

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
June 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of Request from Lake-Sumter State College for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) submitted a notice of intent, followed by a proposal to the Florida 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 public, charter, and private schools. Graduates will be K-12 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 51 annual job openings in LSSC's service district. Currently, there are no institutions in LSSC's service district that offer Exceptional Student Education bachelor's degrees.

Letters of support were provided by the Lake County and Sumter County School District superintendents as well as by three Representatives of the House. 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.

Supporting Documentation Included: LSSC Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Kathryn Hebda, Chancellor of Florida College System; Interim President Dr. Laura Byrd, Lake-Sumter State College, and guests