

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Items**  
August 15, 2006

**SUBJECT: Approval of Appointments to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve Appointments to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

HB 135 created a new section of the charter school law, Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes, which establishes the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission as a charter school authorizing entity. The Florida Schools of Excellence Commission is an "independent, state-level charter school authorizing entity working in collaboration with the Department of Education and under the supervision of the State Board of Education."

The legislation states that, "Charter schools are a critical component in the state's efforts to provide efficient and high-quality schools within the state's uniform system of public education. Charter schools provide valuable educational options and innovative learning opportunities while expanding the capacity of the state's system of public education and empowering parents with the ability to make choices that best fit the individual needs of their children."

According to Section 1002.335(3)(b), Florida Statutes:

The commission shall be appointed by the State Board of Education and shall be composed of three appointees recommended by the Governor, two appointees recommended by the President of the Senate, and two appointees recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each recommend a list of no fewer than two nominees for any appointment to the commission. The appointments shall be made as soon as feasible but no later than September 1, 2006. Each member shall serve a term of 2 years; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms, of the initial appointments, three members shall be appointed to 1-year

terms and four members shall be appointed to 2-year terms. Thereafter, each appointee shall serve a 2-year term unless the State Board of Education, after review, extends the appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, it shall be filled by the State Board of Education from a recommendation by the appropriate authority according to the procedure set forth in this paragraph. The members of the commission shall annually vote to appoint a chair and a vice chair. Each member of the commission must hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and the commission must include individuals who have experience in finance, administration, law, education, and school governance.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** HB 135

Nominations by the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, and Governor to follow under separate cover (pages 45-158)

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Virginia Gentles, Executive Director