

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

The research priorities listed below are considered important questions which, when answered, would significantly benefit the Gainesville City School System in planning for increased student success. Research projects that address a priority area will have a greater likelihood of approval than research projects that do not.

Charter System

Research is needed to identify the effects of being a Charter System and if it best meet the needs of Gainesville City students. What impact has flexibility had on schools that are included in a Charter System? What impact has School Governance Councils had on student achievement?

Instructional Techniques

Research is needed on which instructional techniques or strategies are the most effective with students of different ages and/or types of student learners across all instructional areas (ESOL, students with disabilities, gifted, alternative education programs). Additional study is needed on the implementation of proven effective practices.

Literacy

The school system has been engaged in numerous literacy initiatives at all levels (elementary, middle and high). Research is needed to determine if literacy initiatives (Read180, SuperKids, Guided Reading, etc) have been effective in increasing student achievement in reading. Additionally, research is needed to understand best practices for integrating literacy across the high school program.

Transitions

Research is needed to identify effective strategies and techniques to assist students in transitioning from 5th to 6th and 8th to 9th grades. The impact of high student mobility in Gainesville City Schools and student transition from one school to another are areas requiring study.

Professional Learning

Research is needed regarding the effects of mentoring new teachers and leaders. For example, do teachers who are mentored have a higher retention rate or higher job satisfaction level than those who are not mentored? Other areas of interest to the school system are the impact of learning communities on student achievement.

Services to English Learners

What impact has Title III had on the way students are served in Gainesville City Schools? What are effective strategies for working with English Learners in the regular curriculum? How has the ESOL program been used effectively in schools? What interventions have proven effective with English Learners?

Services to Special Needs Students

What impact has IDEA had on the way students are served in Gainesville City Schools? What are effective strategies for working with special education students in the regular curriculum? How has RTI been used effectively in schools? What early interventions have proved successful in reducing the number of students referred for special education?

Technology and Student Learning

Over time, it is expected that more students will participate in classes using technology and the school system is interested in learning more about the impact on student achievement. What is the impact of technology on teachers' instructional practices? What impact has blended learning had on student achievement at the 6-12 level?

Endorsements (ESOL, Gifted, Reading, Math & Science, etc)

Research is needed on whether teachers acquiring additional endorsements increase student achievement.