A bill to be entitled
An act relating to student financial aid; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; making technical changes; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; requiring that eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants be reevaluated each term and identify students’ program of study; providing additional eligibility criteria for financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants, beginning with a specified academic year; providing that eligibility for such funds is contingent on enrollment in certain career certificate or degree programs; providing that students who have not yet been admitted to such a program are eligible to receive certain funding; creating s. 1009.46, F.S.; providing the duties of postsecondary educational institutions with regard to financial aid and tuition assistance programs; specifying penalties for noncompliance; requiring the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to each approve, by a specified date, a list of career certificate and undergraduate and graduate degree programs that they determine lead directly to employment; requiring that each list include specified information; requiring each list to include programs from independent colleges and universities; requiring that the lists be updated annually; amending s. 1009.50, F.S.; revising the formula for calculating how Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program funds are distributed;
deleting a provision authorizing Florida Public
Student Assistance Grant Program funds to be deposited
in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund;
deleting a provision requiring any balance in the
trust fund which was allocated to the Florida Public
Student Assistance Grant Program at the end of the
fiscal year to remain therein; amending s. 1009.505,
F.S.; deleting a provision authorizing Florida Public
Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance
Grant Program funds to be deposited in the trust fund;
deleting a provision requiring any balance in the
trust fund which was allocated to the Florida Public
Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance
Grant Program at the end of the fiscal year to remain
therein; amending s. 1009.51, F.S.; revising the
formula for calculating how Florida Private Student
Assistance Grant Program funds are distributed;
deleting a provision authorizing Florida Private
Student Assistance Grant Program funds to be deposited
in the trust fund; deleting a provision requiring any
balance in the trust fund which was allocated to the
Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program at
the end of the fiscal year to remain therein; amending
s. 1009.52, F.S.; revising the formula for how Florida
Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program funds
are distributed; deleting a provision authorizing
Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program
funds to be deposited in the trust fund; deleting a
provision requiring any balance in the trust fund
which was allocated to the Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program at the end of the fiscal year to remain therein; amending s. 1009.53, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to advertise the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to specified persons no later than September 1 of each year; deleting a provision authorizing unused Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program funds to be carried forward; deleting a provision authorizing certain students to receive specified loans; amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; requiring, beginning with a specified academic year, that the maximum number of credit hours which can be awarded under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program be reduced by the number of postsecondary credit hours the student has earned from certain articulated acceleration mechanisms; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; revising and expanding eligibility requirements of the Florida Academic Scholars award; providing that a Florida Academic Scholar is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the General Appropriations Act; amending s. 1009.5341, F.S.; authorizing a Bright Futures Scholarship recipient to apply the unused portion of a Florida Academic Scholars award or Florida Medallion Scholars award toward graduate study for a specified academic year; authorizing a Bright Futures Scholarship recipient to apply the unused portion of a Florida Academic Scholars award or Florida Medallion Scholars award toward graduate study
in a specified degree field, paid at the undergraduate rate, beginning with a specified academic year; amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; revising and expanding eligibility for Florida Medallion Scholars awards; providing that the amount of Florida Medallion Scholars’ awards is as specified in the General Appropriations Act; creating s. 1009.71, F.S.; establishing the Florida Bright Opportunities Grant Program; requiring the program to be administered by the participating institutions subject to state board rules; providing the purpose of the program; specifying eligibility requirements for the program; prohibiting institutions from imposing additional eligibility requirements on students; requiring the program to cover remaining tuition and fees for eligible students after the application of all other federal and state financial aid, with a stipend for books as specified in the General Appropriations Act; requiring program awards to be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; requiring returning students to receive priority over new students; providing the duration of the award; requiring funds to be distributed to eligible institutions based on a formula approved by the state board; requiring the formula to consider specified criteria; requiring grants to be transmitted to institutions in advance of the registration period; requiring institutions to notify students of award amounts; requiring institutions to determine the eligibility status of
each student at a specified time; prohibiting institutions from being required to reevaluate student eligibility after the specified time; requiring institutions to report specified information to the department; requiring institutions to remit to the department any undischarged advances within a specified timeframe; requiring the state board to adopt rules; creating s. 1009.711, F.S.; establishing the Florida Endeavor Scholarship Program; requiring the award to cover tuition and registration fees for eligible students at a Florida College System institution, a career center, or a charter technical career center; specifying eligibility for students without a high school credential; requiring enrollment in specified programs; requiring completion of specified clock hours and a minimum postsecondary grade point average; requiring program awards to be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; requiring returning students to be given priority over new students; providing the duration of the award; requiring funds to be distributed to eligible institutions based on a formula approved by the state board; requiring the formula to consider specified criteria; requiring grants to be transmitted to institutions in advance of the registration period; requiring institutions to notify students of award amounts; requiring institutions to determine the eligibility status of each student at a specified time; prohibiting institutions from being required to reevaluate student
eligibility after the specified time; requiring
institutions to report specified information to the
department; requiring institutions to remit to the
department any undisbursed advances within a specified
timeframe; requiring the state board to adopt rules;
amending s. 1009.893, F.S.; requiring a student who
enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program in specified
academic years to comply with certain requirements to
attain a Benacquisto Scholarship; providing that the
amount awarded under the program will be as specified
in the General Appropriations Act; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of
section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

