



Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) System Application

DISTRICT NAME

The Forsyth County School System

DISTRICT ADDRESS

1120 Dahlonega Highway
Cumming, GA 30040

Richard Woods
State School Superintendent



IE² SYSTEM APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Please enter the requested information in the gray boxes following each question. Thank you!

Proposed IE ² System Information			
1. Full Name of Proposed IE ² System The Forsyth County School System			
2. Please indicate whether this is a: New Petition or a Renewal Petition x	3. How many schools in total are you proposing to include in your IE ² system? 34		
4. How many of each of the following schools are you proposing to include in your IE ² system? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-left: 40px;"> Primary School(s) Middle School(s) 9 </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-left: 40px;"> Elementary School(s) 20 High school(s) 5 </div>			
5. On July 1 of what year do you want your IE ² contract to be effective? 2015			
6. IE ² System Street Address 1120 Dahlonega Highway	7. City Cumming	8. State GA	9. Zip 30040
10. Contact Person Karl Mercer		11. Title Director of Accountability	
12. Contact Street Address 1120 Dahlonega Highway	13. City Cumming	14. State GA	15. Zip 30040
16. Contact's telephone number 770-887-2461 ext. 202240	17. Contact's fax number 770-888-1158	18. Contact's E-mail Address kmercerc@forsyth.k12.ga.us	



THE FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM IE² PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION

In accordance with the State of Georgia in Article 4, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-84, the Forsyth County School System intends to operate as an IE² school system through the development of the IE² partnership between our school district and the State Board of Education. The following components consist of the current planning for completing the application and developing the contract necessary to take effect on July 1, 2015.

Forsyth County School System Overview

Driven by strong beliefs, the Forsyth County School System is a dynamic learning organization with a clear vision for the future of education. As the seventh largest school district in Georgia and one of the first IE² Systems in the state, the Forsyth County School System works hard to maintain a small-town feel where students, staff, parents, and community members are treated as family. This is achieved by believing:

- **T**rust among all stakeholders is vital.

The Forsyth County School System takes the community's trust seriously. The district works hard every day to operate at a high level of fiscal efficiency that delivers strong achievement results. The Forsyth County School System has one of the lowest per pupil expenditures in Georgia, and also the lowest millage rate and lowest student-to-administrator ratio in metro-Atlanta. For the past two years, the district has earned the highest graduation rate and the highest SAT scores among Georgia's 15 largest school districts. Additionally, the Forsyth County School System consistently leads the state with the highest CRCT results and has some of the highest College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores in Georgia.

- **E**xpectations influence accomplishments because everyone has the capacity to learn.

The Forsyth County School System is home to 42,466 students and 4,300 full-time employees in 35 schools (twenty elementary, nine middle, and six high schools which includes iAchieve Virtual Academy, FCS' 6-12 online school) while operating under a \$309 million general fund budget. The district doubled the number of new students over the past decade and is the third fastest growing school district in the United States. The Forsyth County School System recently completed a five-year Facilities Plan and voters approved a \$195 million bond referendum. This local funding is projected to address capital improvement needs for the next four years.

- **A** school-community partnership is essential.

Forsyth County School System students bring with them support from home and an excitement that keeps teaching fresh and new. This, along with focused staff members, has fueled the district to



become one of the top districts in Georgia and the United States. This success has been accomplished through the staff's dedication to the district's mission to prepare and inspire all students to contribute and excel, and a commitment to continuous improvement through the cooperative efforts of all stakeholders. The Forsyth County School System's 2013-2016 Strategic Plan supports achieving the vision of "Quality learning and superior performance for all". With clear goals and outcomes, the plan describes the district's priorities and provides a strong *path to greatness*. During the Strategic Planning process, the district evolved the Forsyth County School System's Graduate Profile to a new Learner Profile. This advanced profile is considered our strategic compass, and describes the attributes of students attending and graduating from a Forsyth County school. With these academic skills and personal characteristics, the Forsyth County School System's students are college and career ready.

- **C**hange creates opportunities.

As one of the nation's top 10 fastest growing communities and a two-time national recipient of the 100 Best Communities for Young People Award, Forsyth County's growth and increasing cultural diversity have had a positive impact on the Forsyth County School System. Located 30 miles north of Atlanta and minutes from the Blue Ridge Mountains, Forsyth County is at the heart of Georgia's "Technology Corridor". Nestled alongside Lake Lanier and throughout the county are numerous world-class parks with well-designed green spaces, recreational and cultural activities, and first class health care services which appeals to all ages. Forsyth County welcomes residents of all faiths and beliefs, and provides numerous service organizations and ample opportunities for community involvement.

