



EXHIBIT "M"

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Item 5.2.12

PRESENT TO BOARD: JUNE 29, 2026

TO: SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: FRED HAWKINS 

SUBJECT: DUAL ENROLLMENT – SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY

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

SUGGESTED MOTION:

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

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

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

DUAL ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY AND SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

2026-2029

Florida Statute 1007.271 requires the annual development of dual enrollment agreements between the Florida College System president and the superintendent of schools within the college's service district for the purpose of providing acceleration mechanisms for dual-enrolled high school students. This agreement is to be completed and submitted annually to the Department of Education on or before August 1 of each year.

The School Board of Highlands County, hereinafter referred to as the "school district," and the Board of Trustees of South Florida State College, herein referred to as the "college," desire to implement the above statute. To facilitate this process, an articulation committee with representation from the school district and the college shall be established.

The school district superintendent 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 individuals mentioned below for the school district. In addition, the following individuals or their designees, may assist in the planning, supervision, and evaluation of all 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

Director of CTE
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Administrator for the Highlands Career Institute

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

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

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

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

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 are listed on the website <https://www.southflorida.edu/future-students/dual-enrollment> under 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.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

Institutional Responsibility

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.

Dual enrollment classes held on the high school campus may not be combined with any non-college credit high school course with the exception of joint dual enrollment and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, as outlined in SBE Rule 6A-14.064(1)(c). In these cases, students must comply with the add/drop policies and deadlines of the postsecondary institution. A student who elects to enroll in an AP course that is jointly offered with a dual enrollment course may not earn postsecondary credit for that course through dual enrollment.

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

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 high school or college campus. The information in these sessions will include, but not limited to the following:

- a) Any letter grade below "C" will not count toward satisfaction of the requirements in Rule 6A-10.030.
- 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.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY
AND
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**

2026-2029

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

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Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

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 college 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 or web formats, and included annually in each 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.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

The college will work with the school district to provide a parent and student orientation and information session during the spring and fall Parent Night and will coordinate inquiries from parents and students with the high school guidance staff as appropriate.

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 the following, and meet the following criteria in preparation for enrollment.

- Meet with their high school counselor to express interest, establish eligibility, and develop a plan of study.
- Have parental approval to take dual enrollment courses.
- Complete the registration process outlined in the *Dual Enrollment Parent and Student Handbook* (available on the college website www.southflorida.edu/future-students/dual-enrollment). Parents and students should review the *Dual Enrollment Parent and Student Handbook* prior to the first class.

Meet with the high school counselor to discuss options and obtain a Guidance Approval form with GPA and counselor signature.

- Students must take the PERT, CLT, ACT, or SAT college preparatory test 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 postsecondary readiness assessment 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 prior to the correction of all deficiencies. Exceptions to the twelve (12) college credit hour limitation may be granted by the 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(1)(b)).
- Students enrolled in technical credit courses must take the PERT or TABE examination.
- Complete a new student orientation session.
- College credit students must meet with the college advisor or counselor to establish their degree plan which includes course requirements and intended transfer institutions.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

- 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.

Supports

- The Elementary Education Pathways at Avon Park High School (APHS), Sebring High School (SHS) and Lake Placid High School (LPHS) will provide a cohort model which provides built in student supports.
- Schools will support students with a 2.5 GPA with a special advisement period, study hall, or pair the students with a mentor who supports college level classes.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in before and/or after school tutoring and have access to a homework hotline.
- Elementary Education Pathways teachers at APHS, SHS, and LPHS will utilize the Bachelor of Science of Elementary Education Disposition Rubric to assess individual students' strengths and characteristics for success in elementary education course work.

Testing

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

The high school or college may administer the PERT to those students applying for dual enrollment. The school principal or designee will coordinate the administration of dual enrollment PERT testing with the college's Testing Center. Testing may be administered on the high school campus or at the college campus. Students who do not achieve appropriate scores must complete remediation prior to 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, CLT, ACT, or SAT test 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 educational courses including humanities, communication, 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.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

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

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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.

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- a) Any letter grade below "C" will not count toward satisfaction of the requirements in Rule 6A-10.030.
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- 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.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

- e) The selection of courses should meet both high school and college degree requirements, including approved program prerequisite courses, in order to minimize student and state costs for excess hours. Students should take college courses which 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 high school and 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.

