make sure common assessments and instructional materials include questions and examples that show Depth of Knowledge, as measured by the state's DOK levels. Further, the department is working to make sure common assessments include a continuous review of material that has been covered in previous semesters or courses. Math teachers are also incorporating Adapted/Pre-AP questions that have been provided by the Dacula Vertical Team.

#### SD: Math Teacher Course Team Collaboration

Math teachers are expected to collaborate at least once a week on curriculum issues, instruction, and common assessments.

#### Dacula Cluster Vertical Team

Vertical Team efforts with the cluster middle and elementary schools to prepare students for the AP track in high school.

#### SD: Dacula Cluster Vertical Teaming

A select group of teachers who represent the school grade levels will participate in vertical teaming meetings to discuss writing and math to increase the academic performance across the schools. Teachers will participate in writing workshops designed to help students write on the "exceeds" level. Teachers will also develop lessons that incorporate AP questions at all levels through problem solving and critical thinking.

#### Math Vertical Initiatives

The high school has created a vertical partnership with 8th grade teachers at Dacula Middle School, especially those who are teaching accelerated content.

#### SD: Dacula Cluster Math Collaboration

Integrated Algebra and Accelerated Integrated Algebra teachers from 8th and 9th grade worked together during the summer of 2011 to create activities and common assessments. Also, they learned about Depth of Knowledge (DOK) levels and how using DOK levels to create quality assessments.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### Special Education Math Teacher Preparedness

Recruit and retain teachers who are highly qualified in high school level mathematics for collaborative and resource settings.

#### SD: Math Teacher Course Team Collaboration

Special Education teachers who work in math are required to collaborate with the math department course teams to discuss curriculum issues, instruction, and common assessments.

### Annual Objective

Dacula High School will increase academic performance and participation in all Advanced Placement courses offered at DHS to meet and exceed annual targets.

### Associated Goals

**Goal:** Student Achievement

### Implementation Design

#### Advanced Placement Study Groups for Students

As part of the Falcon Success Program, Advanced Placement students are encouraged to create "study groups" with the students who have the same lunch period. Students are given designated space in the school to hold their study groups. These are student-created, student-run study groups for the purposes of encouraging collaborative learning as well as encouraging students to demonstrate the study skills necessary to function in a similar environment at the college level.

# DACULA HIGH

## LSPI Continued

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### **AP Teacher Staff Development**

Provide opportunity for all teachers to attend AP workshops. AP teachers will use instructional data specific to each AP courses to improve delivery methods and/or instructional strategies.

#### **SD: AP SCIENCE TEACHERS COHORT**

After-school sessions have the primary goal of increasing student performance in AP science courses as the participation continues to increase. The AP sessions are offered by course and reflect the expectations outlined by the College Board Curriculum.

#### **SD: AP Workshops and Collaboration**

AP teachers are encouraged to attend workshops offered by the College Board to discuss effective teaching strategies. Teachers are also given released AP exams with a rubric for scoring to use in the classroom.

### **Cluster Vertical Team**

Vertical Team efforts with the cluster middle and elementary schools to prepare students for the AP track in high school.

#### **SD: Dacula Cluster Vertical Team**

The Dacula cluster is looking to enhance the ability of math teachers throughout the cluster to effectively teach problem-solving methods and mathematical communication and to provide opportunities for math teachers to see and further develop fluid connections between the various levels of mathematical understanding up to and including the AP level. It is also designed to facilitate the sharing of methods and materials among math teachers throughout the cluster.

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## LSPI Continued

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### Identifying and Recruiting Students

Teachers will actively recruit students for AP courses from all subgroups as identified by the Georgia AYP report. All departments with AP courses will update and distribute recruitment brochures. AP teachers will use all available data to determine which students to actively recruit for AP classes. Administration, AP teachers, and counselors will meet with identified potential AP students to discuss the benefits of the AP courses.

#### SD: AP Recruitment Collaboration

AP teachers will collaborate with teachers of courses that articulate to AP in order to better prepare students to participate in Advanced Placement and to coordinate the registration process. The Collaboration will include middle school teachers as well.

#### SD: APIP Fall Forum--ISC

Several staff members from Dacula High School will attend the Advanced Placement Incentive Program Fall Forum held at the ISC on November 11th. This forum specifically targets the recruitment of students for AP courses, especially the non-traditional AP student.

### Inclusive AP Program

All AP courses are inclusive. Any student willing to take an AP course will be allowed to do so.

#### SD: AP Recruitment Collaboration

As part of their collaboration, AP teachers will meet to analyze data from PSAT, examine performance in non-AP courses, and discuss actions to address findings in order to increase the number of students exposed to AP courses.

#### SD: APIP Fall Forum--ISC

Several staff members from Dacula High School will attend the Advanced Placement Incentive Program Fall Forum at the ISC on November 11th. This forum specifically targets recruiting students for AP classes, specifically the non-traditional AP student.