



EXHIBIT "L"

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Item 5.2.11

PRESENT TO BOARD: JUNE 29, 2026

TO: SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: FRED HAWKINS 

SUBJECT: DUAL ENROLLMENT – SCHOOL BOARD OF HARDEE COUNTY

Approval is requested to renew the dual enrollment agreement between Hardee County School Board and South Florida State College for the purpose of providing dual enrollment opportunities to Hardee County. This agreement renews annually.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Move to approve the agreement between School Board of Hardee County and South Florida State College as presented.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA
AND
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**

2026-2029

Florida Statute 1007.271 requires the annual development of dual enrollment agreements between colleges and school districts to provide acceleration mechanisms for dual-enrolled high school students.

South Florida State College, hereafter referred to as the “college,” and The School Board of Polk County, Florida, hereafter referred to as the “school district,” desire to enter into this Dual Enrollment Agreement as part of a commitment to work together in a spirit of unity to meet the educational needs of the students of Polk Virtual School, Frostproof, Fort Meade, and Bartow High Schools.

The school district and the college president shall each appoint a representative who shall act as the liaison for their agency. These individuals shall be the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services at the college and the Superintendent’s designee(s) for the school district. In addition, the following individuals or their designees shall assist in the planning, supervision, and evaluation of articulated activities and programs.

Members shall include:

The College

Vice President, Academic Affairs
Vice President, Student Services
Dean, Off-Campus Instructional Sites
Coordinator, Technical Dual Enrollment

School District

Superintendent’s Designee

Each year the articulation team shall review this agreement and the performance of parties to assure the agreement continues to serve the mutual interests of all concerned.

Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by delivery of written notice not less than ninety (90) days before the effective date of termination.

The term of this agreement shall commence **July 1, 2026**, and end **June 30, 2029**.

ARTICLE I: RATIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS

The signing of this agreement attests to the ratification of all existing agreements between the school district and the college.

ARTICLE II: PROGRAM DEFINITION

Section 1007.271, F.S. defines dual enrollment as the enrollment of an eligible student or home education student in a postsecondary course that is creditable toward both high school completion and a career

The School Board of Polk County, Florida Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2025-2028

certificate, associate, or baccalaureate degree. Dual enrollment students are exempt from the payment of matriculation, tuition, and laboratory fees.

Early admission, an additional dual enrollment mechanism, allows high school students to enroll in the college on a full-time basis. A full-time student is classified as a student enrolled in twelve or more semester credit hours, or twenty-four or more clock hours per week. F.S. 1007.271 (10), also states full time as a minimum of 12 credit hours. Each student participating in an early college program must enter into a student performance contract which must be signed by the student, the parent, and a representative of the school district and the college. The performance contract must include the schedule of courses, by semester; student attendance requirements; and course grade requirements, according to F.S. 1007.273(3). Participation in early admission technical dual enrollment is limited to those students who have completed a minimum of four semesters of full-time secondary enrollment.

Dual enrollment students may take courses offered through the SFSC Honors Program with the permission of the Honors Director or Counselor. All Honors Program courses completed with a grade of A or B will be counted toward the requirements for graduation from the Honors Program, should the student elect to matriculate to SFSC after high school graduation, and be accepted into the Honors Program. For additional information, please contact SFSC Honors Director Jason Fitzgerald at 863-784-7247 or Jason.Fitzgerald@southflorida.edu.

ARTICLE III: NOTIFICATION OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS

The school district shall inform eligible secondary students and their parents or guardian of dual enrollment as an educational option and mechanism for acceleration, including eligibility criteria, a statement of the potential for dual enrollment coursework beyond the regular school year, a statement of the potential for dual enrollment to articulate as an elective or a general education course in a postsecondary degree or certificate program, and the process by which students and parents exercise their option to participate in dual enrollment. This information shall be provided to parents in written mailout and web formats and included annually in each high school's district pupil progression plan and high school program of study. Parents will indicate their permission for students to engage in dual enrollment studies by signing the dual enrollment application form.

