

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Programs - Tallahassee Community College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student 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 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 impetus to propose the degree program is a result of the upcoming Exceptional Student Education program closure at Flagler College's Tallahassee campus. The degree program will prepare students to become certified Exceptional Student Education teachers. The program is also designed to be certified by the Florida Department of Education's Initial Teacher Preparation Program (ITP).

Graduates will be eligible for a Florida Elementary Teacher Certification (K-12) and endorsements in Exceptional Student Education, as well as ESOL (K-12). The graduates will be qualified and prepared to teach all grade levels in a variety of school settings including public, private, charter, and virtual schools.

Data for labor market projections were not available through the Department of Economic Opportunity. However, the college extrapolated the unmet need based on the trends in the education field, which equate to 89 annual job openings in TCC's service district. Regarding the five-year average supply, FSU's similar degree program only produces an average supply of approximately 22, which brings the annual workforce unmet need to 57. TCC's program is needed to fill this critical teacher shortage area.

Letters of support were provided by three institutions (Florida State University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical 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.

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 Exceptional Student Education (under separate cover)

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