

By Senator Perry

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the best and brightest teachers and  
3       principals; amending s. 1012.731, F.S.; revising the  
4       eligibility criteria for the Florida Best and  
5       Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program; requiring  
6       certain classroom teachers to submit an official  
7       transcript with a specified honor to demonstrate  
8       eligibility; providing for retention of a classroom  
9       teacher's scholarship eligibility under certain  
10      circumstances; requiring each school district to  
11      annually submit certain information to the Department  
12      of Education; creating s. 1012.732, F.S.; creating the  
13      Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship  
14      Program; providing legislative intent; providing for  
15      funding of the program; providing for certain school  
16      principals to receive a scholarship under the program;  
17      providing eligibility requirements; requiring the  
18      department to annually identify eligible school  
19      principals and disburse funds to school districts by a  
20      specified date; requiring each eligible school  
21      principal to receive a scholarship; requiring  
22      scholarships to be prorated under certain  
23      circumstances; requiring school districts to annually  
24      award scholarships to eligible school principals by a  
25      specified date; requiring school districts to provide  
26      best and brightest principals with specified  
27      additional authority and responsibilities; defining  
28      the term "school district"; providing an effective  
29      date.

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30  
31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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33 Section 1. Subsections (3), (4), and (8) of section  
34 1012.731, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

35 1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship  
36 Program.—

37 (3) (a) To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom  
38 teacher must:

39 1. Have achieved a composite score at or above the 75th  
40 80th percentile or, if the classroom teacher graduated cum laude  
41 or higher with a baccalaureate degree, the 70th percentile on  
42 either the SAT, or the ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, or MCAT based on  
43 the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom  
44 teacher took the assessment.

45 2. and Have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to  
46 s. 1012.34, or have been evaluated as highly effective based on  
47 a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant  
48 to s. 1012.34(8), in the school year immediately preceding the  
49 year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the  
50 classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board  
51 and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

52 (b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an  
53 eligible classroom teacher must submit to the school district,  
54 no later than November 1, an official record of his or her  
55 qualifying assessment SAT or ACT score and, if applicable, an  
56 official transcript demonstrating that he or she graduated cum  
57 laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree ~~the classroom~~  
58 ~~teacher scored at or above the 80th percentile based on the~~

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59 ~~National Percentile Ranks in effect when the teacher took the~~  
60 ~~assessment.~~ Once a classroom teacher is deemed eligible by the  
61 school district, ~~including teachers deemed eligible in the 2015-~~  
62 ~~2016 fiscal year,~~ the teacher shall remain eligible as long as  
63 he or she remains employed by the school district as a classroom  
64 teacher at the time of the award and receives an annual  
65 performance evaluation rating of highly effective pursuant to s.  
66 1012.34 or is evaluated as highly effective based on a  
67 commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant  
68 to s. 1012.34(8).

69 (4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall  
70 submit to the department:

71 (a) The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify  
72 for the scholarship.

73 (b) The name and master school identification number (MSID)  
74 of each school in the district to which an eligible classroom  
75 teacher is assigned.

76 (c) The name of the school principal of each eligible  
77 classroom teacher's school if he or she has served as the  
78 school's principal for at least 2 consecutive school years  
79 including the current school year.

80 ~~(8) This section expires July 1, 2017.~~

81 Section 2. Section 1012.732, Florida Statutes, is created  
82 to read:

83 1012.732 The Florida Best and Brightest Principal  
84 Scholarship Program.—

85 (1) The Legislature recognizes that the most effective  
86 school principals establish a safe and supportive school  
87 environment for students and faculty. Research shows that these

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88 principals increase student learning by providing opportunities  
89 for the professional growth, collaboration, and autonomy that  
90 classroom teachers need to become and remain highly effective  
91 educational professionals. As a result, these principals are  
92 able to recruit and retain more of the best classroom teachers  
93 and improve student outcomes at their schools, including schools  
94 serving low-income and high-need student populations. Therefore,  
95 it is the intent of the Legislature to designate school  
96 principals whose school faculty has a high percentage of  
97 classroom teachers who are designated as Florida's best and  
98 brightest teacher scholars pursuant to s. 1012.731 as Florida's  
99 best and brightest principals.

100 (2) There is created the Florida Best and Brightest  
101 Principal Scholarship Program to be administered by the  
102 Department of Education. The program shall provide categorical  
103 funding for scholarships to be awarded to school principals, as  
104 defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c)1., who have recruited and retained a  
105 high percentage of best and brightest teachers.

106 (3) A school principal identified pursuant to s.  
107 1012.731(4)(c) is eligible to receive a scholarship under this  
108 section if he or she has served as school principal at his or  
109 her school for at least 2 consecutive school years including the  
110 current school year and his or her school has a ratio of best  
111 and brightest teachers to other classroom teachers that is at  
112 the 80th percentile or higher for schools within the same grade  
113 group, statewide, including elementary schools, middle schools,  
114 high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels.

115 (4) Annually, by February 1, the department shall identify  
116 eligible school principals and disburse funds to each school

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117 district for each eligible school principal to receive a  
118 scholarship as provided in the General Appropriations Act. A  
119 scholarship must be awarded to every eligible school principal,  
120 with a greater scholarship amount awarded to school principals  
121 who are assigned to a Title I school. If the number of eligible  
122 school principals exceeds the total appropriation authorized in  
123 the General Appropriations Act, the department shall prorate  
124 each school principal's scholarship in a manner consistent with  
125 this subsection.

126 (5) Annually, by April 1, each school district must award a  
127 scholarship to each eligible school principal.

128 (6) A school district must provide a best and brightest  
129 principal with the additional authority and responsibilities  
130 provided in s. 1012.28(8) for a minimum of 2 years.

131 (7) For purposes of this section, the term "school  
132 district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
133 and charter school governing boards.

134 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.