

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
May 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Florida College (NFC) 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 44 annual job openings in NFC's service area. Currently, there are no public or private institutions that offer a similar degree program within NFC's service area.

Letters of support were provided by Suwanee, Madison, Lafayette, and Hamilton 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.

Supporting Documentation Included: NFC Letters of Support and Baccalaureate Proposal Application Form No. BAAC-02 (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System; President Jennifer Page, North Florida College, and guests