(1) The following students are exempt from the payment of
tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that
provides workforce education programs, Florida College System
institution, or state university:

(c) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached
18 years of age, in the custody of the Department of Children
and Families or who, after spending at least 6 months in the
custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was
placed in a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes
fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult
education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the
student reaches 28 years of age.

(d) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or who was adopted from the Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants.—

(1) (a) The general requirements for eligibility of students for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants consist of the following:

1. Achievement of the academic requirements of and acceptance at a state university or Florida College System institution; a nursing diploma school approved by the Florida Board of Nursing; a Florida college or university which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education; a Florida institution the credits of which are acceptable for transfer to state universities; a career center; or a private career institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the State Board of Education.

2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year preceding the award of aid or a tuition assistance grant for a program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.505, s. 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s.
1009.71, s. 1009.711, s. 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.75, s. 1009.77, s. 1009.89, or s. 1009.891, or s. 1009.894. Residency in this state must be for purposes other than to obtain an education. Resident status for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21.

3. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy, completeness, and correctness of information provided to demonstrate a student’s eligibility to receive state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Falsification of such information shall result in the denial of a pending application and revocation of an award or grant currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants commit a misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s. 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants wrongfully obtained.

(c) Eligibility for state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants must be reevaluated each term based on the program of study to which the student has been admitted and in which he or she is enrolled. Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year and thereafter, eligibility for such awards and grants is contingent on the student’s enrollment in a career certificate or degree program on an approved list developed pursuant to s. 1009.46(2)(a).

1. A student who has been admitted to such a program:
   a. Is eligible to receive an award for each term that he or she is enrolled in the program.
b. Is ineligible to receive funding for each term that he or she is enrolled in a program that is not on an approved list.

2. A student who has not yet been admitted to a program is eligible to receive funding for up to 60 credit hours or until he or she is enrolled in a program that is not on an approved list, whichever comes first.

3. The program of study identified on an approved list shall apply to a student if the program to which he or she is admitted is on an approved list at the time of admittance to the program or at the time he or she initially entered an eligible Florida postsecondary institution.

Section 3. Section 1009.46, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.46 Duties of postsecondary educational institutions for state financial aid and tuition assistance programs.—

(1)(a) Each postsecondary educational institution that receives state funds for state financial aid and tuition assistance programs shall:

1. Complete and return the annual application for state aid funds in the format and by the date established by the department;

2. Maintain complete, accurate, and auditable student records documenting the institution’s administration of state financial aid and tuition assistance funds;

3. Verify eligibility of enrolled students with the department each academic term;

4. Verify eligibility of enrolled students by reporting the program of study to the department using the most recent classification instruction program taxonomy for the certificate
or degree level as developed by the United States Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics;

5. Disburse state financial aid and tuition assistance to eligible students;

6. Notify students annually regarding the renewal requirements for each state-funded award for which they are eligible;

7. Complete and return to the department in the format and by the date established by the department all reports for the administration of state funds;

8. Complete and return to the department in the format and by the date established by the department all legislatively required reports;

9. Retain required records for the later of 5 years or until such records are audited and any audit exceptions are resolved; and

10. Refund to the department any undisbursed advances within 60 days after the end of the regular registration each fall and spring term, within 30 days after the end of the summer term, or within 60 days after the date that a student’s ineligibility is determined.

(b) These requirements do not preclude higher standards specified in other sections of this part or rules of the state board.

(c) An institution that fails to perform its duties in administering state financial aid or tuition assistance programs must be placed on probation by the department.

