

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures
3 Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.;
4 providing that the initial award period and the
5 renewal period for students who are unable to accept
6 an initial award immediately after completion of high
7 school due to a full-time religious or service
8 obligation begin upon the completion of the religious
9 or service obligation; specifying requirements for an
10 entity that is sponsoring the obligation; requiring
11 verification from the entity for which the student
12 completed such obligation; revising eligibility
13 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
14 Scholarship Program; deleting obsolete provisions;
15 amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; providing that certain
16 students may receive an award for a specified number
17 of credits towards specified programs and degree
18 programs; amending ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535, F.S.;
19 requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida
20 Academic Scholars award or the Florida Medallion
21 Scholars award, to identify a civic issue or a
22 professional area of interest and develop a plan for
23 his or her personal involvement in addressing the
24 issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the
25 student from receiving remuneration or academic credit
26 for the volunteer service work performed except in

27 | certain circumstances; requiring the hours of
28 | volunteer service work to be documented in writing and
29 | signed by the student, the student's parent or
30 | guardian, and a representative of the organization for
31 | which the student performed the volunteer service
32 | work; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; creating the Florida
33 | Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award within the Florida
34 | Bright Futures Scholarship Program; requiring a
35 | student, as a prerequisite for the Florida Gold Seal
36 | Vocational Scholars award, to identify a civic issue
37 | or a professional area of interest and develop a plan
38 | for his or her personal involvement in addressing the
39 | issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the
40 | student from receiving remuneration or academic credit
41 | for the volunteer service work performed except in
42 | certain circumstances; requiring the hours of
43 | volunteer service work to be documented in writing and
44 | signed by the student, the student's parent or
45 | guardian, and a representative of the organization for
46 | which the student performed the volunteer service
47 | work; requiring a high school student graduating in
48 | the 2016-2017 academic year to meet certain
49 | requirements to be eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
50 | CAPE Scholars award; providing that certain students
51 | may receive an award for a specified number of credits
52 | toward specified programs and degree programs;

53 providing an appropriation; providing an effective
54 date.

55

56 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

57

58 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and paragraphs
59 (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 1009.531, Florida
60 Statutes, are amended to read:

61 1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
62 student eligibility requirements for initial awards.-

63 (2)

64 (c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013
65 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial
66 award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept
67 a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A
68 student who applies for an award by high school graduation and
69 who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not
70 accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent
71 application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation.
72 For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces
73 immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year
74 eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year
75 renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from
76 active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright
77 Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education
78 to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of

79 his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of
80 separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to
81 accept an initial award immediately after completion of high
82 school due to a full-time religious or service obligation
83 lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for
84 his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period begin
85 upon the completion of his or her religious or service
86 obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious
87 or service obligation must meet the requirements for nonprofit
88 status under s. 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be a
89 federal government service organization, including, but not
90 limited to, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps programs. The
91 obligation must be documented in writing and verified by the
92 entity for which the student completed the obligation on a
93 standardized form prescribed by the department. If a course of
94 study is not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1
95 year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable
96 illness or other documented emergency pursuant to s.
97 1009.40 (1) (b) 4.

98 (6) (a) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
99 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
100 Florida Academic Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.534(1) (a)
101 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

102 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~
103 ~~and 2011-2012 academic years, the student must earn an SAT score~~
104 ~~of 1270 or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

105 ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~
106 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1280 which~~
107 ~~corresponds to the 88th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~
108 ~~score of 28.~~

109 ~~3. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~
110 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~
111 ~~of 1290 which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank or a~~
112 ~~concordant ACT score of 29.~~

113 (b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the
114 examination score required for a student to be eligible for a
115 Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1)(a)
116 or (b), ~~as follows:~~

117 ~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011~~
118 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a~~
119 ~~concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education~~
120 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory~~
121 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT~~
122 ~~score of 23.~~

123 ~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2011-2012~~
124 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 980 which~~
125 ~~corresponds to the 44th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~
126 ~~score of 21 or the student in a home education program whose~~
127 ~~parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must~~
128 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

129 ~~3. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013~~
130 ~~academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1020 which~~