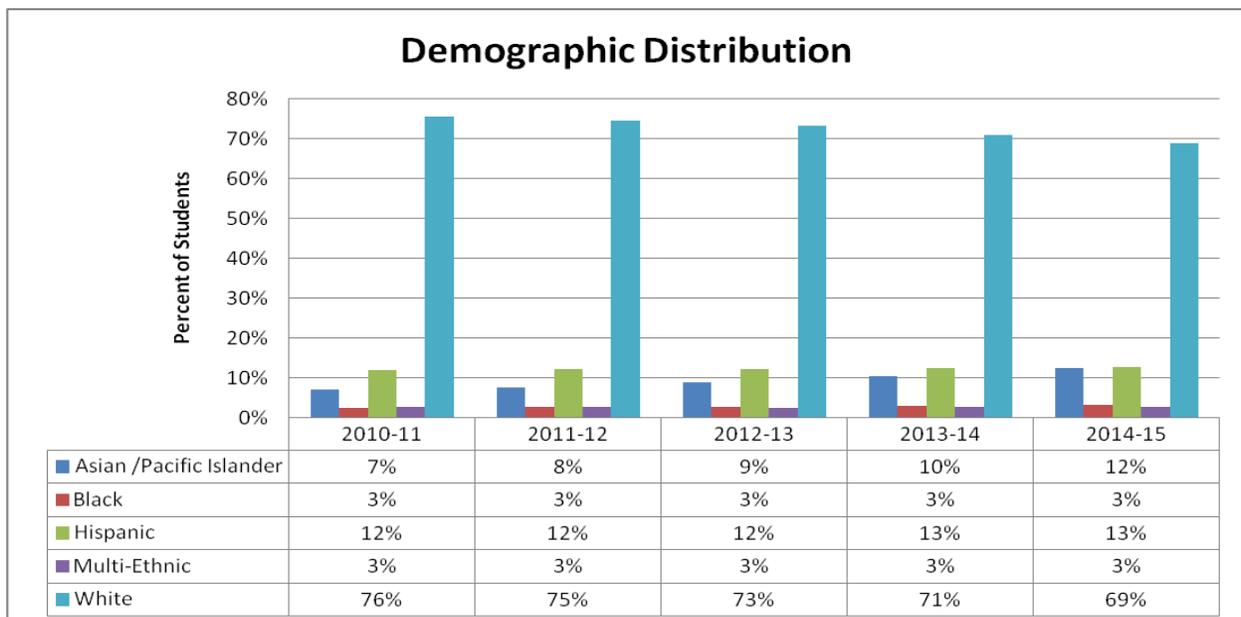
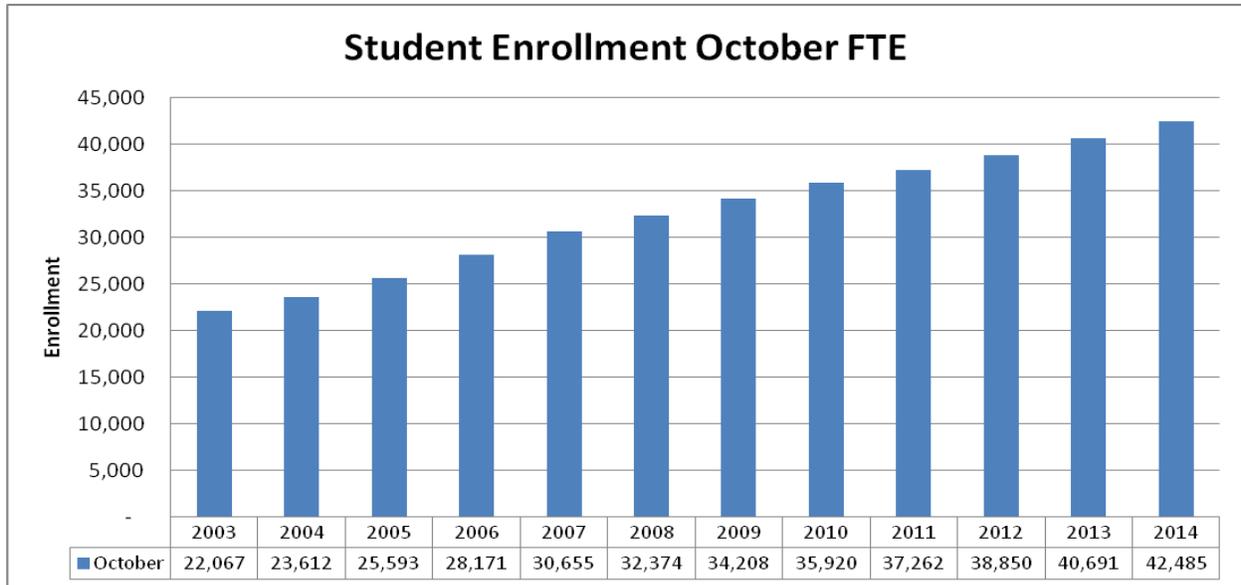
- **H**igh-performing leadership makes visions reality.

