



September 14, 2023

TO: THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

FROM: DR. KATHLEEN PLINSKE
President

RE: LETTER OF INTENT – BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Valencia College is interested in addressing the fact that both regionally and nationally there is a shortage of qualified Kindergarten and Elementary teachers. In our service district, the Economic Opportunity Labor Market Information projects 10.5% growth in Kindergarten and Elementary teacher job occupations in Orange and Osceola Counties with 773 annual job openings through 2029.

The College can confirm both high student interest and well documented support from Orange County Public Schools and the School District of Osceola superintendents for Valencia College to be authorized to offer the degree of Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. The College has notified our regional partners and to date has not received written comments of concern.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College approve the College's intent to develop curriculum, submit to the State Board of Education for approval, submit to the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges for approval, and to offer the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.



President

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

DBOT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2023





Workforce Demand & Current Options

- Demand for elementary school teachers is at an all-time high in Valencia's service district
- 772 projected annual job openings with an average growth of 10.5% through 2030
- University of Central Florida and Rollins College are the regionally accredited institutions in Valencia's service district offering a BS in Elementary Education

Workforce Gap + Support



- In 2021-22, the total number of graduates by UCF and Rollins College was 308, the 5-year average (2017-22) is 375 graduates
- According to the Dept. of Economic Opportunity
 - 51.5% or 397 openings for teachers are unfilled
 - Projected median annual wage is \$51,961
- Strong support from the Superintendents of Orange County Public Schools and the School District of Osceola County

- The program will be an apprenticeship model with the School Districts
- Students, employed as a paraprofessional or recruited to become a paraprofessional in the classroom, with an Associates degree and 3.0 GPA qualify for the apprenticeship while earning their B.S. degree
- Student apprentices are assigned a teacher mentor in the classroom
- Cohort model with high engagement and academic support
- Opportunities for the award of credit for on-the-job learning

Program Characteristics



- Students will learn how to develop and implement effective classroom management and instructional techniques and strategies
- The curriculum also requires the candidates to apply the knowledge by participating in “field and clinical classroom experiences” in Orange and Osceola County schools
- Curriculum includes Teaching Mathematics I & II (with 15 hrs. field experience) and ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) and Reading endorsements

Program Characteristics





Student Interest

- Students currently in A.A. pathway for Elementary Education:
 - 88% are interested in completing an elementary education bachelor degree at Valencia
- Students in other A.A. pathways for Education (Physical, Secondary, Early Childhood):
 - 73% would consider completing an elementary education bachelor degree at Valencia
- Attractive to paraprofessionals (employees who support teachers in the classroom and provide learning support), this program will allow them to earn credit while working in the classroom

Questions?