

WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Board of County Commissioners

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To Whom It May Concern,

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners supports the Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment & Workforce Center Expansion at the Northwest Florida State College South Walton Campus. We believe this project deserves support because of the community need, the established track record of success, and its innovative model that will be a national example of a successful secondary and postsecondary partnership education.

As representatives of Walton County, we understand first-hand the dire need for a higher educational presence in this county to meet the county's current and future need for a highly skilled and educated workforce. Walton County is among the fastest growing counties in the state of Florida and the entire nation. Currently, dual enrolled high school students, and others seeking college level courses and workforce training, must travel 45-60 minutes each way to neighboring counties. As travel time increases with continued population growth, the ability to offer dual enrollment to Walton County high school students will be lessened unless a dual enrollment center is established to offer in person college level courses in Walton County.


Seacoast Collegiate High School ("SCHS") has a track record of success and is at capacity in its current facilities. SCHS is the high school component of The Seaside School, Inc., which opened in 1996. The Seaside School, Inc. is the oldest continually operating public charter school in the state of Florida. Most recently, the school was recognized as the #1 combination charter school in the state of Florida based on 2021-2022 school year state test results. SCHS, which opened in 2013 as the first and only full time dual-enrollment high school in Walton County, has consistently produced a 100% graduation rate.

SCHS and Northwest Florida State College ("NWFSC") are partnering to build a dual enrollment and workforce educational center at the South Walton County campus of NWFSC which will offer all college level classes necessary for Walton County high school students to obtain their A.A. or A.S. degrees in Walton County from in-person instructors. The dual enrollment educational model is a proven success which allows high school students to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate college degree at no cost to the student

or their family. This model creates a college educated workforce in the same time as it would traditionally take to produce high school graduates. The new campus will also include a facility called the Accelerator which will house a workforce/business incubation center and offer training, mentoring, and collaboration to area businesses and entrepreneurs. The invigorated college campus in Walton County will improve access to educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, local business employment and internship opportunities, and offer expanded curriculum and career-technical certificates.

This public charter school has been innovating since it began in 1996. Its partnership with NWFSC to create the new Dual Enrollment & Workforce Center is yet another chapter in its innovation which will become a national model, while also transforming this special region of Walton County.

Respectfully,



Daniel "Danny" Glidewell, Chairman
Walton County Board of County Commissioners