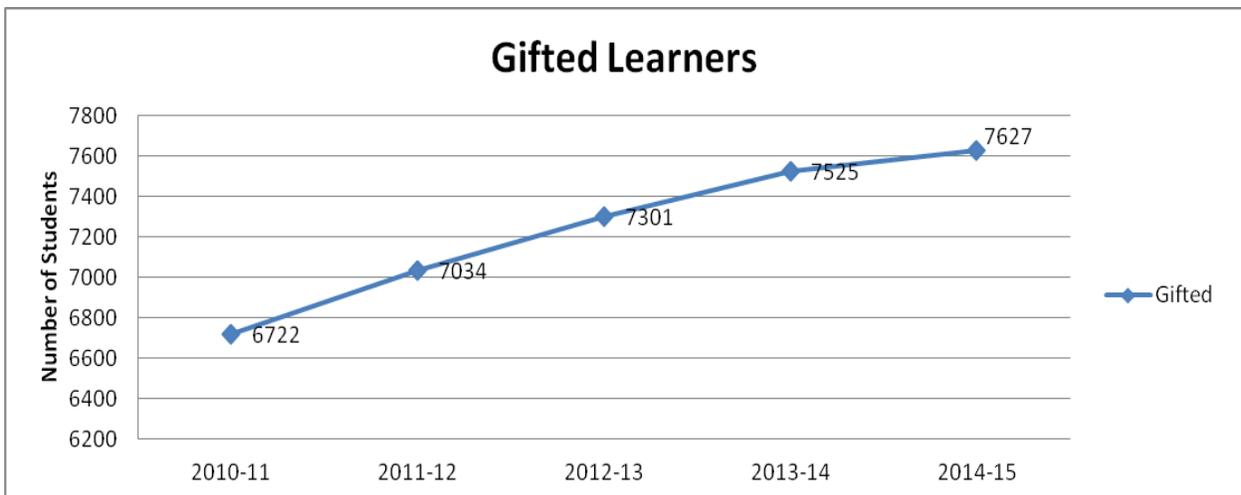
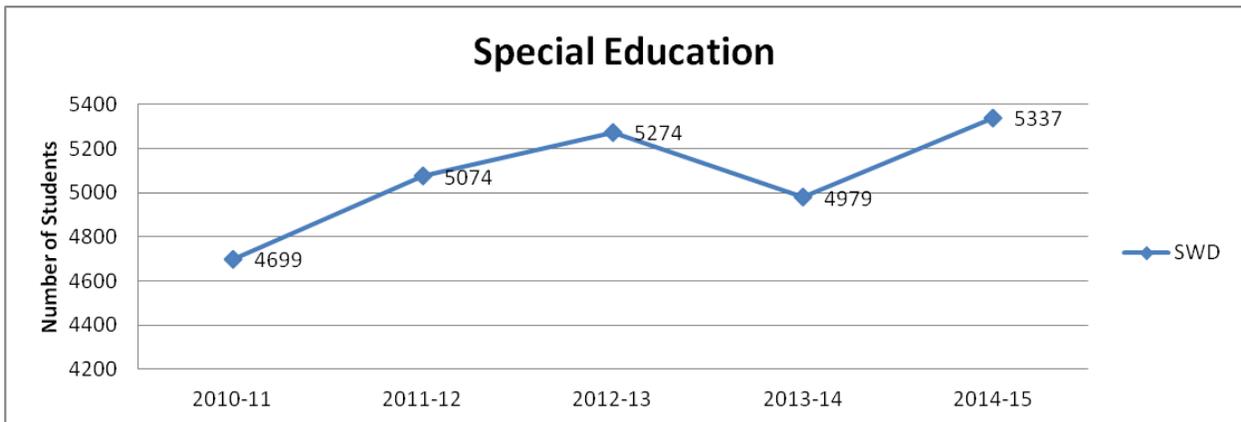
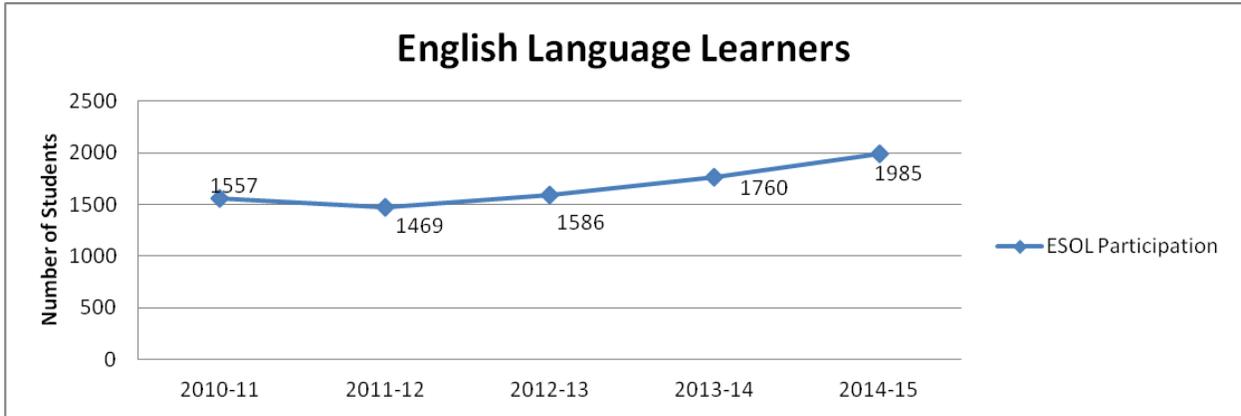
The Forsyth County School System is fortunate to have a community that supports numerous locally funded programs, such as additional nurses, art, music and P.E. teachers, 6-12 foreign language, additional counselors and assistant principals, safety equipment, enhanced student transportation, an international transition center, and nationally recognized instructional technology, including the pioneering of BYOT and personalized learning. The district provides a variety of unique learning opportunities for students, including the opportunity to earn high school credit in middle school, numerous Career Pathways such as the STEM Academy, an International Baccalaureate (IB) program, online learning at all high schools, and non-traditional day and evening programs for high school students.

