

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
September 24, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Designation of Schools of Excellence

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1003.631, Florida Statutes

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section (s.) 1003.631(1)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to designate a school as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high and combination) for at least two of the last three school years.

This agenda item will approve the list of Schools of Excellence and reiterate the authority of the Commissioner of Education to designate a school, at any point during the year, as a School of Excellence if that school meets the criteria subsequent to the approval of the initial list of Schools of Excellence designated by the SBE for that school year.

A School of Excellence will have the following administrative flexibilities outlined in the law:

- exemption from any law or rule that requires a minimum period of daily or weekly instruction in reading;
- principal autonomy as provided under s. 1012.28(8), F.S.;
- instructional personnel may substitute one year of employment at the school for 20 in-service points, up to 60 points total in a five-year cycle, toward the renewal of a professional certificate;
- exemption from compliance with school district policies establishing times for the start and end of the school day; and
- calculation of class size compliance based on the average number of students at the school level.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Schools of Excellence Lists: Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, and Combination Schools

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Dr. Paul O. Burns, Senior Chancellor