

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the Seacoast Collegiate High School Dual Enrollment and Workforce Center Expansion Project at the Northwest Florida State College South Walton Campus. This project is a collaboration between Seaside School, Inc and Northwest Florida State College. I believe that this effort deserves our support because it has an established track record of success, meets a community need of serving more students and fostering a vibrant community setting for civic activity and discourse, and is proposing an innovative model that will be a national example of a successful secondary and postsecondary partnership education.

Seaside School, Inc was established in 1996 and is the oldest operating charter school in the state of Florida. Seacoast Collegiate High School opened its doors in 2013 as the high school component of Seaside School, Inc. Seaside School, Inc students are enrolled at the Seaside Neighborhood School in grades 5-8 and Seacoast Collegiate High School in grades 9-12. The school has had years of success and was most recently recognized as the #1 combination public charter school in the state of Florida based on the 2021-2022 school year state test results.

As a public charter school, it is imperative the educational model adapts based on the community's needs and demands. Walton County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Florida so, therefore, the school has continued to expand enrollment. Over the past ten years, Seaside School, Inc has continued to innovate by offering Seacoast Collegiate High School students the exclusive ability to be full-time dual-enrolled students at Northwest Florida State College while still receiving the support a high school student requires. Seacoast Collegiate High School students have been able to earn an Associate of the Arts degree in tandem with their high school diploma. With the workforce center expansion, students will have the opportunity to earn an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration. The core values of independence, accountability, and exploration are imparted to students daily and the school's unique academic program allows them to live these values.

Seacoast Collegiate High School is a gem in Walton County. Their strong partnership with Northwest Florida State College has led to an innovative approach to bridging the gap between secondary and postsecondary education. I believe this will become a national model for other high schools and colleges to follow.

Thank you,