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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Hershel Lyons

**DATE:** July 6, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Programs for FY 2018-2019**

### **Contact Information:**

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**DPS: 2018-87**

### **The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program**

The 2018 Legislature amended section (s.) 1012.731, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program*. The current statute is available at [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=1012.731&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.731.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=1012.731&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.731.html).

The amended statute indicates that a school district or charter school employee who is eligible for the \$6,000 scholarship and who is no longer a classroom teacher may receive a Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship award if the employee met the requirement as a classroom teacher in the prior school year and was rated highly effective.

For 2018-2019, s. 1012.731, F.S., continues to require that each district school board or charter school governing board determine the eligibility of classroom teachers who qualify for the teacher scholarship. Each district school board should review the statute and make its own decision regarding eligibility questions.

There are three scholarships available under this section for the 2018-2019 school year in the amount of \$6,000, \$1,200 and \$800. Each scholarship has its own eligibility requirements that districts must review and administer locally.

### **Test Scores**

For information about the availability of test scores, districts or charter school governing boards should contact ACT and the College Board directly.

### **Deadlines**

No later than November 1, 2018:

Pursuant to s. 1012.731(3), F.S., for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program, an eligible teacher must submit to the school district an official score report of his or her SAT or ACT score demonstrating that the teacher scored at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile based on the percentile ranks in effect when the teacher took the assessment.

HERSHEL LYONS  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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By December 1, 2018, the school district must submit the following information for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program:

The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship to the department. The department will provide additional reporting instructions to school districts and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind by November 1, 2018.

By February 1, 2019:

Based on the information provided by the school districts, the department will disburse scholarship funds to each school district for each eligible classroom teacher. Scholarship funds for eligible charter school teachers will be disbursed similar to other funds under s. 1002.33(17), F.S.

By April 1, 2019:

Each school district will award the scholarship to each eligible classroom teacher.

### **The Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program**

The 2018 Legislature made no revisions to s. 1012.732, F.S., *The Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program*. The current statute is available at

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=The+Florida+Best+and+Brightest+Principal+Scholarship+Program&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.732.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=The+Florida+Best+and+Brightest+Principal+Scholarship+Program&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.732.html).

### **Deadlines**

By November 1, 2018, the department will provide reporting instructions to school districts.

By February 1, 2019:

The department shall identify eligible school principals and disburse funds to each school district for each eligible school principal to receive a scholarship. A scholarship of \$5,000 must be awarded to every eligible school principal assigned to a Title I school and a scholarship of \$4,000 to every eligible school principal who is not assigned to a Title I school.

By April 1, 2019:

Each school district will award the scholarship to each eligible school principal.

HL/as