

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program - Valencia College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Valencia College (VC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. 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.

The degree program will prepare graduates for careers as elementary educators in both public and private schools. Graduates will be ESOL and Reading endorsed and will be eligible to enter master's degree programs to further their educational and career opportunities.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 497 annual job openings in VC's service area. Currently, the University of Central Florida is the only public institution that offers a similar degree program within VC's service area. Rollins College is the only non-public institution in VC's service area that offers a similar degree. Both institutions have produced 316 graduates for the most recent year and have produced a 5-year average supply of 353 graduates, bringing the unmet need to between 144-181, respectively.

Letters of support were provided by the Osceola County and Orange County School District superintendents. There were no letters of objection or alternative proposals for the proposed degree program.

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

Documentation Included: Valencia College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System; President Kathleen Plinske, Valencia College, and guests