

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of Request from Miami Dade College for a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Miami Dade College (MDC) submitted a notice of intent followed by a proposal to the Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. 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 immediate entry into multi-sector roles spanning private practices, public health clinics, educational settings, research institutions, and corporate environments in roles as Dental Hygienists with advanced clinical expertise and management skills, which will allow for career advancement as Medical and Health Services Managers. The curriculum also prepares students to continue their education towards advanced degrees in dental hygiene, dental school, or other healthcare-related fields.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 574 annual job openings in MDC's service area. There are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within MDC's service area. MDC would be the first Florida College System institution to offer Dental Hygiene as a baccalaureate degree program.

Letters of support were provided by Florida Memorial University, Florida International University, and Florida Atlantic University. Industry partners also provided letters of support, including but not limited to the American Dental Hygienist Association, the Florida Institute for Advanced Dental Education, Remote Sourcing, Abadin Dental, Gallardo Periodontics, Patterson Dental, and Gonzalez Family Dentistry. 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.

Supported Documentation Included: Miami Dade College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene and Letters of Support (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, President Madeline Pumariega, Miami Dade College, and guests