ARTICLE IV: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Eligibility Requirements

Students who wish to take college credit or technical dual enrollment courses must be eligible as defined by F.S. 1007.271 (2), complete and/or meet the following criteria in preparation for enrollment:

- Meet with their high school counselor to establish eligibility and develop a plan of study.
- College credit students must meet with the college advisor or counselor to establish their degree plan, including course requirements and intended transfer institution.
- Meet GPA eligibility requirements of a 3.0 unweighted high school GPA for college transfer and 2.0 unweighted high school GPA for technical credit programs.
- Students must take the PERT, SAT, CLT, or ACT before being advised for dual enrollment. Students who have been identified as deficient in basic competencies in one of the areas of reading, writing, or mathematics, as determined by scores on one of these placement exams shall not be permitted to enroll in college credit courses in curriculum areas precluded by the deficiency. Students may enroll in college credit courses that are not precluded by the deficiency; however, students may not earn more than twelve college credit hours before correcting all deficiencies. Exceptions to the twelve (12) college credit hour limitation may be granted by the

The School Board of Polk County, Florida Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2025-2028

postsecondary institution provided that the dual enrollment student is concurrently enrolled in a secondary course(s) in the basic competency area(s) for which they have been deemed deficient by the postsecondary readiness assessment or alternative method. (SBE Rule 6A-14.064 (b).

- Students enrolled in technical credit courses must take the PERT or TABE examination.
- Have parental approval to take dual enrollment courses.
- Complete the dual enrollment application and the college admissions application.
- Complete the registration process outlined in the *Dual Enrollment Parent and Student Handbook* (available on the college website <http://www.southflorida.edu/future-students/dual-enrollment>.) Parents and students should review the *Dual Enrollment Parent and Student Handbook* before the first class.
- Complete a new student orientation session.

Testing

College credit dual-enrolled students will be required to complete the PERT, ACT, CLT, or SAT and may not be enrolled as a dual-enrolled students unless they have demonstrated adequate pre-collegiate preparation on the required sections of the PERT, ACT, CLT, or SAT. Technical dual enrollment students will take the PERT or TABE assessment.

Testing may be administered on the high school campus or at the college campus. Students who do not achieve appropriate scores must complete remediation before the next attempt.

The college will provide test results for individual students and aggregate reports as requested by the high school. The high school will provide PERT, ACT, CLT, and/or SAT scores to the college for qualified dual enrollment students tested at the high school.

Availability of Programs and Courses

Dual-enrolled students should meet with a college advisor to establish their intended college major and establish a customized program of study that delineates the college courses that will best assist the student in meeting their educational goals. For the college transfer student, many of the courses needed are general education courses including humanities, communications, mathematics, science, and social sciences. If the student identifies a baccalaureate degree as the educational goal the plan must include courses that will meet the general education requirements and any prerequisite requirements for entrance into a selected baccalaureate degree program. For technical education students, courses will be directly related to the certificate or associate degree programs they are enrolled in. Developmental courses are excluded from this agreement.

All high school students are highly encouraged to limit dual enrollment to those courses required for their anticipated college program to avoid excess hours. The accumulation of excess college hours may affect the future availability of financial aid after high school graduation.

High school seniors who choose to earn all high school credit requirements prior to the Spring term of their senior year may continue to take dual enrollment classes in their Spring term, provided the college class(es) apply as elective credit for high school and the end date of the college class(es) is prior to the student's high school graduation date.

Course content, requirements, and evaluation processes for dual enrollment courses are identical whether taught on the college campus or the high school campus. A list of the programs and courses available for dual enrollment is listed on the website <http://www.southflorida.edu/future-students/dual-enrollment>

The School Board of Polk County, Florida Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2025-2028

under the Course Equivalency List. Dual enrollment college credit courses shall be those courses that are recommended to the State Board of Education by the State Articulation Coordinating Committee as meeting high school graduation requirements and published as the statewide Dual Enrollment Equivalency List.

