



Ben Gibson, *Chair*
Ryan Petty, *Vice Chair*
Members
Monesia Brown
Esther Byrd
Grazie Pozo Christie
Kelly Garcia
MaryLynn Magar

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: March 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Designation of the 2022-23 Schools of Excellence

Contact Information:

Holly Edenfield
850-245-0509
Holly.Edenfield@fldoe.org
DPS: 2024-43

The State Board of Education approved the list of Schools of Excellence at their March 27, 2024, meeting. [Section \(s.\) 1003.631\(1\)\(a\), Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#), requires the State Board to designate a school as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80th percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high and combination) for at least two of the last three school years.

This program was created by the Florida Legislature in 2017. Schools that initially qualify for the designation retain their designation as a School of Excellence for up to three years, at the end of which they may renew the designation. Factors that impacted the designations are explained below.

Pursuant to Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02, schools were not issued grades for the 2020-21 school year unless they opted in to receive their grade for all statutory purposes. Schools that did not opt in retained their existing School of Excellence designations for the 2020-21 school year. Schools that chose not to opt in for the 2020-21 school year that were in year three in 2020-21 and retained their School of Excellence status, needed to qualify again in 2021-22 to renew their designation.

Additionally, pursuant to [section 1008.34, F.S.](#), as amended by [Senate Bill 1048 \(2022\)](#), the 2022-23 school grades incorporate results from the new statewide assessments aligned to the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, which include the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) and B.E.S.T.-aligned end-of-course (EOC) assessments. Given this, the school grades for 2022-23 serve as an informational baseline, and schools that were designated as a School of Excellence for the 2021-22 school year retained their status for the 2022-23 school year. Schools that were not on the list in the 2021-22 school year, but met all qualifications based on their 2022-23 informational baseline school grade, were designated as a School of Excellence for the 2022-23 school year.

Districts with a School of Excellence are listed on page two. The list of schools is posted with the State Board of Education meeting materials at www.fldoe.org/board/meetings.

In 2022-23, 783 schools were designated as a School of Excellence. Of these schools, 658 maintained their designation from 2021-22, 37 renewed their designation, and 88 were newly designated in 2022-23 by meeting the requirements for the first time.

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A School of Excellence will have the following administrative flexibilities outlined in the law:

- exemption from any provision of law or rule that expressly requires a minimum period of daily or weekly instruction in reading;
- principal autonomy as provided under s. 1012.28(8), F.S.;
- instructional personnel may substitute one school year of employment at a School of Excellence for 20 inservice points, up to 60 inservice points total in a five-year cycle, toward the renewal of a professional certificate;
- exemption from compliance with school district policies or procedures establishing times for the start and end of the school day; and
- calculation of class size compliance based on the average number of students at the school level.

Districts with a School of Excellence:

- Alachua
- Baker
- Bay
- Brevard
- Broward
- Charlotte
- Clay
- Collier
- Columbia
- Miami-Dade
- Dixie
- Duval
- Escambia
- Flagler
- Gadsden
- Gilchrist
- Glades
- Hernando
- Hillsborough
- Indian River
- Jackson
- Lafayette
- Lake
- Lee
- Leon
- Levy
- Liberty
- Manatee
- Marion
- Martin
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Okaloosa
- Orange
- Osceola
- Palm Beach
- Pasco
- Pinellas
- Polk
- Putnam
- St. Johns
- St. Lucie
- Santa Rosa
- Sarasota
- Seminole
- Sumter
- Taylor
- Union
- Volusia
- Wakulla
- Walton
- FAU Lab School
- FSU Lab School

Congratulations to these districts and schools.

Note: The Commissioner of Education may designate a school, at any point during the year, as a School of Excellence if that school meets the criteria subsequent to the approval of the initial list of Schools of Excellence designated by the State Board of Education for that school year.