



District Accountability System Goal 4, Objective C
Engagement through Mentoring & Tutoring
Annual Report – June 2015
Executive Summary

Goal 4, Objective C of the District Accountability System seeks to increase the number of mentors and tutors working with our students. In the 2014-2015 school year, a total of 2,397 mentors/tutors were engaged with Savannah-Chatham students. See individual school data on tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 below. While more than 2,000 individuals were available to our schools, this number does not represent the 10% annual increase that is targeted for this objective.

Each year, schools continue to experience the ebb and flow of organizational cycles within the realm of volunteering. As established mentor organizations see fluctuations and turnover, mentor numbers are influenced. The loss of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization of Coastal Georgia is such an example. Annually, this agency has remained a key partner in this objective; however, during the 2014-15 school year the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization has ceased operations in our area. These conditions contribute to the reasons the annual changes experienced changes in the number of mentor/tutor partners each year.

But while the number of individuals working with our schools may not remain constant, we continue to benefit from the involvement of those who are committed to helping our youth stay engaged in education. The school district worked with mentor organizations, the military community, the business community, faith based organizations, parent volunteers, and area colleges to provide real world connections that enrich educational activities.

At the core of this objective many organized agencies continue to be a mainstay in our work toward the achievement of this target. During the 2014-15 School Year the following organizations were the predominant partners in this category:

- 100 Black Men of Savannah
- Junior Achievement of Coastal Georgia
- DEEP Speaks
- L.O.V.E. Mentors
- Goodwill Industries Good Guides
- Girl Scouts of the Coastal Empire
- Learning for Life: Explorer Post
- The Links, Inc

Mentors and tutors instill a positive attitude toward academic excellence that helps students understand the connection between education and their future success. From career exploration, reading, and financial literacy initiatives to social and life-skills, these partners offer a wide range of focus areas that help to improve academic achievement and enhance the positive educational environment at the school.

For example, the Deep Center provided students with a voice and an avenue to express themselves in a creative manner. Students were also able to develop writing skills that served to impact their academic performance. In this program, volunteers work individually with participants helping to drive home the fundamentals of creative writing and storytelling. Each year students are recognized during the “Deep Speaks” culminating event where writers come together to read their works which have been published in connection with Deep’s *Young Author* project.

During the 2014-15 school year, Junior Achievement expanded its program reach through the popular Finance Park Virtual program that engaged with eighth grade students across the district. At the conclusion of the program students participated in a culminating event that took place at the Savannah Technical College where program volunteers led sessions to mentor students about life choices and financial literacy.

The Williams Court Senior Readers represented a new partnership this year, as Director Chris Mazzola, of Williams Court Apartments, worked with our elementary schools. The initiative brought senior residents into the schools to engage and read with students. Williams Court is an apartment community subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and designed for citizens ages 62 and older. This literacy based venue provided guest volunteers ready to work with students and proved so successful that Shuman Elementary plans to have Senior Readers visit monthly during the upcoming school year.

Other community groups were also engaged with our schools. Student volunteers from Armstrong State University spent time at Largo-Tibet Elementary to assist with test prep and provide remediation, the Pooler Lions Club helped struggling readers at Pooler Elementary, mentor led math tutorial sessions provided a boost for students at White Bluff Elementary, and Learning for Life volunteers brought the business world into the classroom at Gadsden Elementary. The importance of career-minded volunteers was evident in the relevant learning experiences provided and remains a valued component of the teaching landscape as described by Gadsden Elementary. “It is one thing for us to explain the importance of education to students, but it is even more powerful to learn the real-world connections from individuals in the various fields.” Students are able to further explore the career education modules taught as they interact with volunteers currently working in their fields of interest. “They now have a better understanding of the skills necessary to be successful in life.”

Mentors also provide a great opportunity for character development and positive influences on student behavior. Many schools continue to engage with law enforcement or military representatives serving as role models who define strong leadership traits. Savannah High continued its popular “Role Call” in the street with the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and many schools gain the benefit of STEM Education experiences with mentors through the STARBASE partnership on Hunter Army Airfield.

The organizations and school highlights mentioned in this report serve as an example of the many individuals who are committed to our schools and our students. They provide real-life guidance in educational, personal,

and life decisions concerning the betterment of our youth in Savannah-Chatham Public Schools. This positive influence has helped many students make the best possible choices concerning their educational goals and remains an important factor in strengthening education through community engagement.

Table 1

Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 12-13	Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 13-14	Total Number of Mentors/Tutors 14-15	Met Target of 10% increase annually
2,468	2,727	2,397	NO

Elementary Schools

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 13-14	Number of Mentors/Tutors 14-15
Bloomingdale	6	3
Brock	25	15
Butler	500	25
Coastal Empire Montessori	40	30
Gadsden	121	129
Garden City	5	12
Gould	126	85
Haven	34	35
Heard	52	115
Hodge	20	10
Howard	67	125
Largo-Tibet	59	17
Low	15	41
Marshpoint	126	220
Pooler	26	7
Port Wentworth	30	65
Pulaski	13	9
Shuman	15	32
J.G. Smith	25	32
Southwest Elementary	51	None Reported
Spencer	85	30
Thunderbolt	45	75
Tybee Maritime	100	158
West Chatham Elementary	20	15
White Bluff Elementary	30	8
Windsor Forest Elementary	35	None Reported

Table 2 - K-8 Schools

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 13-14	Number of Mentors/Tutors 14-15
East Broad	75	35
Ellis	112	69
Garrison	79	60
Georgetown	37	54
Godley Station	120	45
Hesse	50	35
Isle of Hope	65	75
Savannah Classical	25	55

Table 3 - **Middle Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 13-14	Number of Mentors/Tutors 14-15
Coastal	5	4
DeRenne	25	14
Hubert	10	20
Mercer	7	19
Myers	15	16
Oglethorpe Charter	2	15
Southwest Middle	30	22
STEM @ Bartlett	10	200
West Chatham Middle	11	6

Table 4 - **High Schools**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 13-14	Number of Mentors/Tutors 14-15
Beach	15	45
Groves	5	3
Islands	14	10
Jenkins	75	11
Johnson	60	40
New Hampstead	15	None Reported
Savannah Arts	25	200
Savannah High-LS	95	12
Windsor Forest	8	12
Woodville Tompkins	27	22

Table 5 - **Other Educational Centers**

School	Number of Mentors/Tutors 13-14	Number of Mentors/Tutors 14-15
Early College	25	5