

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of Request by College of Central Florida for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

College of Central Florida (CCF) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (ESE). 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 ESE (K-12) careers in a wide range of instructional positions in public, charter, and private schools. Graduates will be Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) 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 42 annual job openings in CCF's service area. Currently, there are no public or private institutions that offer a similar degree program within CCF's service area.

Letters of support were provided by Marion County Public Schools, Citrus County Public Schools, and the School Board of Levy County. 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: College of Central Florida Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System; President James D. Henningsen, College of Central Florida, and guests