

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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 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
 36 | Scholarship 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~~
 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
 74 (MSID) of each school in the district to which an eligible
 75 classroom 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
 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
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
 127 a 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.