

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Education; and Senator Baxley

576-03664-21

202186c2

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to student financial aid; creating s.  
3       1006.75, F.S.; requiring the Board of Governors of the  
4       State University System to create an online dashboard;  
5       specifying minimum information to be included in the  
6       dashboard; requiring the dashboard to be available by  
7       a specified date; requiring each state university  
8       office of admissions website to contain a link to the  
9       dashboard; requiring each state university board of  
10      trustees to adopt certain procedures; requiring the  
11      procedures to include placing a hold on certain  
12      students' registrations; specifying the requirements  
13      for students to lift the hold; requiring the Board of  
14      Governors to approve such procedures by a specified  
15      date; amending s. 1009.25, F.S.; making technical  
16      changes; amending s. 1009.40, F.S.; conforming  
17      provisions to changes made by the act; creating s.  
18      1009.46, F.S.; specifying the duties of certain  
19      postsecondary educational institutions with regard to  
20      financial aid and tuition assistance programs;  
21      specifying penalties for noncompliance; requiring the  
22      Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and  
23      the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida  
24      to each approve, by a specified date, a list of career  
25      certificate and undergraduate and graduate degree  
26      programs that they determine do not lead directly to  
27      employment; requiring that each list include specified  
28      information; requiring that the state board list  
29      include programs at independent colleges and

576-03664-21

202186c2

30 universities licensed by the Commission for  
31 Independent Education; requiring each entity to  
32 publish the methodology used in determining whether  
33 programs are included on the list; requiring that the  
34 lists be updated annually, by a specified date, to be  
35 effective the next academic year; amending s. 1009.50,  
36 F.S.; revising the formula for calculating how Florida  
37 Public Student Assistance Grant Program funds are  
38 distributed; deleting a provision authorizing Florida  
39 Public Student Assistance Grant Program funds to be  
40 deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance  
41 Trust Fund; deleting a provision requiring any balance  
42 in the trust fund which was allocated to the Florida  
43 Public Student Assistance Grant Program at the end of  
44 the fiscal year to remain therein; amending s.  
45 1009.505, F.S.; deleting a provision authorizing  
46 Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student  
47 Assistance Grant Program funds to be deposited in the  
48 trust fund; deleting a provision requiring any balance  
49 in the trust fund which was allocated to the Florida  
50 Public Postsecondary Career Education Student  
51 Assistance Grant Program at the end of the fiscal year  
52 to remain therein; amending s. 1009.51, F.S.; revising  
53 the formula for calculating how Florida Private  
54 Student Assistance Grant Program funds are  
55 distributed; deleting a provision authorizing Florida  
56 Private Student Assistance Grant Program funds to be  
57 deposited in the trust fund; deleting a provision  
58 requiring any balance in the trust fund which was

576-03664-21

202186c2

59 allocated to the Florida Private Student Assistance  
60 Grant Program at the end of the fiscal year to remain  
61 therein; amending s. 1009.52, F.S.; revising the  
62 formula for how Florida Postsecondary Student  
63 Assistance Grant Program funds are distributed;  
64 deleting a provision authorizing Florida Postsecondary  
65 Student Assistance Grant Program funds to be deposited  
66 in the trust fund; deleting a provision requiring any  
67 balance in the trust fund which was allocated to the  
68 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program  
69 at the end of the fiscal year to remain therein;  
70 amending s. 1009.53, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
71 Education to advertise the Florida Bright Futures  
72 Scholarship Program to specified persons no later than  
73 a specified date of each year; deleting a provision  
74 authorizing unused Florida Bright Futures Scholarship  
75 Program funds to be carried forward; deleting a  
76 provision authorizing certain students to receive  
77 specified loans; amending s. 1009.534, F.S.; revising  
78 and expanding eligibility requirements of the Florida  
79 Academic Scholars award; providing that a Florida  
80 Academic Scholar is eligible for an award equal to the  
81 amount specified in the General Appropriations Act;  
82 amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; revising and expanding  
83 eligibility for a Florida Medallion Scholars award;  
84 providing a Florida Medallion Scholar is eligible for  
85 an award equal to the amount specified in the General  
86 Appropriations Act; amending s. 1009.893, F.S.;

87 requiring a student who enrolls in a baccalaureate

576-03664-21

202186c2

88 degree program in specified academic years to comply  
89 with certain requirements to attain a Benacquisto  
90 Scholarship; providing that the amount awarded under  
91 the program will be as specified in the General  
92 Appropriations Act; providing an effective date.  
93

94 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
95

96 Section 1. Section 1006.75, Florida Statutes, is created to  
97 read:

98 1006.75 State university career planning and information.-

99 (1) To assist students and families in making better-  
100 informed decisions about educational options and future  
101 employment opportunities, the Board of Governors of the State  
102 University System shall publicly publish an online dashboard.  
103 The dashboard must present data, by academic discipline, of  
104 graduates of state universities, including at least the  
105 following information:

106 (a) Post-graduation median salary 1, 5, and 10 years after  
107 graduation;

108 (b) Median student loan debt;

109 (c) Debt-to-income ratio;

110 (d) Estimated monthly loan payment as a percentage of gross  
111 monthly income; and

112 (e) The percentage of graduates who have continued their  
113 education beyond the baccalaureate level.

