

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
September 20, 2019

**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 (F.S.), 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.

This agenda item will approve the list of Schools of Excellence and grant the Commissioner of Education the authority to designate a school, at any point during the year, as a School of Excellence if that school meets the criteria subsequent to the approval of the initial list of Schools of Excellence designated by the State Board of Education for that school year.

To be eligible for an initial designation as a School of Excellence, a school had to receive a grade of A or B in each of the most recent three school years (2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19) 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. Qualifying schools shall retain the designation for up to three years. A school that received an initial School of Excellence designation in 2017-18 maintained that designation if the school earned a 2018-19 school grade of A or B. A school that received an initial School of Excellence designation in 2016-17 maintained that designation if the school earned a school grade of A or B in both 2017-18 and 2018-19.

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 (under separate cover)

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Jacob Oliva, Chancellor of Public Schools