1. The department shall provide allocations on a reimbursement basis to a participating institution that fails to
timely remit undisbursed funds for the previous academic year.

2. The department may suspend or revoke an institution’s eligibility to participate in state-funded programs if the institution fails to provide the required audits, fails to resolve audit findings, or fails to timely provide statutorily required reports by established deadlines.

(2)(a) By December 31, 2021, the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall each approve a list of career certificate and undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by a district career center, charter technical career center, Florida College System institution, or state university, as applicable, which lead directly to employment.

(b) In determining which programs will be included on a list, the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall consider national, state, and regional industry demand for certificateholders and graduates of such degree programs. For each certificate and degree program listed, the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education must identify occupations, current job openings, estimates of job growth, and employment wages. Each approved list must also include appropriate certificate and degree programs offered by eligible independent colleges and universities.

(c) Each approved list must be updated by each December 31.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection (5) of section 1009.50, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program;

eligibility for grants.—

(4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program shall be distributed to
eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the State Board of Education. The formula must consider at least the prior year’s distribution of funds, the number of eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the standardization of the expected family contribution, and provisions for unused funds. The formula must account for changes in the number of eligible students across all student assistance grant programs established pursuant to this section and ss. 1009.505, 1009.51, and 1009.52.

(5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for state student assistance grants may be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of this section.

Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 1009.505, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.505 Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant Program.—

(5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for state student assistance grants may be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the Florida Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of this section.
Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection (5) of section 1009.51, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.51 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program; eligibility for grants.—

(4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program shall be distributed to eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the State Board of Education. The formula must consider at least the prior year’s distribution of funds and the number of eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the standardization of the expected family contribution, and provisions for unused funds. The formula must account for changes in the number of eligible students across all student assistance grant programs established pursuant to this section and ss. 1009.50, 1009.505, and 1009.52.

(5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida private student assistance grants may be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding ss. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program shall remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of this section and as otherwise provided by law.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection (6) of section 1009.52, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.52 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program; eligibility for grants.—

(4)(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program shall be distributed to
eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by
the State Board of Education. The formula must consider at least
the prior year’s distribution of funds and the number of
eligible applicants who did not receive awards, the
standardization of the expected family contribution, and
provisions for unused funds. The formula must account for
changes in the number of eligible students across all student
assistance grant programs established pursuant to this section
and ss. 1009.50, 1009.505, and 1009.51.

(6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida
postsecondary student assistance grants may be deposited in the
State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding
s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust
fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to
the Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program shall
remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the
purposes of this section and as otherwise provided by law.

Section 8. Subsections (3), (4), and (7) of section
1009.53, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

(3) The Department of Education shall administer the Bright
Futures Scholarship Program according to rules and procedures
established by the State Board of Education. A single
application must be sufficient for a student to apply for any of
the awards. The department shall advertise the availability of
the scholarship program and shall notify students, teachers,
parents, certified school counselors, and principals or other
relevant school administrators of the criteria and application
procedures. The department must begin this process of
notification no later than January 1 of each year.

(4) Funding for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program must be allocated from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund and must be provided before allocations from that fund are calculated for disbursement to other educational entities.

(a) If funds appropriated are not adequate to provide the maximum allowable award to each eligible applicant, awards in all components of the program must be prorated using the same percentage reduction.

(b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, if all funds allocated to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program are not used in any fiscal year, up to 10 percent of the total allocation may be carried forward and used for awards in the following year.

(7) A student may receive only one type of award from the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at any given time, but may transfer from one type of award to another through the renewal application process, if the student’s eligibility status changes. However, a student is not eligible to transfer from a Florida Medallion Scholarship, a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholarship, or a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship to a Florida Academic Scholarship. A student who receives an award from the program may also receive a federal family education loan or a federal direct loan, and the value of the award must be considered in the certification or calculation of the student’s loan eligibility.

Section 9. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of section 1009.532, Florida Statutes, to read:

1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program;
student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.—
(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), beginning with students initially funded in the 2022-2023 academic year, the maximum number of credit hours which can be awarded must be reduced by the number of postsecondary credit hours the student has earned from articulated acceleration mechanisms under s. 1007.27.

Section 10. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

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

(a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

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

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

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

   (e) Has been granted academic honors by one or more of the
College Board National Recognition Programs for students from
underrepresented communities; or recognized by the National
Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient

   (f) For a high school student who graduated in the 2021-
2022 academic year and thereafter:
   1. Has earned an associate degree with a minimum
   postsecondary cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0
   scale before graduating from high school; or
   2. Has earned a College Board Advanced Placement Capstone
Diploma with scores of 4 or higher on six Advanced Placement
examinations.

