

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
March 30, 2022

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Programs in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCFMS) submitted two notices of intent followed by proposals to the Department of Education to offer two Bachelor of Science programs in Elementary Education (ESOL, K-12) and in Exceptional Student Education (ESOL, K-12). 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.

For both proposals, letters of support were provided by the superintendents, principals, assistant principals, and coordinators of both Sarasota and Manatee County Schools, as well as the CEOs of Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County and Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation. Nova Southeastern University (NSU) President, Dr. George L. Hanbury, filed Letters of Objection to the proposals. SCFMS addressed the letters of objection in the proposals citing that NSU is not meeting the workforce demand or needs of the community.

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

Elementary Education (ESOL, K-12)

The degree program will prepare students to become certified Elementary Education K-6 teachers and focuses on the design and delivery of content and other educational services to kindergarten through sixth grades. Students will graduate with a Florida Elementary Teacher Certification, as well as an ESOL and Reading Endorsement for grades K-12. Graduates will be eligible to teach in private or public schools. The curriculum includes preparation to teach core content elementary education subject matter (e.g. reading/writing, mathematics, social sciences, and science).

Labor market projections indicate a projected increase in demand of 185 annual job openings in SSC's service area. There is one institution in SCFMS's service district that offers a similar degree. The 5-year average supply has been approximately 34, which brings the annual workforce unmet need to 151. In response to local labor market demand and in light that elementary education is a critical shortage area, this is an opportune time for SCFMS to fill the void and to meet the regional employer demand.

Exceptional Student Education (ESOL, K-12)

The degree program will prepare students to become certified Exceptional Student Education K-12 teachers. Graduates will be eligible for a Florida Elementary Teacher

Certification (K-12) and endorsements in Exceptional Student Education, as well as ESOL (K-12).

Data for labor market projections were not available through the DEO. However, the college provided data obtained through EMSI, which showed 18 annual job openings in SCFMS's service district. Regarding the 5-year average supply, there are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within SCFMS's service district. However, in response to local labor market urgent needs expressed by Manatee and Sarasota Counties Public Schools leadership for an Exceptional Student Education K-12 Baccalaureate Degree, there is a need for baccalaureate graduates within this field to fill this critical teacher shortage area.

Documentation Included: State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota's Proposals for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (ESOL, K-12) and a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (ESOL, K-12) (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, Dr. Carol Probstfeld, President, State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, and guests