

Methodology for Identifying Education Programs for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis Tuition and Fee Waiver

Background

In June 2021, the Board of Governors selected eight Programs of Strategic Emphasis from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) category as required by section 1009.26, Florida Statutes. The 2022 Legislature amended section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, requiring the Board to select two additional Programs of Strategic Emphasis from the gap analysis category to be included in the waiver beginning in the 2022-23 Academic Year. Exhibit 1 below lists the academic programs previously selected by the Board.

Exhibit 1: Eligible Programs, 2022-23 Academic Year

| | CIP | CIP Title |
|----|---------|--|
| 1 | 11.0101 | Computer and Information Sciences |
| 2 | 11.0103 | Information Technology |
| 3 | 14.0801 | Civil Engineering |
| 4 | 14.0901 | Computer Engineering |
| 5 | 14.1001 | Electrical and Electronics Engineering |
| 6 | 27.0101 | Mathematics |
| 7 | 40.0801 | Physics |
| 8 | 52.1201 | Management Information Systems |
| 9 | 52.0301 | Accounting |
| 10 | 52.0801 | Finance |

For more detailed information about the waiver program, including student eligibility requirements, please refer to the [guidance document](#) published on the Board's website.

Identifying Education Programs that Qualify for Consideration

The 2023 Legislature further amended section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, requiring the Board to select two additional state-approved teacher preparation programs to be included in the waiver beginning in the 2023-24 Academic Year. Students enrolling in these two additional programs must meet the same requirements as the STEM and gap analysis programs selected by the Board in 2021 and 2022.

The revised statute requires the Board to select two state-approved teacher preparation programs that reflect the state's priorities and are offered at a majority of state universities at the time the Board approves the program. Board staff began the process of identifying qualifying programs by reviewing the State University System Academic Program Inventory and the education programs recognized by the Florida Department of Education

as state-approved teacher preparation programs.¹ The list of programs was further refined by identifying programs offered at seven or more institutions, which resulted in three eligible programs. These programs, shown in Exhibit 2 below, are the only programs from which the Board must select the two programs as required by statute.

Exhibit 2: Eligible Education Programs

| CIP | CIP Title | Area | # Institutions Offering Program |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 13.1001 | Special Education and Teaching | Education | 9 |
| 13.1202 | Elementary Education and Teaching | Education | 10 |
| 13.1312 | Music Teacher Education | Education | 9 |

Source: Board of Governors staff analysis of the [State University System Academic Program Inventory](#) and the [Educator Preparation Programs approved by the Florida Department of Education](#) for each university.

Estimating the Fiscal Impact of the Education Programs

Board staff estimated the fiscal impact range for each eligible education program based on fall 2021 waiver amounts granted and fall 2021 upper-division resident enrollment data, as that was the most recent data available at the time of the analysis. Exhibit 3 below details the final results of the fiscal impact analysis.

Exhibit 3: Estimated Fiscal Impact per Term

| CIP | CIP Title | Low Estimated Waiver Cost Per Term | High Estimated Waiver Cost Per Term |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13.1001 | Special Education and Teaching | \$177,300 | \$216,700 |
| 13.1202 | Elementary Education and Teaching | \$1,222,560 | \$1,494,240 |
| 13.1312 | Music Teacher Education | \$211,770 | \$258,830 |

Source: Board of Governors staff analysis of data provided by the Budget Office.

Method for Selecting the Two Education Programs

Board staff gathered relevant data points for the three eligible education programs, including program enrollment data from the fall of 2022 and an updated workforce gap calculation. Staff completed a gap analysis to determine the relative need in the workforce for graduates from each program by analyzing a subset of relevant occupations related to the three academic programs based on the National Center for Education Statistics CIP to

¹ <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/preparation/initial-teacher-preparation-programs/approved-teacher-education-programs.stml>

SOC crosswalk and the Florida CIP to SOC crosswalk. The methodology used for performing this specialized gap analysis is comparable to the documented gap analysis process used for the Programs of Strategic Emphasis.²

This analysis is consistent with the previous analyses used to select the other waiver programs. The method included prioritizing programs with the most significant workforce gaps, aiming to recognize the greatest need in the marketplace, and programs with the lowest enrollment, with the goal being to incentivize enrollment in the least populous programs. The final ranking combines the two approaches using a scoring rubric to evaluate the workforce gap and enrollment data simultaneously when considering the programs. Exhibit 4 shows the data considered for this step.

Exhibit 4: Eligible Education Programs with Relevant Selection Criteria

| CIP | CIP Title | Composite Score: Gap & Enrollment | Gap 2023 | Gap Score | Enrollment Fall 2022 | Upper Division Resident Enrollment Score |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| 13.1001 | Special Education and Teaching | 4 | 570 | 1 | 556 | 3 |
| 13.1202 | Elementary Education and Teaching | 4 | 2,136 | 3 | 2,550 | 1 |
| 13.1312 | Music Teacher Education | 4 | 1,271 | 2 | 570 | 2 |

Source: Board of Governors staff analysis of data provided by the Office of Data Analytics and internal gap analysis for selected programs/occupations.

This methodology resulted in a three-way tie for the programs under consideration, as shown by the composite scores in Exhibit 4. Therefore, Board staff reviewed the "Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2022-23" report published by the Florida Department of Education.³ Exhibit 5 shows that based on the Department's rankings, Special Education and Teaching, CIP 13.1001, and Elementary Education and Teaching, CIP 13.1202, have the most critical shortages. Board staff recommends using the Florida Department of Education's Critical Teacher Shortage List rankings to select the two education programs eligible for the tuition and fee waiver.

² The gap analysis methodology can be found at https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/SPC_06d_2019_Gap_Analysis_Methodology_CE.pdf

³ <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20042/urlt/7-2.pdf>

Exhibit 5: Eligible Education Programs and Critical Teacher Shortage Ranking

| CIP | CIP Title | Critical Teacher Shortage Ranking |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 13.1001 | Special Education and Teaching | 2 |
| 13.1202 | Elementary Education and Teaching | 20 |
| 13.1312 | Music Teacher Education | 24 |

Source: "Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2022-23," by the Florida Department of Education.