Faculty

The articulation management team recommends qualified faculty for dual enrollment classes. All faculty members must meet or exceed the academic and professional preparation requirements for teaching at the college. Faculty teaching college credit courses must have completed at least eighteen (18) graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline and hold at least a master's degree. Faculty members teaching technical education courses typically have completed an associate's degree with appropriate work experience. The college shall credential and appoint all instructors. If no high school teacher qualifies as an adjunct instructor, a college faculty may be assigned when available.

If school district instructors are used for high school campus dual enrollment courses, they will be paid by the school district and credentialed and supervised for teaching the dual enrollment course by the college. For those faculty members teaching at the college campus, or for college faculty members teaching on a high school campus, they will be credentialed and supervised by the college. Per Florida Statute 1007.271(21)(n)(1), if a college faculty member teaches on a high school campus, the school district shall reimburse the costs associated with the college's proportion of salary and benefits to provide the instruction.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

Each adjunct faculty member will be assigned to a designated chairperson or program manager for mentoring and guidance. The college shall provide each dual enrollment faculty member with a copy of the course syllabus that identifies course requirements and outcomes. A copy of the *Dual Enrollment Parent and Student Handbook*, *SFSC Student Handbook*, and *Faculty Handbook* are available for each instructor on the college website.

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. Textbooks and instructional materials must be the same or comparable with those used by the college campus with the same course prefix and number. Payment for required textbooks for classes conducted on the high school campuses or on the college campus will be through the district, with the exception of summer courses. Summer course textbook payment is the responsibility of the college. The textbooks purchased by the school district shall be the property of the school district.

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

Instructional materials used in dual enrollment courses must be the same as, or comparable to, those used in college-level coursework. Course requirements, such as texts, papers, or other assignments must be at the same level of rigor or depth as those for all non-dual-enrolled postsecondary students.

Program Evaluation

Dual enrollment taught on the high school campus must meet the same competencies required for courses taught on the college campus. College staff will evaluate instruction and monitor student performance in all dual enrollment classes using the same criteria for judging instructional quality as is in effect for all college classes. The college will provide a Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) each term to evaluate all college courses on the high school and/or college campus.

Fees

Any student enrolled in approved dual enrollment courses is exempt from the payment of registration, textbooks, 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.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

For all other transportation services requested, such as field trips, the school district will charge the college the same in-house rate charged to district schools. The school district will invoice the college for the transportation services after each approved service request, and payment is to be made within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

Facilities Usage

The college and school district agree to share educational facilities to benefit students and programs at no cost or at a reduced cost reimbursement rate whenever appropriate. A reduced cost per day for use of the Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts or Panther Gym will be assessed for other school district activities contingent upon availability. The college will invoice the school district after each approved event and payment is to be made within 30 days of receipt of invoice.

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: CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

The school district and the college will collaborate to assist K-12 students in transitioning to postsecondary education, emphasizing the importance of foundational skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.

ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL AID PLANNING

The college shall provide information sessions and brochures relating to financial aid planning and scholarship availability to high school seniors. The college will offer academic scholarships to graduating high school seniors according to established criteria.

ARTICLE VIII: 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 IX: FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

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

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

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 the agreement may constitute a breach of the agreement.

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 and 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 X: 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 XI: TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

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. When dual enrollment is provided on the high school site by postsecondary institution faculty, the school district shall reimburse the costs associated with the proportion of salary and benefits and other actual costs of the postsecondary institution to provide the instruction. When dual enrollment is provided on the high school site by school district faculty, the school district shall be responsible only for the postsecondary institutions actual cost associated with the program".

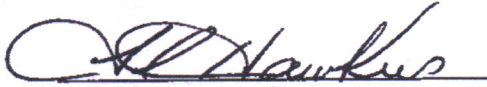
Summer dual enrollment tuition and textbook costs will be covered by the state.

Highlands County Dual Enrollment Agreement 2025-2028

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

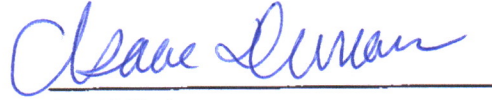
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

SCHOOL BOARD OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY



Fred Hawkins
President

6/29/26
Date



Board Chair

July 14, 2026
Date



Dr. Brenda Longshore
Superintendent

July 14, 2026
Date