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2016 Legislature

1  
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



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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;



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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



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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.~~



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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~~



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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



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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



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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~~ 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





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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



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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



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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



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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 are ~~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.



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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



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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



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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



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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.





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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.



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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.