

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
October 18, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Designation of Schools of Excellence

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1003.631, F.S.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 1003.631, Florida Statutes, requires the State Board of Education to designate a school as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high, and combination) for at least two of the last three school years.

To be eligible, schools had to receive a grade of A or B in each of the most recent three school years (2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17) and had to rank at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher for their school type for at least two of the last three years. There are 347 elementary, 116 middle, 96 high, and 84 combination schools that qualified as schools of excellence. Qualifying schools shall retain the designation for up to three years.

A School of Excellence will have the following administrative flexibilities outlined in the law:

- exemption from any law or rule that requires a minimum period of daily or weekly instruction in reading;
- principal autonomy as provided under s. 1012.28(8), F.S.;
- instructional personnel may substitute one year of employment at the school for 20 inservice points, up to 60 points total in a five-year cycle, toward the renewal of a professional certificate;
- exemption from compliance with school district policies establishing times for the start and end of the school day; and
- calculation of class size compliance based on the average number of students at the school level.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Schools of Excellence: Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools and Combination Schools

**Facilitator:** Hershel Lyons, Chancellor of Public Schools