

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
May 11, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) as a Hope Operator

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1002.333(2), F.S.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, authorizes high-impact charter school organizations to apply to the State Board of Education to be recognized and designated as a Hope Operator. To be eligible for the Hope Operator designation, a charter school organization must meet both of the following criteria:

- Be a non-profit organization with tax exempt status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- Operate three or more public charter schools that serve student grades K-12 in Florida or other states with a record of serving students from low-income families.

Additionally, the charter school organization must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Awarded a United States Department of Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within the most recent three years;
- Receives funding through the National Fund of the Charter School Growth fund; or
- Was selected by a district school board as a school turnaround operator, pursuant to Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes

Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) is a nonprofit organization with tax exempt status. It has operated three public charter schools in Florida, each of which has served a 100 percent economically disadvantaged student enrollment. RCMA recently received funding from the National Fund of the Charter School Growth Fund.

Once designated by the State Board of Education, a Hope Operator is authorized to enter into a performance-based agreement with a school district to establish, open and operate one or more public charter schools to serve students from persistently low-performing public schools or in a Florida Opportunity Zone.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Commissioner's letter to RCMA, Hope operator checklist, school grades for RCMA, Hope operator application from RCMA, including IRS determination letter of 501(c)(3) status, and documentation of funding from the Charter School Growth Fund

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Adam Emerson, Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice