

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Action Item  
October 16, 2007

**SUBJECT: Approval of Appointments to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approve Appointments to the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

HB 135 created Section 1002.335, Florida Statutes, which established the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission as a charter school authorizing entity. The Florida Schools of Excellence Commission is an "independent, state-level charter school authorizing entity working in collaboration with the Department of Education and under the supervision of the State Board of Education."

According to Section 1002.335(3)(b), Florida Statutes:

The commission shall be appointed by the State Board of Education and shall be composed of three appointees recommended by the Governor, two appointees recommended by the President of the Senate, and two appointees recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each recommend a list of no fewer than two nominees for any appointment to the commission. The appointments shall be made as soon as feasible but no later than September 1, 2006. Each member shall serve a term of 2 years; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms, of the initial appointments, three members shall be appointed to 1-year terms and four members shall be appointed to 2-year terms. Thereafter, each appointee shall serve a 2-year term unless the State Board of Education, after review, extends the appointment. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, it shall be filled by the State Board of Education from a recommendation by the appropriate authority according to the procedure set forth in this paragraph. The members of the commission shall annually vote to appoint a chair and a vice chair. Each member of the commission must hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and the commission must include individuals who have experience in finance,

administration, law, education, and school governance.

House of Representatives Speaker Marco Rubio has nominated Hugo Arza and Eduardo Gomez for the vacancy created when former Commission member Rudy Rodriguez became Executive Director of the Commission. Additionally, Senate President Ken Pruitt has nominated Charles Dodge and Gene Waddell for the one-year vacancy now open due to the completion of John Lewis' term.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Nominations by the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate

**Facilitators/Presenters:** N/A