

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
November 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of Hope Operator Designation for Somerset Academy

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve Somerset Academy as a Hope Operator

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.333(2), Florida Statutes

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 Section 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.

Somerset Academy is a nonprofit organization with tax exempt status. During the 2024-25 school year, Somerset operated 61 public charter schools in Florida that served 29,500 students in grades K-12. It has a record of serving low-income students and has recently been awarded a United States Department of Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools.

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.

Supporting Documentation Included: Application packet for Somerset Academy (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice