

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
October 15, 2024

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

St. Johns River State College (SJRSC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student 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 K-12 exceptional student education teachers 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 73 annual job openings in SJRSC's service district and 158 openings throughout the workforce region. Currently, there are no institutions in SJRSC's service district that offer Exceptional Student Education bachelor's degrees.

Letters of support were provided by the Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns County Commissioners and the Clay and St. Johns County School District superintendents as well as other industry partners. 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: SJRSC Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education and Appendices (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: President Joe H. Pickens, St. Johns River State College, and guests