114 (2) The online dashboard must be available by January 1,  
115 2022. A link to the dashboard shall be prominently displayed on  
116 each state university's office of admissions website.

576-03664-21

202186c2

117 (3) (a) Each state university board of trustees shall adopt  
118 procedures to connect undergraduate students to career planning,  
119 coaching, and related programs during the first academic year of  
120 the student's enrollment. Such procedures must be approved by  
121 the Board of Governors and include placing a hold on student  
122 registration before the end of the first year of each student's  
123 enrollment. To lift the hold and register for classes, each  
124 student must:

- 125 1. Register with the university's career center;  
126 2. Complete a career readiness training module provided by  
127 the career center;  
128 3. Be directed to the dashboard established in subsection  
129 (1); and  
130 4. Affirmatively indicate that he or she has been provided  
131 with the information required under this paragraph and is aware  
132 of the employment and wage prospects for his or her declared  
133 major.

134 (b) The Board of Governors of the State University System  
135 shall review and approve each university's procedures by March  
136 1, 2022.

137 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of  
138 section 1009.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

139 1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

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

144 (c) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached  
145 18 years of age, in the custody of the Department of Children

576-03664-21

202186c2

146 and Families or who, after spending at least 6 months in the  
147 custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was  
148 placed in a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes  
149 fees associated with enrollment in applied academics for adult  
150 education instruction. The exemption remains valid until the  
151 student reaches 28 years of age.

152 (d) A student who is, or was at the time he or she reached  
153 18 years of age, in the custody of a relative or nonrelative  
154 under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or who was adopted from the  
155 Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such  
156 exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied  
157 academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains  
158 valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

159 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
160 1009.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

161 1009.40 General requirements for student eligibility for  
162 state financial aid awards and tuition assistance grants.-

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

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

576-03664-21

202186c2

175           2. Residency in this state for no less than 1 year  
176 preceding the award of aid or a tuition assistance grant for a  
177 program established pursuant to s. 1009.50, s. 1009.505, s.  
178 1009.51, s. 1009.52, s. 1009.53, s. 1009.60, s. 1009.62, s.  
179 1009.72, s. 1009.73, s. 1009.75, s. 1009.77, s. 1009.89, ~~or~~ s.  
180 1009.891, or s. 1009.894. Residency in this state must be for  
181 purposes other than to obtain an education. Resident status for  
182 purposes of receiving state financial aid awards shall be  
183 determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition  
184 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21.

185           3. Submission of certification attesting to the accuracy,  
186 completeness, and correctness of information provided to  
187 demonstrate a student's eligibility to receive state financial  
188 aid awards or tuition assistance grants. Falsification of such  
189 information shall result in the denial of a pending application  
190 and revocation of an award or grant currently held to the extent  
191 that no further payments shall be made. Additionally, students  
192 who knowingly make false statements in order to receive state  
193 financial aid awards or tuition assistance grants commit a  
194 misdemeanor of the second degree subject to the provisions of s.  
195 837.06 and shall be required to return all state financial aid  
196 awards or tuition assistance grants wrongfully obtained.

197           Section 4. Section 1009.46, Florida Statutes, is created to  
198 read:

199           1009.46 Duties relating to state financial aid and tuition  
200 assistance programs.-

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

576-03664-21

202186c2

- 204       1. Complete and return the annual application for state aid  
205   funds in the format and by the date established by the  
206   Department of Education;
- 207       2. Maintain complete, accurate, and auditable student  
208   records documenting the institution's administration of state  
209   financial aid and tuition assistance funds;
- 210       3. Verify eligibility of enrolled students with the  
211   department each academic term;
- 212       4. Report each student's program of study to the department  
213   using the most recent classification of instructional programs  
214   taxonomy for the certificate or degree level as developed by the  
215   United States Department of Education's National Center for  
216   Education Statistics;
- 217       5. Disburse state financial aid and tuition assistance to  
218   eligible students;
- 219       6. Notify students annually regarding the renewal  
220   requirements for each state-funded award for which they are  
221   eligible;
- 222       7. Complete and return to the department all reports for  
223   the administration of state funds in the format and by the date  
224   established by the department;
- 225       8. Complete and return to the department all legislatively  
226   required reports in the format and by the date established by  
227   the department;
- 228       9. Retain required records for the later of 5 years or  
229   until such records are audited and any audit exceptions are  
230   resolved; and
- 231       10. Refund to the department any undisbursed advances  
232   within 60 days after the end of the regular registration period



576-03664-21

202186c2

233 each fall and spring term, within 30 days after the end of the  
234 summer term, or within 60 days after the date a student's  
235 ineligibility is determined.

