

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Appropriate notification of intent was provided to the Board of Governors, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida and the Commission for Independent Education, as required in section 1007.33, Florida Statutes.

The proposed baccalaureate degree program will prepare graduates for careers as elementary educators in both public and private schools. Graduates will be ESOL and Reading endorsed and will be eligible to enter master's degree programs to further their educational and career opportunities.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 168 annual job openings in LSSC's service area. Currently, no institutions offer a similar degree program within LSSC's service area.

Letters of support were provided by Lake and Sumter County School Board Superintendents and by local high school and charter schools as well as by members of the Florida House of Representatives. There were no letters of objection or alternative proposals for the proposed degree program.

An extensive review of criteria was conducted for the proposal submitted, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The final proposal is being submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

Documentation Included: Lake-Sumter State College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, President Heather Bigard, Lake-Sumter State College, and guests