

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
April 17, 2024

**SUBJECT:** New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

St. Petersburg College (SPC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Secondary English 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 proposed baccalaureate degree program will lead to endorsements in Reading and ESOL (grades K-12) and prepare graduates for middle and high school English teacher, English department chair, language arts specialist and instructional coach positions with the knowledge to assist in curriculum design and development.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 118 annual job openings in SPC's service area. Currently, the University of South Florida (USF) is the only public institution within SPC's service area that offers a similar degree program. However, USF's five-year average of degrees awarded is only 29.

Letters of support were provided by the president of USF as well as the Pinellas County School District and Pasco 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.

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**Documentation Included:** St. Petersburg College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Secondary English Education (under separate cover)

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System; President Tonjua Williams, St. Petersburg College, and guests