



District Accountability System Goal 4, Objective D
Engagement through Mentoring & Tutoring
Annual Report – June 2012
Executive Summary

The purpose of Goal 4, Objective D of the District Accountability System is to increase the number of mentors and tutors available to our students. In addition to acting as supportive role-models, mentors and tutors help students envision a successful life that can be achieved by staying in school and staying committed to academic success. Savannah-Chatham schools have benefitted greatly from the support of those who donate their time and share their worldly experiences with our students. Many individuals who come from a wide range of professional, academic, military, and civic backgrounds have engaged with our schools in various ways through mentoring and tutoring.

A total of 2,720 mentor/tutors partnered with our schools during school year 2011-2012. A visual display is shown in Figure 1. See individual school data on tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 below.

Organizations such as the Local Outreach Volunteer Educators (L.O.V.E.), The Deep Center, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Coastal Empire, 100 Black Men, Explorer Post, and Junior Achievement of Georgia were among mentor organizations that played a role in

supporting the positive learning experiences at our schools. Junior Achievement, for example, provided programs that enhance areas of financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurial thinking through interaction between students and volunteers with practical business experience. L.O.V.E. volunteers donated their time reading to students and provided summer camp scholarships, which give students access to additional mentors during the summer months. Other groups, such as Explorer Post and the 100 Black Men, provided hands on Job Shadowing experiences.

Savannah-Chatham schools continue to benefit from the support of area colleges and universities. Leaders from Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah State University, and South University were among those who have mentor oriented relationships with our schools. Colleges provided venues for leadership activities, exposed students to the benefits of higher education, and often visited our classrooms with their students and staff. Examples that illustrate this type of activity include: Savannah State University helping Groves High School students prepare for EOCT

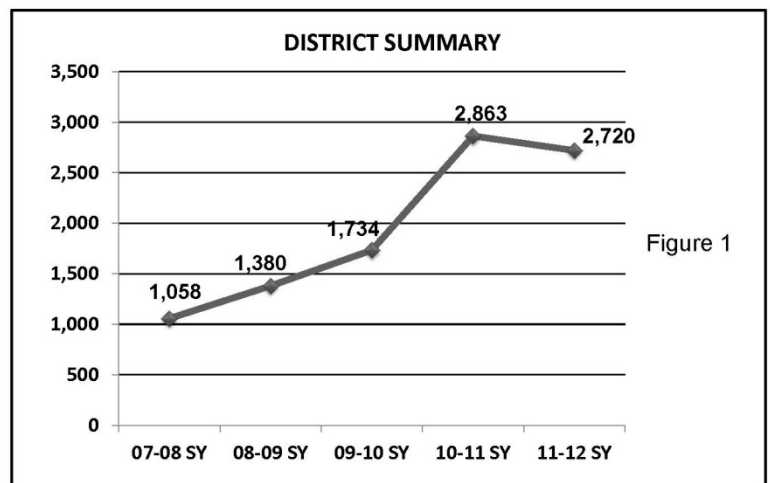


Figure 1

testing; Armstrong students giving their time at East Broad Street School to read with middle grade students; volunteers from the SCAD Sculptures Department helping students at Garrison produce and display mobiles; and South University partnering with Beach High School to enhance the learning experience for students of the school's Medical Allied program.

Professionals from Savannah-Chatham's business and industry community were regularly engaged with students offering career guidance and awareness. Members of the Career Advisory Council were able to generate strong school connections and bring their professional experiences into the classroom. With backgrounds ranging from banking to aeronautics, and energy to interior design, students gained valuable insight and inspiration from these community leaders. Mentors who offer professional awareness and messaging that supports the importance of education were also available from the medical field. This year healthcare professionals from St. Joseph's Hospital made visits to our schools with the hope that in some way they could help shape the lives of students. These medical professionals presented their careers and gave an overview of their educational background, training, and continuing education requirements associated with each job. Discussions that targeted the importance of writing, math, and reading skills were included as well.

The Student Leadership Program continues to be one of the district's largest mentor programs with over 150 volunteers, also known as Community Advisors, committed to helping area high school students. Community Advisors are paired with a group of students during the freshman experience. Each advisor stays paired with that group of students as they progress through their high school years. The program offers innovative approaches, leadership activities, and exposure to high profile leaders. Gulfstream launched the program four years ago in partnership with Savannah-Chatham schools, as a way to inspire students and positively influence their outlook on education. The program currently serves 600 students, and for the first time since its inception, all four high school grade levels were represented during the 2012 school year. Selected students from all high schools in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System participate in the program.

