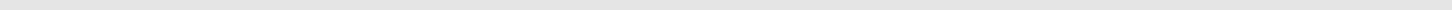




Florida Legislative Updates and History for State Scholarship and Grant Programs

Office of Student Financial Assistance



2017 Florida Legislative Session

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship – Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)

- ◆ Changes the FAS award amount to cover 100% of tuition and applicable fees at a public institution or comparable amount at a nonpublic institution.
- ◆ Provides FAS recipients an additional \$300 for textbooks and college-related expenses (fall and spring).
- ◆ Provides 2018 summer funding for FAS award recipients.

Student Loan Debt

- ◆ Requires a postsecondary institution that disburses state financial to annually provide each student receiving student loans with the following up-to-date information:
 - ◇ An estimate of the student's total amount of borrowed student loans.
 - ◇ An estimate of the student's total potential loan repayment amount.
 - ◇ An estimate of the student's monthly loan repayment amount.
 - ◇ The percentage of the borrowing limit that the student has reached.
- ◆ Provides that an institution does not incur liability for providing the specified information.

Minority Teacher Education Scholars Program

- ◆ Allows a student to receive funds who is enrolled in one of Florida's private colleges.
- ◆ Requires the student to be admitted into a teacher education program before having earned more than 18 credit hours of upper-division-level courses in education.
- ◆ Allows a student to use the scholarship to pursue a graduate degree with a major in education, leading to initial certification.

Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.

- ◆ Removes the following requirements:
 - ◇ New scholarships must be granted to students who are in their junior year; and
 - ◇ Renewal scholarships be granted to rising seniors.

2016 Florida Legislative Session

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

Reinstatement Timeframe for Service Obligations

For 2012-13 high school graduates and thereafter, the student who has a full-time religious/service obligation lasting at least 18 months is eligible for an extended reinstatement/renewal timeframe.

Home-educated Students

The higher test score requirement of 1220 SAT or 27 ACT for the Florida Medallion Scholars award is eliminated.

Bright Futures Service Hours:

Approved service hours may now include business or government internships, work for a nonprofit community service organizations, or activity on behalf of candidates for public office.

Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497 F.S., the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the service work performed.

Bright Futures Gold Seal CAPE Scholars:

The Florida Gold Seal CAPE (Career and Professional Education Act) Scholars award is created. High school students graduating in **2016-17** are eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE* Scholars award if they earn 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications and complete at least 30 hours of volunteer service work.

Students initially eligible in the 2017-18 academic year may receive an award for specific applied technology diplomas, technical degree programs or career certificate programs.

Once CAPE students complete a technical degree program that articulates into a higher degree, expanded funding will be available for an eligible Bachelor of Science degree or Bachelor of Applied Science degree.

Florida Incentive Scholarship

The Florida Incentive Scholarship is renamed the Benacquisto Scholarship.

2015 Florida Legislative Session

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship

Expanded opportunities for volunteer service work are made available to students working toward a Bright Futures Scholarship. The school district or private school will approve service work that includes, but is not limited to, a business or government internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activity on behalf of a candidate for public office.

The hours of service work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the service work.

These expanded opportunities are effective until July 1, 2016.

Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497 F.S., the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the service work performed.

2014 Florida Legislative Session

Rosewood Family Scholarship

Expanded the Rosewood Family Scholarship to award 50 students tuition and fees, not to exceed \$6,100, at a public postsecondary institution.

Florida Incentive Scholarship

Created the Florida Incentive Scholarship to award National Merit® or National Achievement Scholars® who stay in Florida for their postsecondary education

2013 Florida Legislative Session

- ◆ **Repealed the requirement** for initial and renewal Bright Futures students, Florida Resident Access Grant students, and Access to Better Learning and Education Grant students **to submit the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* each year**, prior to disbursement of their award.
- ◆ Beginning July 1, 2013, students are not required to file the FAFSA to receive funds from these programs.

2012 Florida Legislative Session

- ◆ Eligible Bright Futures students enrolled in the pilot program at the University of Florida may receive an award for no more than two semesters in a fiscal year. Summer funding is available for those students.
- ◆ Students graduating from high school in 2012-13 are **eligible to accept an initial Bright Futures award for two years following high school graduation** and to accept a renewal award for five years following high school graduation.
- ◆ **Initial and renewal Bright Futures students must submit a complete and error free *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) each year, prior to disbursement of their award.**
- ◆ **Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars** graduating in 2011-12 may receive an award for 100% of the number of hours required to complete only one of the following programs at a Florida public or eligible Florida private postsecondary institution:
 - ◇ Applied Technology Diploma, up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours
 - ◇ Technical Degree Education Program, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours
 - ◇ Career Certificate Program, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.
- ◆ Students who **graduate from high school mid-year** may submit a *Florida Financial Aid Application* **no later than August 31** prior to the student's graduation, be evaluated for Bright Futures, and, if eligible, receive funding in the spring term following the student's high school graduation. These students will be evaluated for renewal of their scholarships at the end of their first full year (fall through spring) of funding.

2011 Florida Legislative Session

- ◆ Students are **required to submit a complete, error free FAFSA** for Bright Futures, Florida Resident Access Grant, and Access to Better Learning and Education Grant initial and renewal eligibility any time prior to disbursement.
- ◆ **Increase in community service requirement** for all three Bright Futures award levels. Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV). During the 2011-12 academic year, and thereafter, the required community service hours to be completed for the following awards are:
 - ◇ FAS – 100 hours (increased from 75 hours)
 - ◇ FMS – 75 hours (increased from 0 hours)
 - ◇ GSV – 30 hours (increased from 0 hours)
- ◆ The Florida Department of Education is required to approve home education community service hours for Bright Futures initial eligibility.
- ◆ Increase in Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholars award test scores for high school students graduating in the 2013-14 academic year.
 - ◇ 1020 increased to 1170 for SAT
 - ◇ 22 increased to 26 for ACT
 - ◇ 1070 SAT increased to 1220/23 ACT increased to 27 for home educated students