

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Bright Futures District Contacts  
Public and Private High School Guidance Counselors

**FROM:** Theresa Antworth  
Director, State Scholarship and Grant Programs

**DATE:** June 13, 2011

**SUBJECT:** 2011 Florida Legislative Changes to State Administered Scholarship and Grants

The 2011 Florida Legislative Session ended May 6, 2011, and Governor Scott signed bills that affect 2011-12 high school seniors who wish to earn a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) website at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm> will reflect these changes as of July 1, 2011.

You may access any session bills via the website at [www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome).

### **SB2150 – Senate Conforming Bill**

- Requires **all Bright Futures students to file a FAFSA** prior to receiving funding in the 2011-12 academic year. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), OSFA will continue to determine the student's academic eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The postsecondary institution will determine (along with residency and citizenship), whether or not the student has submitted his annual FAFSA before funding Bright Futures. The FAFSA must be complete and error-free, but does not have to indicate financial need. Notifications have been sent to initial and renewing students.

LEVIS HUGHES  
CHIEF OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

June 13, 2011

Page 2

- Expands **Bright Futures initial eligibility community service hours** for all three scholarship levels beginning with 2011-12 high school graduates:
  - Florida Academic Scholars – increases from 75 to 100 hours
  - Florida Medallion Scholars – new requirement of 75 hours
  - Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars – new requirement of 30 hours
- Increases for the 2013-14 high school graduates, the Florida Medallion Scholars **initial eligibility test score requirement** from 1050 SAT to 1170, and 23 ACT to 26.

**CS/HB7151** (K-20 Innovation Subcommittee)

- Requires the Department of Education to approve **home education community service hours for Bright Futures** initial eligibility. This means OSFA (not the public school district or a private high school administrator) will determine the policy for acceptable community service for home educated applicants and review their documentation of completed community service hours. This policy will be included on the Bright Futures website for home educated applicants beginning July 1.

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship – not funded for the 2011-12 year; therefore, no initial or renewal awards will be made. Notifications have been sent to all Byrd applicants and renewing students.

Should you have questions about changes to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, please call our toll-free number 1-888-827-2004.