The Forsyth County School System has seen an ongoing upward trend in student enrollment over the past decade. Since 2003 the district's enrollment has almost doubled with 93% growth over the eleven year span. As the student count increased, the demographic distribution of student ethnicities remained consistent with the exception of one category. The Asian population has steadily increased over the past five years, moving from 7% in the 2010-11 year to a current population of 12%. The Hispanic population continues to be the highest demographic subgroup with 13%. As the economy continues to rebound, the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch is on the decline. Current numbers for free and reduced lunch sit at 7,393 students (17%), which is down from a high of



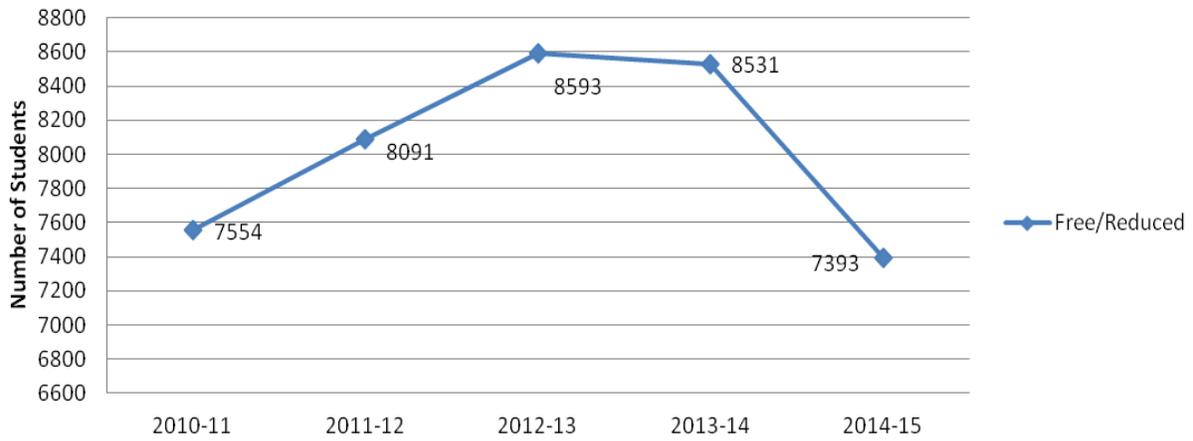
22% three years ago. Forsyth County currently has five school-wide Title 1 schools. Three of these schools have seen an increase in their free and reduced lunch student population. Other subcategories with specific program needs continue to see enrollment numbers steadily increase every year. These include 7,627 (18%) receiving gifted services, 1,985 (5%) English Language Learners, and 5,337 (13%) qualifying for special education. A strong facet of the district is a high average daily attendance rate hovering in the 96% range. Over the last five years the annual average daily attendance rate has only fluctuated approximately one half of a percent.