131 ~~corresponds to the 51st SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT~~
132 ~~score of 22 or the student in a home education program whose~~
133 ~~parent cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum must~~
134 ~~earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

135 ~~4. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014~~
136 ~~academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score~~
137 ~~of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a~~
138 ~~concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education~~
139 ~~program whose parent cannot document a college-preparatory~~
140 ~~curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT~~
141 ~~score of 27.~~

142 Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (3) of
143 section 1009.532, Florida Statutes, to read:

144 1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
145 student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.-

146 (3)

147 (d)1. A student who is initially eligible in the 2017-2018
148 academic year and thereafter for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE
149 Scholars award under s. 1009.536(2) may receive an award for a
150 maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or
151 equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following
152 at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that
153 offers these specific programs: for an applied technology
154 diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit
155 hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree
156 education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number

157 of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit
158 hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate
159 program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours
160 required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit
161 hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from
162 one of these program levels to another program level is eligible
163 for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

164 2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar who completes a
165 technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13)
166 may also receive an award for:

167 a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science
168 degree program for which there is a statewide associate in
169 science degree program to bachelor of science degree program
170 articulation agreement; or

171 b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied
172 science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

173 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida
174 Statutes, is amended to read:

175 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

176 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars
177 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility
178 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
179 and ~~the student~~:

180 (a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as
181 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high
182 school courses that are designated by the State Board of

183 Education as college-preparatory academic courses~~;~~ and has
184 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
185 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of
186 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
187 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
188 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
189 Assessment Program;

190 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.
191 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, or ~~or~~ has completed the
192 International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the
193 International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the
194 Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but
195 failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of
196 Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required
197 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (a) on the combined verbal and
198 quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the
199 Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic
200 Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an
201 equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

202 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate
203 Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an
204 Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the
205 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

206 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
207 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
208 scholar or finalist; or

209 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
210 Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

211
212 The A student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~
213 service work, as approved by the district school board, the
214 administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of
215 Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~
216 include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school
217 students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours
218 of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-
219 2012 academic year and thereafter. The student, ~~and~~ must
220 identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~
221 that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her
222 personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about
223 the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations,
224 evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for
225 credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant
226 to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or
227 academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such
228 work may include, but is not limited to, a business or
229 governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service
230 organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public
231 office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in
232 writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the
233 student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the
234 organization for which the student performed the volunteer

235 service work.

236 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida
237 Statutes, is amended to read:

238 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

239 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars
240 award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility
241 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
242 and ~~the student~~:

243 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as
244 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high
245 school courses that are designated by the State Board of
246 Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has
247 attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.
248 1009.531(6) (b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of
249 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or
250 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College
251 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT
252 Assessment Program;

253 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate
254 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate
255 Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate
256 of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced
257 International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained
258 at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b)
259 on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
260 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered

261 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
 262 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

263 (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.
 264 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the
 265 score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6) (b) on the
 266 combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic
 267 Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered
 268 Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,
 269 or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, if the
 270 student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory
 271 curriculum as described in paragraph (a);

272 (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement
 273 program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a
 274 scholar or finalist but has not completed the ~~a~~ program of
 275 volunteer community service work required under ~~as provided in~~
 276 s. 1009.534; or

277 (e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic
 278 Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the ~~a~~
 279 program of volunteer community service work required under ~~as~~
 280 ~~provided in~~ s. 1009.534.

281
 282 A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year
 283 and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours ~~a program~~ of
 284 volunteer community service work approved by the district school
 285 board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the
 286 Department of Education for home education program students. The

287 ~~student, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service~~
288 ~~work, and~~ must identify a social or civic issue or a
289 professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him or her, develop a
290 plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue
291 or learning about the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other
292 presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.
293 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses
294 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive
295 remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work
296 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a
297 business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit
298 community service organization, or activities on behalf of a
299 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must
300 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the
301 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative
302 of the organization for which the student performed the
303 volunteer service work.

