

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of Request by Florida Gateway College for a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Florida Gateway College (FGC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration. 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.

Graduates of this program will be prepared for advanced supervisory and management roles in both the public and private sectors as police chiefs, probation officers, fire chiefs, homeland security specialists, and other multidisciplinary agency directors. The multidisciplinary curriculum combines leadership, management, and policy knowledge with practical skills to address the challenges faced by administrators in law enforcement, corrections, fire services, and emergency management across public safety environments.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 194 annual job openings in FGC's service area. There are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within FGC's service area.

Letters of support were provided by industry partners, including Wallace F. Kitchings, Sheriff of Columbia County, and Gerald Butler, Lake City Chief of Police. 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: Florida Gateway College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Administration (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, President Lawrence Barrett, Florida Gateway College, and guests