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December 16, 2025

Mr. John Temple
President
Lake-Sumter State College
Office of the President
9501 U.S. Highway 441
Leesburg, Florida 34788

Dear President Temple:

The Florida Department of Education has completed the review of the program application submitted by Lake-Sumter State College that prepares preservice teachers for Elementary Education (Grades K-6)/ESOL Endorsement/Reading Endorsement program at the bachelor's degree level. Enclosed is the report prepared by the Program Review Team that conducted the review of this program. The report includes findings related to the Florida Department of Education's Initial Program Approval Standards.

Based on the recommendation of the review team and further review by the Department, **full approval** of the program indicated above is granted from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2032. Graduates of the bachelor's level program in Elementary Education (Grades K-6)/ESOL Endorsement/Reading Endorsement may receive a transcript endorsement indicating **"the completion of a state-approved program in the following certification area"**:

- Elementary Education (Grades K-6)/ESOL Endorsement/Reading Endorsement, Bachelor's level

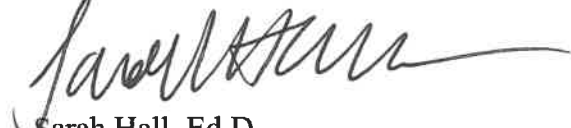
Continued state approval is contingent upon meeting the requirements outlined in Section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, and State Board Rule 6A-5.066, Florida Administrative Code. Any changes and/or improvements made within an approved program should be monitored by the institution as part of its annual review of collected data. The Department strongly encourages programs to utilize the electronic Institutional Program Evaluation Plan (eIPEP) to record any programmatic improvements made as a result of these reviews.

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
SENIOR CHANCELLOR

President John Temple
December 16, 2025
Page Two

Your continued interest in providing quality educator preparation programs in Florida is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Hall', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Hall, Ed.D.

Chief, Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention

SH/ds

Enclosures: Program Review Team Report
Full Approval Chart

cc: Dr. Stephanie Luke, Executive Director, Lake-Sumter State College
Dr. Josey McDaniel, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, Florida Department of Education
Dr. Jose Arevalo, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges
Mr. Chris Cowart, Chief, Bureau of Educator Certification, Florida Department of Education

Ben Gibson, *Chair*
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Monesia Brown
Esther Byrd
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Kelly Garcia
MaryLynn Magar

January 24, 2024

Dr. Heather Bigard
President
Lake-Sumter State College
9501 US HWY 441
Leesburg, Florida 34788

Dear President Bigard:

This letter serves as official notification that the State Board of Education, at its January 17, 2024, meeting, approved Lake-Sumter State College's proposal for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Elementary Education. For purposes of data reporting, the CIP code is 1101312021.

As you move forward with the implementation of this program, please keep Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos informed of your college's progress, including your institutional accrediting agency or association approval status for this program, any requests for common prerequisite modification and the program implementation date. You or your staff may contact Dr. Sfiropoulos via email at Mike.Sfiropoulos@fldoe.org or by phone at 850-245-9523. In addition, for the Education program, Dr. Sunny Chancy, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, will also be a resource along with her team as you prepare to seek state approval under section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, for the Educator Certification program.

Congratulations to you and your team on the addition of the BS in Elementary Education to Lake-Sumter State College's program offerings. Your work to continue to offer access to affordable high-demand workforce programs is very much appreciated. Please let us know how the Division of Florida Colleges can support you as you move forward.

Sincerely,



Kathryn S. Hebda

KSH/ms

Attachments

Cc: Ms. Karen Hogans, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Lake-Sumter State College
Dr. Clifford Humphrey, Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges

KATHRYN S. HEBDA
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR

Dr. Mike Sfiropoulos, Associate Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

January 17, 2024

SUBJECT: New Bachelor Degree Program in the Florida College System

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 Department of Education to offer a Bachelor of Science in Elementary 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 proposed baccalaureate degree program will prepare graduates for careers as elementary educators in both public and private schools. Graduates will be 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 168 annual job openings in LSSC's service area. Currently, no institutions offer a similar degree program within LSSC's service area.

Letters of support were provided by Lake and Sumter County School Board Superintendents and by local high school and charter schools as well as by members of the Florida House of Representatives. 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: Lake-Sumter State College Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Chancellor Kathy Hebda, Florida College System, President Heather Bigard, Lake-Sumter State College, and guests