236 (b) These requirements do not preclude higher standards  
237 specified in other sections of this part or rules of the State  
238 Board of Education.

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

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

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

250 (2) (a) By December 31, 2021, the Board of Governors, the  
251 State Board of Education, and the Independent Colleges and  
252 Universities of Florida shall each identify and publish a list  
253 of career certificate and undergraduate and graduate degree  
254 programs offered by a district career center, charter technical  
255 career center, Florida College System institution, independent  
256 college or university, or state university, as applicable, which  
257 do not lead directly to employment.

258 (b) In determining which programs will be included on a  
259 list, the Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and  
260 the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida shall  
261 consider national, state, and regional industry demand for

576-03664-21

202186c2

262 certificateholders and graduates of such degree programs. For  
263 each certificate and degree program listed, the Board of  
264 Governors and the State Board of Education must identify  
265 occupations, current job openings, estimates of job growth, and  
266 employment wages. The State Board of Education list must include  
267 programs at independent colleges and universities licensed by  
268 the Commission for Independent Education.

269 (c) The Board of Governors, the State Board of Education,  
270 and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida must  
271 publish the methodology used in determining whether programs  
272 were included on a list.

273 (d) The respective lists must be updated annually, by  
274 December 31, to be effective in the next academic year.

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

277 1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program;  
278 eligibility for grants.—

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

290 ~~(5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for state student~~

576-03664-21

202186c2

291 ~~assistance grants may be deposited in the State Student~~  
292 ~~Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and~~  
293 ~~pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end~~  
294 ~~of any fiscal year which has been allocated to the Florida~~  
295 ~~Public Student Assistance Grant Program shall remain therein and~~  
296 ~~shall be available for carrying out the purposes of this~~  
297 ~~section.~~

298 Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 1009.505, Florida  
299 Statutes, is amended to read:

300 1009.505 Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education  
301 Student Assistance Grant Program.—

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

310 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection  
311 (5) of section 1009.51, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

312 1009.51 Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program;  
313 eligibility for grants.—

314 (4) (a) The funds appropriated for the Florida Private  
315 Student Assistance Grant Program shall be distributed to  
316 eligible institutions in accordance with a formula approved by  
317 the State Board of Education. The formula must consider at least  
318 the prior year's distribution of funds and the number of  
319 eligible applicants who did not receive awards, ~~the~~

576-03664-21

202186c2

320 ~~standardization of the expected family contribution, and~~  
321 ~~provisions for unused funds.~~ The formula must account for  
322 changes in the number of eligible students across all student  
323 assistance grant programs established pursuant to this section  
324 and ss. 1009.50, 1009.505, and 1009.52.

325 ~~(5) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida~~  
326 ~~private student assistance grants may be deposited in the State~~  
327 ~~Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding s.~~  
328 ~~216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust~~  
329 ~~fund at the end of any fiscal year which has been allocated to~~  
330 ~~the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program shall~~  
331 ~~remain therein and shall be available for carrying out the~~  
332 ~~purposes of this section and as otherwise provided by law.~~

333 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection  
334 (6) of section 1009.52, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

335 1009.52 Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant  
336 Program; eligibility for grants.-

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

348 ~~(6) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for Florida~~

576-03664-21

202186c2

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

356 Section 9. Subsections (3), (4), and (7) of section  
357 1009.53, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

358 1009.53 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.—

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

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

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

377 ~~(b) Notwithstanding s. 216.301, if all funds allocated to~~

576-03664-21

202186c2

378 ~~the Bright Futures Scholarship Program are not used in any~~  
379 ~~fiscal year, up to 10 percent of the total allocation may be~~  
380 ~~carried forward and used for awards in the following year.~~

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

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

395 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

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

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

576-03664-21

202186c2

407 ~~or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;~~

408 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
409 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, has completed the International  
410 Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International  
411 Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the Advanced  
412 International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to  
413 earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education  
414 Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s.  
415 1009.531(6) (a) ~~on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of~~  
416 ~~the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or~~  
417 ~~the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College~~  
418 ~~Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT~~  
419 ~~Assessment Program;~~

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

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

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

431 (f) For a high school student who graduated in the 2021-  
432 2022 academic year and thereafter:

433 1. Has earned an associate degree with a minimum  
434 postsecondary cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0  
435 scale before graduating from high school; or

576-03664-21

202186c2

436       2. Has earned a College Board Advanced Placement Capstone  
437 Diploma with scores of 4 or higher on six Advanced Placement  
438 examinations.

