

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

March 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Approval of Request to Restructure the Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Math/Science Teacher Education at Northwest Florida State College

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northwest Florida State College was approved by the State Board of Education on February 20, 2007, to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Grades Mathematics/Science. On January 20, 2009, the college's Board of Trustees approved a request to restructure this program to better meet student and community needs by reorganizing the original program into two separate programs, a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Grades Mathematics Education and a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Grades Science Education. Initial enrollment in the programs is scheduled to begin in fall 2009.

In a letter to the Division of Community Colleges dated January 29, 2009, the college states, *"Reorganizing the original program into two degree programs requires essentially no change in coursework, staffing, facilities, or other resources; students will choose between two degree programs rather than choose between two paths within a single degree program. Instead of completing certification examinations in both science and mathematics to meet graduation requirements, students will need to demonstrate subject area competence in either math or science, not both—a change we believe will encourage more students to pursue a teacher education curriculum."*

Students in the existing combined Middle Grades Mathematics/Science program will be accommodated by providing them the choice of completing the existing program or switching to one of the separate programs.

Request for a waiver for this item. Yes No X

Supporting Documentation Included: Letter of Request, BOT Approval, Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Math Teacher Education Requirements, and Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Science Teacher Education Requirements

Facilitators/Presenters: Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges, Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Community Colleges, and representatives from Northwest Florida State College