



District Accountability Plan Goal 4, Objective D
Engagement through Mentoring & Tutoring
Annual Report – June 2013
Executive Summary

The purpose of District Accountability System Objective 4D is to increase the number of mentors and tutors available to our students. Schools across the district continue to benefit from the involvement of those individuals and organizations who are committed to helping our youth stay engaged in education.

Almost 2,500 mentor/tutors partnered with our schools during school year 2012-2013. A visual display is shown in Figure 1. See individual school data on tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 below.

From returning organizations and parent volunteers, to military representatives, colleges, universities, and retired educators, many individuals provided their time to support the educational goals of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System.

In addition to providing a real world connection in the classroom, mentors and tutors instill a positive attitude toward academic excellence that helps students understand the connection between education and their future success.

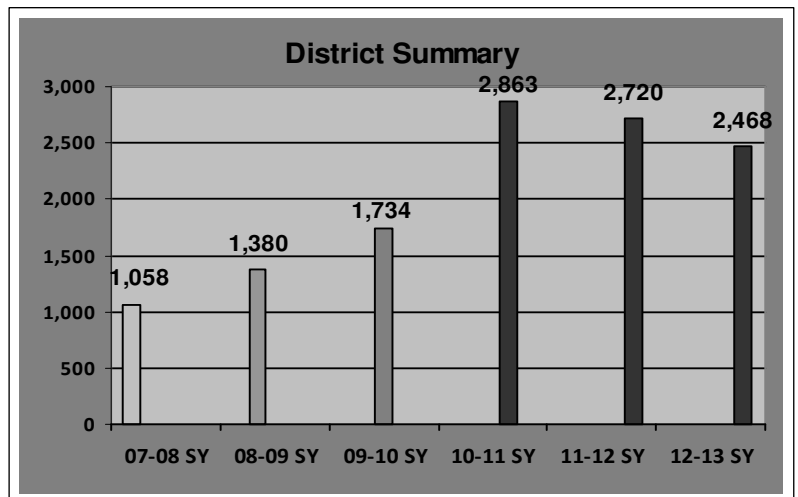


Figure 1

Schools have maintained relationships with 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. These organizations offer a variety of focus areas that range from academic tutoring, to reading and writing initiatives, to job shadowing and character building experiences. Their impact is evident in improved academic outcomes. One of our LOVE mentors shared her thoughts about this year as follows, “My three students this year grew under this program. My 1st grader can read on 2nd grade level; my 3rd grader went from a 2.2 reading level to 3.6; my 4th grader passed her CRCT’s and will advance to 5th grade. Sure feels good.” Not only do these organizations inspire academic success but they also focus on character development and individual growth. This aspect was illustrated when one of the “Bigs” in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program threw his own birthday party at school and invited his little brother with three of his friends. They had cake and ice cream while they talked about the importance

of celebrating yourself. The school describes this character building event as an “awesome experience” that showcases the value of dedicated community members who care about the future of our students.

Students and volunteers from area colleges and universities also remain active. Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah State University, and South University are among those post-secondary institutions who regularly work with Savannah-Chatham Schools. College students present a wonderful opportunity as role models for young students as they provide a real world example of the options that exist beyond high school. One Armstrong student volunteered her time to work with 5th graders in preparation for the CRCT retest. This individual was at the school daily, driving to Savannah from Bryan County, providing assistance to students and support to the teachers.

Schools report a noticeable improvement in student behavior when involved in programs with our military personnel and local law enforcement. Hunter Army Airfield, the Coast Guard, and members of the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department provided many mentor opportunities. Whether soldiers served as role models in Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Programs or police officers provided mentoring opportunities focused on subjects such as bullying, goal setting, and communication, students were left with a lasting impression that paid dividends in the areas of behavior and attitude.

Now in its fifth year of operation, the Student Leadership Program (SLP) is one of the district’s largest mentor programs serving all grade levels in all high schools. Originally launched by Gulfstream, the program has the support of more than 50 business partners with over 150 volunteers, also known as Community Advisors. Community Advisors are paired with a group of students during the freshman experience and they stay paired with that group as they progress through their high school years. Each year new and innovative ideas arise from this effort, such as the newly launched “Team Captains” program. The concept takes one Community Advisor from each school to serve as a team captain. Their goal is to increase communication between group organizers, community advisors, and the schools. Additionally, they strive to build stronger relationships with students and teacher advisors by visiting their assigned schools outside of planned SLP events.

Churches, faith-based groups, civic organizations, and individual community volunteers have also been consistent with their involvement and remain an important part of this community engagement segment. For example, the Young Ladies with Purpose (YLP) worked with students to strengthen self esteem, character education, and career development; the Barking for Books program and their usage of therapy dogs continues to have positive impact on students who are struggling with reading; a chess enthusiast and volunteer at Charles Ellis worked with students to teach them how to play chess; and individuals from the YMCA and Girl Scouts are often found within the schools working with students.

These organizations and individuals provide students with additional real-life guidance to help in educational, personal, and life decisions concerning the betterment of their futures. This positive influence has helped many students make the best possible choices concerning their educational and work goals.

Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 09-10	Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13	Met Target of 10% increase annually
1,734	2,720	2,468	*NO

Table 1 - **Elementary Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13
Bartow	55	40
Bloomington	21	12
Butler	65	50
Coastal Empire Montessori	0	50
Gadsden	102	118
Garden City	44	35
Gould	35	28
Haven	26	15
Heard	120	63
Hodge	45	40
Howard	0	63
Largo-Tibet	57	62
Low	32	27
Marshpoint	93	91
Pooler	38	12
Port Wentworth	43	30
Pulaski	15	18
Shuman	92	100
J.G. Smith	27	14
Southwest Elementary	30	60
Spencer	22	80
Thunderbolt	162	143
West Chatham Elementary	268	7
White Bluff Elementary	160	6
Windsor Forest Elementary	20	46

Table 2 - **K-8 Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13
East Broad	32	100
Ellis	90	212
Garrison	14	65
Georgetown	50	34
Godley Station	60	62
Hesse	53	45
Isle of Hope	54	75

Table 3 - **Middle Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13
Bartlett	33	8
Coastal	8	6
DeRenne	84	13
Hubert	63	75
Mercer	30	15
Myers	0	5
Oglethorpe Charter	5	10
Southwest Middle	18	56
West Chatham Middle	10	12

Table 4 - **High Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13
Beach	82	51
Groves	38	8
Islands	34	12
Jenkins	70	150
Johnson	66	50
New Hampstead	NA	30
Savannah Arts	14	8
Savannah High-LS	85	80
Windsor Forest	69	5
Woodville Tompkins	8	10

Table 5 - **Other Educational Centers**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 11-12	Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13
Coastal GA Comprehensive	0	1
Early College	2	50
Ombudsman Centers	NA	10

*While schools experience many positive benefits from Mentors and Tutors, changes in school leadership, employee turnover and attrition, coupled with employee turnover within community partner organizations have all contributed to a decrease in the numbers. To assist the schools and ensure the target is met, Communications will develop a SY 13-14 awareness campaign, both internally and externally, that promotes the benefits of mentors/tutors and encourages more public involvement. Additionally, an online tool will be developed to help administrators track and monitor partnership levels.