439

440 The student must complete a program of volunteer service work,  
441 as approved by the district school board, the administrators of  
442 a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home  
443 education program students, which must include a minimum of 75  
444 hours of service work for high school students graduating in the  
445 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours of service work for high  
446 school students graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and  
447 thereafter. The student must identify a social or civic issue or  
448 a professional area that interests him or her, develop a plan  
449 for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or  
450 learning about the area, and, through papers or other  
451 presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience.  
452 Except for credit earned through service-learning courses  
453 adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive  
454 remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work  
455 performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a  
456 business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit  
457 community service organization, or activities on behalf of a  
458 candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must  
459 be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the  
460 student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative  
461 of the organization for which the student performed the  
462 volunteer service work.

463       (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a  
464 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program



576-03664-21

202186c2

465 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary educational ~~education~~  
466 institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount  
467 specified necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and fees  
468 ~~established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7); 1009.23(3),~~  
469 ~~(4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7) (13),~~  
470 ~~(14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an~~  
471 ~~additional stipend for textbooks, to assist with the payment of~~  
472 ~~educational expenses as funds are specifically appropriated in~~  
473 the General Appropriations Act to assist with the payment of  
474 educational expenses.

475 Section 11. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 1009.535,  
476 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

477 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

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

481 (a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as  
482 calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high  
483 school courses that are designated by the State Board of  
484 Education as college-preparatory academic courses and has  
485 attained at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) ~~on~~  
486 ~~the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic~~  
487 ~~Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered~~  
488 ~~Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,~~  
489 ~~or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;~~

490 (b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate  
491 curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate  
492 Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate  
493 of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced

576-03664-21

202186c2

494 International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained  
495 at least the score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) ~~on the~~  
496 ~~combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic~~  
497 ~~Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered~~  
498 ~~Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination,~~  
499 ~~or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;~~

500 (c) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
501 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the  
502 score required under s. 1009.531(6)(b) ~~on the combined verbal~~  
503 ~~and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the~~  
504 ~~Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic~~  
505 ~~Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an~~  
506 ~~equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;~~

507 (d) Has been recognized by the ~~merit or achievement program~~  
508 ~~of the~~ National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or  
509 finalist but has not completed the program of volunteer service  
510 work required under s. 1009.534; ~~or~~

511 (e) Has been granted academic honors by one or more of the  
512 College Board National Recognition Programs for students from  
513 underrepresented communities ~~recognized by the National Hispanic~~  
514 ~~Recognition Program as a scholar,~~ but has not completed the  
515 program of volunteer service work required under s. 1009.534; or

516 (f) For a high school student who graduates in the 2021-  
517 2022 academic year and thereafter:

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

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

576-03664-21

202186c2

523

524 A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year  
525 and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours of volunteer  
526 service work approved by the district school board, the  
527 administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of  
528 Education for home education program students. The student must  
529 identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that  
530 interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal  
531 involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area,  
532 and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect  
533 upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through  
534 service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the  
535 student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for  
536 volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is  
537 not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for  
538 a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on  
539 behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer  
540 service must be documented in writing, and the document must be  
541 signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a  
542 representative of the organization for which the student  
543 performed the volunteer service work.

544 (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a  
545 certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program  
546 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary educational ~~education~~  
547 institution is eligible, ~~beginning in the fall 2018 semester,~~  
548 for an award equal to the amount specified in the General  
549 Appropriations Act necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and  
550 ~~fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);~~  
551 ~~1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)~~

576-03664-21

202186c2

552 ~~(13), (14) (r), and (16), as applicable,~~ to assist with the  
553 payment of educational expenses. Beginning in the fall 2021  
554 semester, a Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in an  
555 associate degree program at a Florida College System institution  
556 is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the  
557 General Appropriations Act necessary to pay 100 percent of  
558 tuition and fees established under s. 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8),  
559 (10), and (11) to assist with the payment of educational  
560 expenses.

561 Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection  
562 (5) of section 1009.893, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

563 1009.893 Benacquisto Scholarship Program.—

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

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

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

575 2. Earn a high school diploma from a school outside Florida  
576 which is comparable to a standard Florida high school diploma or  
577 its equivalent pursuant to s. 1002.3105, s. 1003.4281, s.  
578 1003.4282, or s. 1003.435 or must complete a home education  
579 program in another state; and

580 3. Be accepted by and enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate

576-03664-21

202186c2

581 degree program at an eligible regionally accredited Florida  
582 public or independent postsecondary educational institution  
583 during the fall academic term following high school graduation.

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

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

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

607 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.