

Resolution 2020-2021C

Resolution to Approve New Degree, Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education, and New Major, Elementary Education (PK-6)

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading:

October 26, 2020

Faculty Senate:

Staff Senate:

Graduate Student Assembly:

Student Government Association:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Fall 2021

First Effective Date to Graduate: Spring 2023

WHEREAS, Virginia PK-12 schools began the 2016-2017 school year with more than 1000 teacher vacancies; and

WHEREAS, there is a current documented shortage of qualified PK-12 teachers both nationally and within the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, former Governor Terry McAuliffe signed an executive order in December 2017 directing the state education board to adopt emergency rules to allow colleges to again offer four-year undergraduate degrees in teaching; and

WHEREAS, according to the *2020-2021 Ten Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia* provided by the Commonwealth, Elementary Education is the second most in-need licensure area, only behind Special Education, and

WHEREAS, the School of Education (SOE) is committed to providing coursework and experiential learning fitting the VT-shaped curriculum to produce licensable graduates with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of highly qualified PK-12 educators thereby addressing the noted state teacher vacancies; and

WHEREAS, no new resources will be required to initiate this new Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education with a Major in Elementary Education (PK-6) due to redeveloping existing courses and utilizing current undergraduate initiatives to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, letters of support have been received from all departments whose courses SOE students would take; and

WHEREAS, the new Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education with a Major in Elementary Education (PK-6) would be an identifiable curriculum that clearly signals the expertise and career focus of educator preparation; and

WHEREAS, the new Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education with a Major in Elementary Education (PK-6) is anticipated to initially attract 25-30 additional students per year interested in pursuing careers in PK-6 teaching to Virginia Tech.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the new Bachelor of Science in Education in Elementary Education with a Major in Elementary Education (PK-6) be approved effective Fall 2021 and the proposal forwarded to the President, the Board of Visitors, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval, and to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for notification.