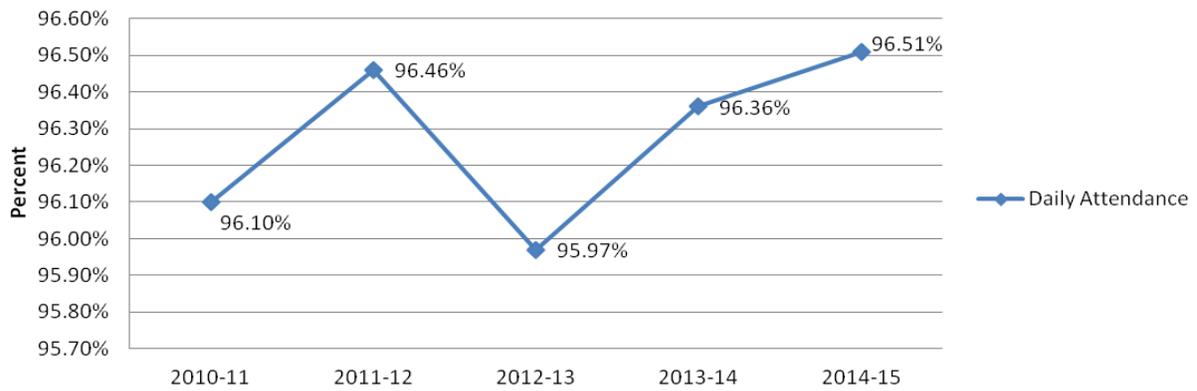




Students Receiving Free/Reduced Lunch



District Average Daily Attendance





THE CASE COMPONENT

The recession presented many challenges, especially to school districts. The Forsyth County School System was sensitive to the needs of its residents and was one of the few in metro-Atlanta to not raise taxes during this time period. Additionally, the district had the smallest number of furlough days in the state. However, record student enrollment growth still occurred in the district as well as a severe decrease in state and local funding, putting strains on the Forsyth County School System's budget and fund balance. Staff members were asked to do more with less, a challenge that they surpassed by raising the district's achievement to the highest in its history. Our staff continues to have more put upon them, such as new state testing requirements and evaluation mandates. A majority of Forsyth County's 35 schools, including all high schools, are over their building capacity, meaning more classes are occurring in portables. Finances for district operations and capital improvements are important for continuing safe learning environments and also to provide relief and appreciation for the district's dedicated staff. Flexibility has been important for the Forsyth County School System and will continue to be a priority as we strive to achieve the vision of "Quality learning and superior performance for all".

The Forsyth County School System experienced a tremendous growth in student achievement during our initial IE² partnership with the State Board of Education. It is our intent to continue to find ways to foster innovation and best practice as it relates to the educational program and organizational effectiveness. The chart below describes and prioritizes the challenges facing the Forsyth County School System. There are details regarding the specific actions the district will take to address each challenge along with a clear explanation of how each of the specific actions will lead to the specific challenge being addressed. Finally, the necessary waivers that are requested through the Forsyth County School System's IE² application will alleviate the constraints of state law and state board of education rules, allowing schools to meet the individual needs of their students and community.



Summary of Challenges Aligned with Necessary Waivers

Challenges Prioritized Order	Specific Action and Explanation	Waivers
<p>Personalize the learning environment and increase achievement for all students.</p>	<p>The Forsyth County School System will find new ways to foster innovation and best practice as they relate to the educational program and organizational effectiveness. Forsyth will leverage technology and resources to ensure the needs of the individual student are met. The Response to Intervention and Data Team processes will be utilized to make academic decisions based on the totality of information for each student. Scheduling for instruction will be based on the needs of the students and not inhibit students being able to move on when ready.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation Requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-131; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.47 and 160-4-2-.48) • Competencies and Core Curriculum, Online Learning (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-140.1, 20-2-142, and 20-2-777; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.12 and 160-4-2-.20) • Scheduling for Instruction (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161.1, 20-2-165, and 20-2-168; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.16, 160-5-1-.01, and 160-5-1-.02) • Promotion and Retention (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-283 and 20-2-284; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.11)
<p>Ensure funding sources are maximized for operations and capital improvements.</p>	<p>The Forsyth County School System will continue to utilize resources, both financial and human, to enhance our educational program. A system budget will be developed based on the system strategic plan and the needs of all students. Funds will be allocated to address academic needs in all content areas, remediation, and test administration. Forsyth will provide innovative services to students in order to maximize achievement and meet strategic plan goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QBE Financing (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161) • Expenditure Controls (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-171; SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.29) • Categorical Allotment requirements, Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 • Program Enrollment & Appropriation (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160) • Instructional Extension (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-184.1; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.14) • Class-size and Reporting requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167, 20-2-181, 20-2-182, 20-2-187, 20-2-695, and 20-2-696; SBOE Rule 160-4-7-.14, 160-5-1-.08, and 160-5-1-.22)
<p>Meet the specific academic, resource, and facility needs of all Forsyth County Schools.</p>	<p>The Forsyth County School System is focused on improving student achievement and ensuring all students are college and career ready. Each school will have autonomy to pursue one or more of the flexibility options to meet the needs of their students. Schools will use research, along with district guidelines, to determine how to implement flexibility as part of their school improvement plan. Professional development, training, and allocation of resources will be differentiated based on the needs of the schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of Schools; Middle School Programs; Schedule (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-290; SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.05) • Flexibility with regards to Public School Choice (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131) • Statewide Passing Score (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.13) • Certification requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200) • Educational Programs (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-151, 20-2-153, 20-2-154, 20-2-154.1, 20-2-155, and 20-2-156); SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.17, 160-4-2-.38, and 160-4-5-.02)



