



# Foothills Education Charter High School

## *Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction*

*March 5, 2019*



### ***"It's Never Too Late to Be What You Might Have Been"***

Dear Foothills Staff, Families, Supporters, and Friends:

Buoyed and affirmed by excellent scores and reports (see below), the Foothills team continued to dig into the work at the February 28th planning and review meeting, at the Clarke County Foothills location

As Superintendent **Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman** shared in the February edition of [The Foothills Review](#), "Every day at Foothills, we continue to work to meet the needs of Georgia's students and to improve our program. We are working with a broad range of stakeholders to focus on outcomes for our students, including graduation rates and assessment scores. To improve outcomes, we also continue our work to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment—work that began as part of a grant more than a year ago."

The February meeting began with Curriculum and Data Teams meeting together for a large group activity, led by **Tim Jarboe**.

Math, science, and social studies people did a careful domain analysis, with an eye towards identifying students who were at the "Remediate Learning" Level (performing well below mastery on a given domain, with a less than 40 percent chance of being at or above the Milestones proficiency cut score; the "Monitor Learning" Level (not consistently demonstrating mastery-level performance, with between 40 and 90 percent chance of meeting the

Milestones proficiency cut score); and the "Accelerate Learning" Level (consistently performing at the proficient level or above, with a 90 percent chance or greater of meeting the Milestones proficiency cut score).

English/language arts staff focused on student performance on the Day 1 Narrative Writing Response section of the Milestones, and on the Day 2 Extended Writing Response.

All of the teachers reviewed the standards assessed and considered such questions as the approximate percent of the test for each standard, the domain weight, prerequisite skills, and curriculum pacing in addressing the content.

For the second hour, the Curriculum Team, led by **Mark Tavernier** and **Scott Gordon**, continued to work on the domain analysis

**Tim Jarboe** then worked separately with the Data Team, beginning with a review of the latest Georgia Milestones updates and new field test items, to make sure that each site was prepared to deal with these new changes. The Data Team then spent most of the second hour reviewing and making course sequence recommendations in all key content areas, with consideration given to course content, prerequisites, teaching strategies, and student performance on assessments.

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The ongoing and excellent work described above continues to yield very positive results for Foothills. Recently, we received great news regarding our work on the **State Charter School Comprehensive Performance Framework**, and **Milestones End of Course Test scores**.

See below!

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Section	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Academic Performance	1	1	96
Financial Performance	100	95	95
Operational Performance	86	97	99

**Comprehensive Performance Framework Results (see chart above)** - Georgia's State Charter Schools Commission assesses schools in three critical areas: academic achievement, financial viability, and operational compliance. Foothills scored near the top in all three areas.

**End of Course Test Growth** - The most recent review of EOC scores, through the middle of February 2019, reveals continued growth in almost all content areas compared to the 2018 school year. Especially noteworthy was double-digit "Weighted Content Mastery" growth in Algebra, 27% to 40% achieving at the Proficient Level or above; and US History, from 46% to 58%. Only one area, Geometry, showed a dip; teachers are working on that area right now to determine what is needed.

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## Molehills...

- Foothills has been identified as a **Comprehensive School Improvement alternative school**, and **attended the GaDOE Instructional Leadership Conference in Macon**, February 27-28. Foothills will be working with GaDOE representatives and support staff to comply with all required reporting and actions. More to follow.
- Foothills is looking forward to its **annual year-end summit in June**, which will provide opportunities for Data and Curriculum Teams to work with teachers from all sites, and to delve into results and data for the year. More to follow about this in coming weeks and months.

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*Staff and friends, it is my privilege to be able to share these updates with you each month. See you next month with the next installment of important news.*

*Best,  
Dr. Ken Sherman*

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