Churches, our military, faith-based groups, parents, and other civic organizations have also been consistent in their support of Savannah-Chatham schools by providing individual volunteers at various sites and additional supports that assist students. St. John Baptist Church contributed by providing school supplies supportive of classroom success and the group sponsored a Black History luncheon for the staff of East Broad Street School. The Brotherhood Association of Second Arnold Baptist Church visited Spencer and Bartow on a regular basis. At Coastal Middle, the Childhood Obesity Prevention Education (COPE) program provided 3-4 tutors and mentors three times per week for sixteen weeks. At West Chatham Elementary, over 140 parents provided assistance by helping students in the classroom. Hunter Army Airfield's "Adopt a School" program provided positive influences that position our service men and women as role models for students. At White Bluff Elementary alone, 140 soldiers were engaged with students at the school this year. The 2012 school year even saw support from our canine friends, as organizations who volunteer with therapy dogs visited schools. The Barking for Books program supported literacy goals by providing a great outlet for shy readers who would pair up with a 4-legged friend and read a story. And, Hattie the Therapy Dog was a regular at West Chatham Elementary, becoming a quick friend and companion for students.

The previously mentioned mentor activities and partnerships provide a sample of the many occasions that take place in our schools where community members are actively engaged with students. Schools fully support the value of a mentor and enjoy the payoff this form of community engagement brings. Through the hard work of school staff and the contributions made by mentors and tutors, Savannah-Chatham students continue to develop skills that help them succeed in and out of the classroom.

Over the past three years, the district has remained consistently involved with a large number of mentors and tutors. In the 2012 school year the number of mentors and tutors dropped slightly when compared to the 10-11 school year; however, the number remains strong when compared to the 09-10 school year. To ensure continued growth in this area, the Office of Public Information and Community Engagement will offer support to all schools and continue to act as a liaison through the generation of mentor to school connections. Schools where new principals are assigned will especially be targeted for additional support. As a result of input from the Community Engagement Task Force, SCCPSS alumni will be targeted as a resource to seek additional mentors. Individuals who graduated from Savannah-Chatham Schools with collegiate or career success present a unique opportunity to connect with students. The successful development of this mentor group will be facilitated with the support of a mentor contact database that will be updated regularly and placed on the district's intranet for school faculty and personnel.

Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 09-10	Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 10-11	Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Met Target of 10% increase annually
1,734	2,863	2,720	NO

Table 1 - **Elementary Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 10-11	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12
Bartow	29	55
Bloomington	29	21
Butler	51	65
Coastal Empire Montessori	0	0
Gadsden	192	102
Garden City	31	44
Gould	11	35
Haven	44	26
Heard	48	120
Hodge	15	45
Howard	129	65
Largo-Tibet	22	57
Low	15	32
Marshpoint	18	93
Pooler	58	38
Port Wentworth	41	43
Pulaski	16	15
Shuman	89	92
J.G. Smith	24	27

Southwest	34	30
Spencer	19	22
Thunderbolt	143	162
West Chatham	187	268
White Bluff	24	160
Windsor Forest	34	20

Table 2 - **K-8 Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 10-11	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12
East Broad	75	32
Ellis	40	90
Garrison	240	14
Georgetown	37	50
Godley Station	45	60
Hesse	25	53
Isle of Hope	48	54

Table 3 - **Middle Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 10-11	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12
Bartlett	4	33
Coastal	3	8
DeRenne	94	84
Hubert	50	63
Mercer	15	30
Myers	1	1
Oglethorpe Charter	13	5
Southwest	15	18
West Chatham	8	10

Table 4 - **High Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 10-11	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12
Beach	99	82
Groves	20	38
Islands	24	34
Jenkins	61	70
Johnson	450	66
Savannah Arts	0	14
Savannah High-LS	127	85
Windsor Forest	34	69
Woodville Tompkins	32	8

Table 5 - **Other Educational Centers**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 10-11	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12
Coastal GA Comprehensive	2	0
Early College	23	2
Scott	67	10