THE WAIVERS COMPONENT

Under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-80 and SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.33, the Forsyth County School System is seeking flexibility for all its schools from the following state statutes (Official Code of Georgia) and/or rules (State Board of Education Rule) in exchange for greater accountability (as outlined in the IE² Partnership Contract) over the life of a five-year contract which allows for seven years of flexibility between the Forsyth County Board of Education and the Georgia State Board of Education.

Official Code of Georgia

- Graduation Requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-131)
- Competencies and Core Curriculum, Online Learning (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-140.1, 20-2-142, and 20-2-777)
- Educational Programs (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-151, 20-2-153, 20-2-154, 20-2-154.1, 20-2-155, and 20-2-156)
- Program Enrollment & Appropriation (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160)
- QBE Financing (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161)
- Scheduling for Instruction (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161.1, 20-2-165, and 20-2-168)
- Expenditure Controls (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-171)
- Class-size and Reporting requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-167, 20-2-181, 20-2-182, 20-2-187, 20-2-695, and 20-2-696)
- Categorical Allotment requirements, Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20
- Instructional Extension (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-184.1)
- Certification requirements (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-200)
- Promotion and Retention (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-283 and 20-2-284)
- Organization of Schools; Middle School Programs; Schedule (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-290)
- Flexibility with regards to Public School Choice (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131)

State Board of Education Rules

- Graduation Requirements (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.47 and 160-4-2-.48)
- Competencies and Core Curriculum, Online Learning (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.12, and 160-4-2-.20)
- Educational Programs (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.17, 160-4-2-.38, and 160-4-5-.02)
- Scheduling for Instruction (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.16, 160-5-1-.01, and 160-5-1-.02)
- Expenditure Controls (SBOE Rule 160-5-1-.29)
- Class-size and Reporting requirements (SBOE Rule 160-4-7-.14, 160-5-1-.08, and 160-5-1-.22)
- Instructional Extension (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.14)
- Promotion and Retention (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.11)
- Organization of Schools; Middle School Programs; Schedule (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.05)
- Statewide Passing Score (SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.13)



THE ACCOUNTABILITY COMPONENT

The State Board shall hold the Forsyth County School System accountable for the performance of the academic and operational goal listed below.

Goal: Each Forsyth County school will demonstrate proficiency and/or improvement on the CCRPI.

Measure 1: School performance goals will be set so that for each year during the five-year contract, an individual school shall increase its CCRPI score (without Challenge Points) by 3% of the gap between the baseline year CCRPI score (without Challenge Points) and 100. Baseline year is 2015-2016.

OR

Measure 2: For each year during the five-year contract, an individual school with an initial CCRPI score (without Challenge Points), performing in the top quartile of the state within each grade cluster shall remain at or above the top quartile threshold established in the baseline year. Baseline year is 2015-2016.

OR

Measure 3: If a school fails to meet its CCRPI target score, the school will be deemed as meeting its yearly performance target if the school is determined to be “beating the odds” through an analysis that compares the school’s CCRPI to its expected performance as determined by the “beating the odds” model developed in partnership between GOSA and the GaDOE.



THE CONSEQUENCES COMPONENT

Sanctions and interventions for nonperforming schools:

The schedule of sanctions and interventions shall be designed to ensure that the local school system sufficiently addresses the achievement deficiencies at all non-performing schools under the local school system's management and control. Such sanctions and interventions shall be at the recommendation of GOSA and shall include the following:

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-84.1, Forsyth County School System will employ the following interventions or sanctions at all non-performing schools under the Forsyth County School System's local management and control. The sanctions and interventions shall include the following:

