

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Programs - Tallahassee Community College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science program 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 impetus to propose the degree program is a result of the upcoming Elementary Education program closure at Flagler College's Tallahassee campus. The degree program focuses on the design and delivery of content and other educational services to kindergarten through sixth grades. The program is designed to be certified by the Florida Department of Education's Initial Teacher Preparation Program (ITP).

The program will prepare graduates with the education and training that leads to certification in Elementary Education (K-6). Graduates will be eligible to teach in private, public, charter, and virtual schools. The program includes opportunities for graduates to take and pass subject area exams to qualify to teach other subjects in middle school and high school.

Labor market projections indicate a projected increase in demand of 89 annual job openings in TCC's service area. The five-year average supply has been approximately 42, which brings the annual workforce unmet need to 47. In response to local labor market demand and in light that elementary education is a critical shortage area, this is an opportune time for TCC to fill the void and to meet the regional employer demand.

Letters of support were provided by two institutions (Florida State University and Flagler College) in or operating in TCC's service area that offer the same baccalaureate degree program. No letters of objection or alternative proposals were received; however, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's letter was neutral on their offering this program and expressed desire to continue their 2+2 partnership.

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: Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System, Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President, Tallahassee Community College, and guests