The student must complete a program of volunteer service work,
as approved by the district school board, the administrators of
a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home
education program students, which must include a minimum of 75
hours of service work for high school students graduating in the
2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter. The student must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service 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 volunteer service work.

(2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an additional stipend for textbooks, to assist with the payment of educational expenses as funds are specifically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act to assist with the payment of educational expenses.
Section 11. Section 1009.5341, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.5341 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards for graduate study.—

(1) For the 2021-2022 academic year, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship recipients who graduate in the 2010-2011 academic year and thereafter with a baccalaureate degree in 7 semesters, or the equivalent or fewer hours, and wish to pursue graduate study may apply the unused portion of their Florida Academic Scholars award or Florida Medallion Scholars award toward 1 semester of graduate study, not to exceed 15 semester hours paid at the undergraduate rate. A baccalaureate degree may include, but is not limited to, college credits earned through articulated acceleration mechanisms pursuant to s. 1007.27.

(2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, a Bright Futures scholarship recipient may apply the unused portion of his or her Florida Academic Scholars award or Florida Medallion Scholars award toward graduate study in a degree field on an approved list developed pursuant to s. 1009.46(2)(a), which must be paid at the undergraduate rate.

Section 12. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

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

(a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high
school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; (c) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program; (d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist but has not completed the program of volunteer service work required under s. 1009.534; or (e) Has been granted academic honors by one or more of the
College Board National Recognition Programs for students from underrepresented communities recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the program of volunteer service work required under s. 1009.534; or

(f) For a high school student who graduates in the 2021-2022 academic year and thereafter:

1. Has earned an associate degree with a minimum cumulative postsecondary grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale before graduating from high school; or

2. Has earned an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma with scores of 3 or higher on six Advanced Placement Examinations.

A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours of volunteer service work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students. The student must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service 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 volunteer service work.

(2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible, beginning in the fall 2018 semester, for an award equal to the amount specified in the General Appropriations Act necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-(13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, to assist with the payment of educational expenses. Beginning in the fall 2021 semester, a Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the General Appropriations Act necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees established under ss. 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11) to assist with the payment of educational expenses.

Section 13. Section 1009.71, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1009.71 Florida Bright Opportunities Grant Program.—
(1) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.—The Florida Bright Opportunities Grant Program is established and shall be administered by the participating institutions in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. The program shall provide an award equal to the amount necessary to cover tuition and registration fees, after applying all other federal and state financial aid, for eligible students at a Florida College.
(2) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for the program, a student must have a tuition and registration fee balance not covered by all federal financial and state financial aid, and:

(a) Be enrolled as a student seeking a degree or career certificate, in an associate degree, technical certificate, applied technology diploma, or clock hour certificate program at a Florida College System institution, or a clock hour career certificate or diploma program at a district career center or charter technical career center. The students must be enrolled for at least 6 semester hours, or the equivalent per term, at a Florida College System institution, district career center, or charter technical career center;

(b) Meet the requirements under s. 1009.40(1)(a)2. and 3. and (c); and

(c) Qualify and remain eligible each academic year for the Pell Grant.

An institution may not impose additional criteria to determine a student’s eligibility to receive a grant under this section.

(3) GRANT AWARD.—The program shall:

(a) Cover remaining tuition and registration fees, with a stipend for books as specified in the General Appropriations Act, for eligible students after all other federal and state financial aid is applied to tuition and fees.

(b) Be allocated, subject to the availability of funding, on a first-come, first-served basis. The award may not exceed
the cost of tuition and fees at that institution, plus a stipend for books as determined in the General Appropriations Act. Returning students shall receive priority over new students.

(4) AWARD DURATION.—A student is eligible to receive an award for the number of semesters or quarters specified in s. 1009.40(3).

(5) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—
(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Bright Opportunities Grant Program must be distributed to eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the State Board of Education. The formula must consider at least the prior year’s distribution of funds and the number of eligible applicants who did not receive awards.

(b) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, payment of grants must be transmitted to the institution in advance of the registration period. Institutions shall notify students of the amount of their awards.