- (a) If based upon the review of the 2016-2017 and/or 2017-2018 performance data, a school has not made sufficient progress toward meeting the articulated academic goals, a school improvement plan will be incorporated into the annual school strategic planning process and implemented by August 2018 (based upon review of 2016-2017 data) or August 2019 (based upon review of 2017-2018 data). The school improvement plan will address the specific achievement deficiencies along with a targeted plan to address the deficiencies. The school improvement plan and the targeted plan will be approved and monitored by the district throughout the academic year.
- (b) If based upon the review of 2018-2019 and/or 2019-2020 performance data, a school has not achieved three years of growth in the articulated academic goals, the Forsyth County School System apply direct school management support and intensive teacher development support as outlined in the jointly developed school improvement plan between the school leadership and district leadership staff. Implementation of the school improvement plan will occur no later than August 2020 (based upon review of 2018-2019 data) and/or August 2021 (based upon review of 2019-2020 data) and will be monitored by the school system.
- (c) If based upon the GOSA evaluation of the 2020-2021 performance data, a school has not achieved three years of growth in the articulated academic goals, the Forsyth County School System will apply, in the 2022-2023 school year, the consequences recommended by GOSA and approved by the State Board of Education.



EXHIBITS

1. Signed Letter of Intent and Local Board of Education Resolution



Dr. Jeffrey Bearden, Superintendent • 1120 Dahlonega Highway • Cumming, Georgia 30040 •
Telephone 770.887.2461 • Fax 770.761.8632

October 10, 2014

Louis Erste, Associate Superintendent
Georgia Department of Education
2053 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5080

Dear Mr. Erste:

The Forsyth County School System has experienced enhanced student achievement due to the increased flexibility afforded by the Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) partnership with the Georgia State Board of Education during the past five years. The current contract is scheduled to end on June 30, 2015.

The State of Georgia in Article 4, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-84 requires each local school system to notify the Georgia Department of Education of its intention of operating as an Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) School System, a Charter System, or a Status Quo School System no later than June 30, 2015. This letter is to inform you of the intent of the Forsyth County School System to operate as an IE² school system through renewal of the IE² partnership between our school district and the State Board of Education. Our school system notified the public regarding our intent to pursue this contract during a regularly scheduled board meeting on October 9, 2014. Enclosed, please find a resolution from the Forsyth County Board of Education indicating our desire to begin negotiations for contract renewal.

Prior to the submission of a proposed contract, the Forsyth County School System will schedule and hold a public hearing for the purpose of gathering public input. We are excited about the opportunity to continue to partner with the Georgia Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeffrey Bearden

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Garry McGiboney, Deputy Superintendent, Georgia Department of Education
Dr. Martha Ann Todd, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Student Achievement



A RESOLUTION OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
GEORGIA, AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE INVESTING IN
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (IE²) CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA STATE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Forsyth County Board of Education (the "Board of Education") has previously entered into a contract with the Georgia State Board of Education (the "State Board") dated on or about April 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education considers said contract as successful for all parties through ensuring student achievement at high levels while maximizing flexibility by waiver from certain state laws, rules, and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) contract between the Forsyth County Board of Education and the Georgia State Board of Education will end June 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia in Article 4, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-84 mandates that each local school system notify the Georgia Department of Education of its intention of operating as an Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) School System, a Charter System, or a Status Quo School System no later than June 30, 2015; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Forsyth County School System shall submit a Letter of Intent to the Georgia State Board of Education for the purpose of renewing the Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) contract, and shall schedule and hold a public hearing for the purpose of listening to public input regarding said contract.

ADOPTED by the Forsyth County Board of Education on
This NINTH day of OCTOBER, 2014.

By: 
Chairperson, Forsyth County School System

By: 
Superintendent, Forsyth County School System

(SEAL)



2. Public Hearing Notice

Forsyth County School System Investing in Educational Excellence (IE²) Partnership Application

The flexibility provisions provided to the Forsyth County School System (FCSS) through the IE² contract are set to expire June 30, 2015. FCSS proposes to enter into another IE² contract per the approval of The Department of Education. Pursuant to official notice, FCSS will hold a public hearing at 5:30 pm on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Board of Education. The Board of Education is located at 1120 Dahlonega Hwy, Cumming, Ga.

3. List of District Schools Included in IE² System

Elementary Schools

Big Creek
Brookwood
Chattahoochee
Chestatee
Coal Mountain
Cumming
Daves Creek
Haw Creek
Johns Creek
Kelly Mill
Mashburn
Matt
Midway
Sawnee
Settles Bridge
Sharon
Shiloh Point
Silver City
Vickery Creek
Whitlow

Middle Schools

Lakeside
Liberty
Little Mill
North Forsyth
Otwell
Piney Grove
Riverwatch
South Forsyth
Vickery Creek

