



159858

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/18/2025	.	
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The Committee on Education Postsecondary (Fine) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 29 and 30

insert:

Section 2. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to that section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—



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

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

23 (b) Has attended a home education program according to s.  
24 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, has completed the International  
25 Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International  
26 Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the Advanced  
27 International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to  
28 earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education  
29 Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under s.  
30 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of  
31 the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or  
32 the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College  
33 Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT  
34 Assessment Program;

35 (c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma  
36 from the International Baccalaureate Office, ~~or~~ an Advanced  
37 International Certificate of Education Diploma from the  
38 University of Cambridge International Examinations Office, or an  
39 Advanced Placement Capstone designation from the College Board;



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

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

45  
46 The student must complete a program of volunteer service or,  
47 beginning with a high school student graduating in the 2022-2023  
48 academic year and thereafter, paid work, as approved by the  
49 district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school,  
50 or the Department of Education for home education program  
51 students, which must include 100 hours of volunteer service,  
52 paid work, or a combination of both. Eligible paid work  
53 completed on or after June 27, 2022, shall be included in the  
54 student's total of paid work hours. The student may identify a  
55 social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him  
56 or her and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in  
57 addressing the issue or learning about the area. The student  
58 must, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and  
59 reflect upon his or her volunteer service or paid work  
60 experience. Such volunteer service or paid work may include, but  
61 is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work  
62 for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on  
63 behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer  
64 service or paid work must be documented in writing, and the  
65 document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or  
66 guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the  
67 student performed the volunteer service or paid work.

68 (2) For purposes of this section, the Advanced Placement



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69 Capstone designation shall consist of six Advanced Placement  
70 courses, including Advanced Placement Seminar; Advanced  
71 Placement Research; one Advanced Placement course in mathematics  
72 or science; one Advanced Placement course in English; one  
73 Advanced Placement course in art, history, or social sciences;  
74 and one Advanced Placement course in a subject of the student's  
75 choice. Receipt of the Advanced Placement Capstone designation  
76 does not satisfy the requirements for a standard high school  
77 diploma under s. 1003.4282.

78 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (18) of section  
79 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

80 1009.26 Fee waivers.—

81 (18)

82 (c) Upon enrollment in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a  
83 state-approved teacher preparation program, the tuition and fees  
84 waived under this subsection must be reported for state funding  
85 purposes under ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535 and must be disbursed  
86 to the student. The amount disbursed to the student must be  
87 equal to the award amount the student has received under s.  
88 1009.534(3) ~~s. 1009.534(2)~~ or s. 1009.535(2).

89  
90 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

91 And the title is amended as follows:

92 Delete line 6

93 and insert:

94 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1009.534,  
95 F.S.; revising student eligibility requirements for  
96 the Florida Academic Scholars award to include earning  
97 an Advanced Placement Capstone designation from the



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98 College Board; providing requirements for the  
99 designation; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; conforming a  
100 cross-reference; providing an effective