

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program - The College of the Florida Keys 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

The College of the Florida Keys (CFK) 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 students to become certified Exceptional Student Education K-12 teachers. Program graduates will be eligible to earn Florida Professional Teacher Certifications in Exceptional Student Education K-12, as well as an ESOL and Reading. Additional employment opportunities include preschool special education teacher.

Labor market projections indicate a projected demand of 182 annual job openings in CFK's service area. There are currently no other institutions that offer a similar degree program within CFK's service area. The closest institutions with a similar degree – Miami Dade College and Florida International University – have a five-year average supply of 81 graduates. Even with these graduates, CFK's service area still has an unmet need of 101 job openings.

Letters of support were provided by the former and current presidents of Florida International University as well as the Superintendent and the Executive Director of Personnel Support and Instructional Leadership of Martin County School District. 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: Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida College System, Dr. Jonathan Gueverra, President, The College of the Florida Keys, and guests