304 Section 5. Section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, is amended
305 to read:

306 1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida
307 Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards ~~award~~.—The Florida Gold Seal
308 Vocational Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE
309 Scholars award ~~is~~ created within the Florida Bright Futures
310 Scholarship Program to recognize and reward academic achievement
311 and career preparation by high school students who wish to
312 continue their education.

313 (1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
314 Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the
315 general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures
316 Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

317 (a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential
318 program of studies that requires at least three secondary school
319 career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for
320 any of the three required career credits.

321 (b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by
322 earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level
323 Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department
324 of Education.

325 (c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point
326 average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all
327 subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding
328 elective courses.

329 (d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5
330 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that comprise
331 ~~comprising~~ the career program.

332 (e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the
333 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30
334 hours a program of volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by
335 the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic
336 school, or the Department of Education for home education
337 program students. The student must identify, ~~which shall include~~
338 ~~a minimum of 30 hours of service work, and identifies a social~~

339 or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him
340 or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal
341 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area
342 ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate
343 ~~evaluates~~ and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience.
344 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses
345 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive
346 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work
347 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a
348 business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit
349 community service organization, or activities on behalf of a
350 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must
351 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the
352 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative
353 of the organization for which the student performed the
354 volunteer service work.

355 (2) A high school student graduating in the 2016-2017
356 academic year and thereafter is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal
357 CAPE Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility
358 requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program,
359 and the student:

360 (a) Earns a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours
361 through CAPE industry certifications approved pursuant to s.
362 1008.44 which articulate for college credit; and

363 (b) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service work
364 approved by the district school board, the administrators of a

365 nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home
366 education program students. The student must identify a social
367 or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her,
368 develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing
369 the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or
370 other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her
371 experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning
372 courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not
373 receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer
374 service work performed. Such work may include, but is not
375 limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a
376 nonprofit community service organization, or activities on
377 behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer
378 service work must be documented in writing, and the document
379 must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian,
380 and a representative of the organization for which the student
381 performed the volunteer service work.

382 (3)~~(2)~~ A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar who is
383 enrolled in a public or nonpublic postsecondary education
384 institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount
385 specified in the General Appropriations Act to assist with the
386 payment of educational expenses.

387 (4)~~(3)~~ To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida
388 Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must maintain the
389 equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0
390 scale with an opportunity for restoration one time as provided

391 in this chapter.

392 (5) (a) ~~(4) (a)~~ A student who is initially eligible prior to
393 the 2010-2011 academic year may earn a Florida Gold Seal
394 Vocational Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit
395 hours required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or
396 the equivalent.

397 (b) Students who are initially eligible in the 2010-2011
398 and 2011-2012 academic years may earn a Florida Gold Seal
399 Vocational Scholarship for 100 percent of the number of credit
400 hours required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or
401 the equivalent.

402 (c) A student who is initially eligible in the 2012-2013
403 academic year and thereafter may earn a Florida Gold Seal
404 Vocational Scholarship for a maximum of 100 percent of the
405 number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to
406 complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic
407 education institution that offers these specific programs: for
408 an applied technology diploma program as defined in s.
409 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for
410 a technical degree education program as defined in s.
411 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific
412 degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours;
413 or for a career certificate program as defined in s.
414 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific
415 certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock
416 hours.

417 (d)1. A student who is initially eligible in the 2017-2018
418 academic year and thereafter for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE
419 Scholars award under subsection (2) may receive an award for a
420 maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or
421 equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following
422 at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that
423 offers these specific programs: for an applied technology
424 diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit
425 hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree
426 education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number
427 of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit
428 hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate
429 program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours
430 required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit
431 hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from
432 one of these program levels to another program level is eligible
433 for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

434 2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar who completes a
435 technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13)
436 may also receive an award for:

437 a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science
438 degree program for which there is a statewide associate in
439 science degree program to bachelor of science degree program
440 articulation agreement; or

441 b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied
442 science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

443 Section 6. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of
444 \$66,468 in recurring funds from the Educational Enhancement
445 Trust Fund is appropriated to the Department of Education for
446 the purpose of implementing the amendments made by the act to s.
447 1009.531, Florida Statutes.

448 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.