High Schools

Forsyth Central
Lambert
North Forsyth
South Forsyth
West Forsyth

4. School Plans

See IE² Partnership Contract Exhibits E, F, and G



5. Description of IE² System

See pages 3 - 7 of this application

6. Fiscal History

The Forsyth County School System is the seventh largest system in the state and spends \$7,240 per FTE for the lowest student-per-pupil cost in the metro-area. An expenditure comparison chart of Georgia's 20 largest districts is located at <http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/page/367>. The district maintains the lowest millage rate in metro-Atlanta. In calendar year 2012, Forsyth increased the millage for maintenance and operations by one mill in order to offset decreases in the tax digest. The district can levy an additional 3.7 mills before reaching the 20 mill maintenance and operations millage cap. In Forsyth, one-mill of taxes generates \$8 million. The current budget is \$309 million. The district has not operated under a fiscal deficit over the past 15 years. To balance the FY15 budget \$9 million was taken from reserves; the district's unassigned general fund balance is equal to 12% of the general fund expenditures. It is our goal to increase this to 15% in the future. The current SPLOST expires in 2017 and is used to make payments on prior bonds. A \$195 million bond was approved in 2014; its payments will be made from the future SPLOST. With the exception of the 2014 bond, all outstanding bonds retire in 11 years.

7. Audit Reports

<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/page/388>

8. Accreditation

<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/Page/32034>

9. Strategic Plan

<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/sp1316>



ASSURANCES FORM AND SIGNATURE SHEET

The law requires your school district to provide assurances that it will do certain things and comply with certain laws. This Assurance Form enumerates all of these requirements and, when you submit this signed Signature Sheet with this Assurance Form as part of your IE² System Application Package, you are providing the legal assurance that your IE² system understands and will do these things. This form must be signed by a duly authorized representative of the school system.

As the authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the information submitted in this application for an IE² contract for Forsyth County School System located in Forsyth County is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; I also certify that if awarded an IE² the school system:

1. Shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations;
2. Shall not discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, national origin, gender, disability or age;
3. Shall be subject to all federal, state, and local rules, regulations, court orders, and statutes relating to civil rights; insurance; the protection of the physical health and safety of school students, employees, and visitors; conflicting interest transactions; and the prevention of unlawful conduct;
4. Shall be subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A § 20-2-1050 requiring a brief period of quiet reflection;
5. Shall ensure that the IE² system is subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. and O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.;
6. Shall ensure that all teachers will be certified or highly qualified in compliance with No Child Left Behind;
7. Shall comply with the accountability provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-14-30 through § 20-14-41 and federal accountability requirements, and participate in statewide assessments;
8. Shall adhere to all provisions of federal law relating to students with disabilities, including the IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as applicable;
9. Shall provide state and federally mandated services for English Language Learners, as applicable;
10. Shall provide for supplemental educational services as required by federal law and pursuant to SBOE Rule 160-4-5-.03, and for remediation in required cases pursuant to SBOE Rule 160-4-5-.01;
11. Shall notify the state of any intent to contract with a for-profit entity for education management services;
12. Shall be subject to the requirement that it shall not charge tuition or fees to its students except as may be authorized by local boards by O.C.G.A. § 20-2-133;
13. Shall comply with federal due process procedures regarding student discipline and dismissal;
14. Shall be subject to all laws relating to unlawful conduct in or near a public school;
15. Shall have a written grievance procedure to resolve student, parent, and teacher complaints;
16. Shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20 -2-211.1 relating to fingerprinting and criminal background checks;



17. Shall ensure that if transportation is provided for its students, the system shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws;
18. Shall ensure that if the IE² system participates in federal school meals programs, then each participating system IE² school shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws;
19. Shall prepare a safety plan in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-1185 and submit and obtain approval from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency;
20. Shall comply with the state facility requirements regarding site codes, facility codes, the submission of architectural plans for any new facility that the system may build or occupy during the IE² term and all other facility requirements as established by the Department;
21. Shall be subject to all reporting requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-160, subsection (e) of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-161, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-320, and O.C.G.A. § 20-2-740;
22. Shall be subject to an annual financial audit conducted by the state auditor or, if specified in the IE² contract, by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this state;
23. Shall acknowledge that all criteria used to calculate QBE funding may not be waived;
24. Shall follow any and all other federal, state, and local laws and regulations that pertain to the applicant or the operation of the IE² system; and
25. Shall ensure that all new principals and other school leaders, central office staff, superintendents, and Board of Education members receive a detailed orientation session on their IE² system commitments as part of their “on-boarding” process.

This IE² System Application, Assurance Form, and attached Exhibits were approved by the Forsyth County Board of Education on the 21st day of May, 2015.

Superintendent

Date

Chair, Local Board of Education

Date

If an IE² contract is granted, all Petitioners assure that the proposed IE² system programs, services, and activities will operate in accordance with the terms of the IE² contract and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

Superintendent

Date

Chair, Local Board of Education

Date