(c) The eligibility status of each student to receive a disbursement must be determined by each institution as of the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a drop-add period. Institutions may not be required to reevaluate a student’s eligibility status after this date for purposes of changing eligibility determinations previously made.

(d) Each participating institution shall report to the department by the established date the number of students eligible for the program for each academic term. Each institution also shall report to the department any necessary demographic and eligibility data for such students.

(e) Institutions shall certify to the department within 30
days after the end of regular registration each term the amount
of funds disbursed to each student. Institutions shall remit to
the department any undisbursed advances for the fall, spring,
and summer terms within 30 days after the end of the summer
term.

(6) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
to implement this section.

Section 14. Section 1009.711, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1009.711 Florida Endeavor Scholarship Program.—
(1) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.—The Florida Endeavor
Scholarship Program is established and shall be administered by
participating institutions in accordance with rules of the State
Board of Education. The program shall provide an award equal to
the amount necessary to cover tuition and registration fees for
eligible students at a Florida College System institution, a
career center operated by a district school board under s.
1001.44, or a charter technical career center under s. 1002.34.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for the program, a
student may not have earned a high school credential prior to
enrolling at the institution, and must:

(a) Be enrolled in a career certificate or noncollege-
credit applied technology diploma program or in a General
Education Program at a Florida College System institution, a
district career center, or a charter technical career center;

(b) Meet the requirements under s. 1009.40(1)(a)2. and 3.
and (c);

(c) Earn at least 225 clock hours; and

(d) Earn a minimum 2.5 postsecondary grade point average.
An institution may not impose additional criteria to determine a student’s eligibility to receive a grant under this section.

(3) SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.—A student is eligible to receive an award equal to the amount to cover tuition and registration fees for a career certificate or applied technology diploma program for the number of semesters or quarters specified in s. 1009.40(3). The award may not exceed the cost of tuition and registration fees at that institution. The institution shall award scholarships subject to the availability of funding, on a first-come, first-served basis. Returning students must be given priority over new students.

(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—
(a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Endeavor Scholarship Program must be distributed to eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by the State Board of Education. The formula must consider at least the prior year’s distribution of funds and the number of eligible applicants who did not receive awards.
(b) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the Legislature, the department shall transmit payment of grants to the institution in advance of the registration period. Institutions shall notify students of the amount of their awards.
(c) The eligibility status of each student to receive a disbursement must be determined by each institution as of the end of its regular registration period, inclusive of a drop-add period. Institutions may not be required to reevaluate a student’s eligibility status after this date for purposes of...
changing eligibility determinations previously made.

(d) Each participating institution shall report to the department by the established date the number of students eligible for the program for each academic term. Each institution also shall report to the department any necessary demographic and eligibility data for such students.

(e) Institutions shall certify to the department within 30 days after the end of regular registration each term the amount of funds disbursed to each student. Institutions shall remit to the department any undisbursed advances for the fall, spring, and summer terms within 30 days after the end of the summer term.

(5) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection (5) of section 1009.893, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

(4) In order to be eligible for an initial award under the scholarship program, a student must meet the requirements of paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

(b) A student who initially enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program in the 2018–2019 through 2021–2022 academic years or later and who is not a resident of this state, as determined in s. 1009.40 and rules of the State Board of Education, must:

1. Physically reside in this state on or near the campus of the postsecondary educational institution in which the student is enrolled;

2. Earn a high school diploma from a school outside Florida
which is comparable to a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 or must complete a home education program in another state; and

3. Be accepted by and enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida public or independent postsecondary educational institution during the fall academic term following high school graduation.

(5)(a)1. An eligible student who meets the requirements of paragraph (4)(a), who is a National Merit Scholar, and who attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution shall receive a scholarship award as specified in the General Appropriations Act equal to the institutional cost of attendance minus the sum of the student’s Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship.

2. An eligible student who meets the requirements of paragraph (4)(b), who is a National Merit Scholar, and who attends a Florida public postsecondary educational institution shall receive a scholarship award as specified in the General Appropriations Act equal to the institutional cost of attendance for a resident of this state minus the student’s National Merit Scholarship. Such student is exempt from the payment of out-of-state fees.

(b) An eligible student who is a National Merit Scholar and who attends a Florida independent postsecondary educational institution shall receive a scholarship award as specified in the General Appropriations Act equal to the highest cost of attendance for a resident of this state enrolled at a Florida public university, as reported by the Board of Governors of the
State University System, minus the sum of the student’s Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and National Merit Scholarship.

Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.