Students eligible for dual enrollment shall be permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses conducted during school hours, after school hours, and during the summer term. Selective programs are not typically eligible for dual enrollment. Students enrolled in dual enrollment courses shall earn both high school credit and college credit if they meet the minimum requirements for satisfactory completion of their dual enrollment course(s).

Students with an unweighted high school GPA of 2.0 may be granted conditional admission to enroll in SLS 1501: Master Student/College Success. Students must be in good standing in their current English Language Arts and Mathematics courses, earning a grade of C or higher, to maintain eligibility for SLS 1501. A minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0 is required to enroll in any other college credit courses.

Exceptions

Students scheduled to graduate from high school before the conclusion of the college course are ineligible for dual enrollment.

Accommodations

Students with IEP or 504 Plans who wish to request accommodations may submit the appropriate paperwork, such as an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 plan, or other appropriate medical or psychological documentation to the college's Disability Specialist so that accommodations can be arranged in accordance with the laws governing students with disabilities at postsecondary institutions. The secondary institution will provide the information to the college at the student's request. Accommodations will not be granted retroactively, so students should submit appropriate paperwork as early as possible. For more information, contact, disabilities.specialist@southflorida.edu. Cost incurred from any services provided will be the school district's responsibility.

Some of the academic accommodations that the College provides to students with disabilities may include but are not limited to the following: accessible furniture, testing accommodations, note takers, assistive equipment, assistive technology software, alternate format materials, scribes and readers.

Institutional Responsibilities

Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes will be subject to the student policies and procedures on both the school district and college campuses. Should a conflict be identified as a result of either institution's policies or procedures, the school district and/or college will notify each other of behavioral infractions and will jointly resolve the conflict while providing due process for students.

The college will assign letter grades to each student enrolled in a dual enrollment course. The letter grade assigned by the college will be sent to the high school Registrar and posted to the student's high school transcript. College grades are not weighted on college transcripts but may be weighted on high school records.

Student Responsibilities

The School Board of Polk County, Florida Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2025-2028

Dual enrollment students must meet the academic requirements of a minimum of 3.0 unweighted high school GPA for college credit courses and 2.0 unweighted high school GPA for technical education courses. This GPA must be maintained from term to term for students to continue in dual enrollment coursework and will be monitored by the high school guidance staff assigned to dual enrollment advising.

Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes and their parents will be informed of college-level course expectations through information sessions at the college campus or the *Dual Enrollment Parent and Student Handbook* available on the college website at <http://www.southflorida.edu/future-students/dual-enrollment>. The information in these sessions will include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Any letter grade below “C” will not count toward satisfaction of the requirements in Rule 6A 10.030, F.A.C.
- b. All course grades are calculated in a student’s college GPA and will appear on the permanent college transcript.
- c. All grades, including “W” for withdrawal, become a part of the student’s permanent college transcript and may affect subsequent postsecondary admission and subsequent financial aid award and eligibility.
- d. College-level course materials and class discussions may reflect topics not typically included in secondary courses. Courses will not be modified to accommodate variations in dual enrollment student age and/or maturity.
- e. The selection of courses should meet both high school and college degree requirements, including approved program prerequisite courses, to minimize student and state costs for excess hours. Students should take college courses that are a part of their college degree plan in order not to jeopardize future financial aid and/or scholarship opportunities.
- f. Students must maintain good academic standing at the college to continue in dual enrollment courses. Students must make a “C” or better in dual enrollment classes, and maintain a high school 3.0 GPA (unweighted) for college credit or 2.0 GPA (unweighted) for technical programs.
- g. Students below the required high school GPA will be ineligible for dual enrollment.
- h. Students who are unsuccessful in a college level course (D, F, or W) must sit out for one term prior to re-enrollment as a dual enrolled student and may be charged for a retake of that class by the school district. Students may appeal the suspension if they believe there were extenuating circumstances beyond their control (i.e. illness, injury, computer failure, loss of transportation, etc.). Students should speak with their DE advisor and high school guidance counselor. The county school board superintendent or designee will have the final decision in regards to this appeal.
- i. Students must follow the deadlines posted in the college academic calendar if they wish to drop or withdraw from a class. Like registration, all drops or withdrawals must be handled through both the high school guidance counselor and the college registrar’s office. Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes must coordinate dropping and/or adding courses through their high school guidance office and dual enrollment advisor.
- j. Students who fail dual enrollment courses must retake the course and pass the course before enrollment in another dual enrollment course.

The School Board of Polk County, Florida Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2025-2028

Course Materials

The college shall select textbooks used in dual enrollment courses. Every effort will be made to maintain a textbook for three years or until a new edition is required. Costs associated with required textbooks for classes will be invoiced to the School Board. The textbooks shall be the property of the school district. Students who obtain textbooks directly from the college bookstore must present a signed, approved textbook voucher. Summer course textbook payment is the responsibility of the college.

Students who do not return textbooks to the school district or college may be billed for the cost of the book(s).

Fees

Any student enrolled in approved dual enrollment courses is exempt from the payment of registration and laboratory fees. Fees will not be waived for graduating seniors who must enroll in courses that extend into the summer term at the college.

Students who earn a D, F, or W in a class may be charged tuition by the school district for the retake of that class.

Transportation

Students will be required to provide their own transportation to and from dual enrollment classes on the college campus.

ARTICLE V: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual programs are sponsored by the college to provide a forum for school district high school counselors to engage in staff development opportunities and collaborate in development of strategies to support postsecondary student transition.

ARTICLE VI: DUAL ENROLLMENT EVALUATION

The articulation management team shall annually assess and analyze the effectiveness of mechanisms and strategies set forth in the agreement and report the results of such analyses to the District Boards of the school district and college. Analysis shall include: identified problems, corrective actions, strategies, and associated costs.

ARTICLE VII: FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Both the school district and the college shall be eligible for FTE funding by Florida law and rules.

This agreement is subject to all pertinent state and federal laws and regulations of the Department of Education, State of Florida, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and all regulations, rules, and guidelines promulgated thereunder. The parties expressly agree to maintain records in compliance with the Florida Public Records Act subject only to the privacy rights guaranteed by applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The violation of any federal or state law or regulation in the conduct of this Agreement may constitute a breach of this Agreement.

The School Board of Polk County, Florida Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement 2025-2028

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects students' rights to privacy regarding their student records. FERPA governs (1) the release of education records maintained by educational institutions and (2) access to these records. All college students have rights under FERPA, even those who are younger than 18 years of age. FERPA protects the education records of students who are attending or who have attended the college and all records directly related to a student that are maintained by the institution. A signed Consent to Release Records form must be on file in the Registrar's Office for someone other than the student to gain access to student records. Only the specific person designated by the student may request access to student information.

Pursuant to Florida Statute 1007.271 (22), the college will complete an electronic submission of this dual enrollment agreement by August 1 of each year to the Florida College System/FLDOE.

ARTICLE VIII: INDEMNIFICATION

It is expressly understood by both parties that neither party has authority or control over the other party's employees, officers, or agents. The parties will hold each other harmless for claims involving actions or services provided by their own employees, faculty, and students. Each party will be liable for property damage and/or bodily injury pursuant to this agreement and which occur as a direct result of negligence of each party's agents or employees.

All parties to this agreement are "state agencies or subdivisions" as the term is defined in Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the liability of each is therefore limited to sovereign immunity limits of \$200,000 per person, \$300,000 per occurrence in accordance with Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

ARTICLE IX: TUITION

As per Florida Statute 1007.271: "School districts shall pay the standard tuition rate (\$71.98 per credit hour, \$2.33 per contact hour for fall and spring terms) from funds provided in the Florida Education Finance Program to the institution providing instruction when such instruction takes place on the postsecondary campus to cover instructional and support costs incurred by the postsecondary institution."

Summer dual enrollment tuition and textbook costs will be covered by the state.

IN WITNESS THEREOF: The parties hereto set their respective hands and seals and cause this Agreement to be executed.

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA


Fred Hawkins
President

Board Chair Date

6/29/26
Date

Frederick Heid
Superintendent Date