

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the best and brightest teachers and  
3           principals; amending s. 1012.731, F.S.; revising the  
4           eligibility criteria for the Florida Best and  
5           Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program; providing for  
6           retention of a classroom teacher's scholarship  
7           eligibility under certain circumstances; requiring  
8           each school district to annually submit certain  
9           information to the Department of Education; deleting  
10          the scheduled expiration of the section; creating s.  
11          1012.732, F.S.; creating the Florida Best and  
12          Brightest Principal Scholarship Program; providing  
13          legislative intent; providing for funding of the  
14          program; providing for certain school principals to  
15          receive a scholarship under the program; providing  
16          eligibility requirements; requiring the department to  
17          annually identify eligible school principals and  
18          disburse funds to school districts by a specified  
19          date; requiring each eligible school principal to  
20          receive a scholarship; requiring scholarships to be  
21          prorated under certain circumstances; requiring school  
22          districts to annually award scholarships to eligible  
23          school principals by a specified date; requiring  
24          school districts to provide best and brightest  
25          principals with specified additional authority and

26 |           responsibilities; defining the term "school district";  
 27 |           providing an effective date.

28 |

29 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30 |

31 |           Section 1. Subsections (3), (4), and (8) of section  
 32 | 1012.731, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

33 |           1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher  
 34 | Scholarship Program.—

35 |           (3)(a) To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom  
 36 | teacher must:

37 |           1. Have achieved a composite score at or above the 77th  
 38 | ~~80th~~ percentile on ~~either the SAT, or the ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT,~~  
 39 | or MCAT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when  
 40 | the classroom teacher took the assessment.

41 |           2. ~~and~~ Have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to  
 42 | s. 1012.34, or have been evaluated as highly effective based on  
 43 | a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant  
 44 | to s. 1012.34(8), in the school year immediately preceding the  
 45 | year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the  
 46 | classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board  
 47 | and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

48 |           (b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an  
 49 | eligible classroom teacher must submit to the school district,  
 50 | no later than November 1, an official record of his or her

51 qualifying assessment ~~SAT or ACT~~ score demonstrating that the  
52 classroom teacher scored at or above the 77th ~~80th~~ percentile  
53 based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the  
54 teacher took the assessment. Once a classroom teacher is deemed  
55 eligible by the school district, ~~including teachers deemed~~  
56 ~~eligible in the 2015-2016 fiscal year,~~ the teacher shall remain  
57 eligible as long as he or she remains employed by the school  
58 district as a classroom teacher at the time of the award and  
59 receives an annual performance evaluation rating of highly  
60 effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 or is evaluated as highly  
61 effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning  
62 growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8).

63 (4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall  
64 submit to the department:

65 (a) The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify  
66 for the scholarship.

67 (b) The name and master school identification number  
68 (MSID) of each school in the district to which an eligible  
69 classroom teacher is assigned.

70 (c) The name of the school principal of each eligible  
71 classroom teacher's school if he or she has served as the  
72 school's principal for at least 2 consecutive school years  
73 including the current school year.

74 ~~(8) This section expires July 1, 2017.~~

75 Section 2. Section 1012.732, Florida Statutes, is created

76 | to read:

77 |       1012.732 The Florida Best and Brightest Principal  
78 | Scholarship Program.—

79 |       (1) The Legislature recognizes that the most effective  
80 | school principals establish a safe and supportive school  
81 | environment for students and faculty. Research shows that these  
82 | principals increase student learning by providing opportunities  
83 | for the professional growth, collaboration, and autonomy that  
84 | classroom teachers need to become and remain highly effective  
85 | educational professionals. As a result, these principals are  
86 | able to recruit and retain more of the best classroom teachers  
87 | and improve student outcomes at their schools, including schools  
88 | serving low-income and high-need student populations. Therefore,  
89 | it is the intent of the Legislature to designate school  
90 | principals whose school faculty has a high percentage of  
91 | classroom teachers who are designated as Florida's best and  
92 | brightest teacher scholars pursuant to s. 1012.731 as Florida's  
93 | best and brightest principals.

94 |       (2) There is created the Florida Best and Brightest  
95 | Principal Scholarship Program to be administered by the  
96 | Department of Education. The program shall provide categorical  
97 | funding for scholarships to be awarded to school principals, as  
98 | defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c)1., who have recruited and retained a  
99 | high percentage of best and brightest teachers.

100 |       (3) A school principal identified pursuant to s.

101 1012.731(4)(c) is eligible to receive a scholarship under this  
102 section if he or she has served as school principal at his or  
103 her school for at least 2 consecutive school years including the  
104 current school year and his or her school has a ratio of best  
105 and brightest teachers to other classroom teachers that is at  
106 the 80th percentile or higher for schools within the same grade  
107 group, statewide, including elementary schools, middle schools,  
108 high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels.

109 (4) Annually, by February 1, the department shall identify  
110 eligible school principals and disburse funds to each school  
111 district for each eligible school principal to receive a  
112 scholarship as provided in the General Appropriations Act. A  
113 scholarship must be awarded to every eligible school principal,  
114 with a greater scholarship amount awarded to school principals  
115 who are assigned to a Title I school. If the number of eligible  
116 school principals exceeds the total appropriation authorized in  
117 the General Appropriations Act, the department shall prorate  
118 each school principal's scholarship in a manner consistent with  
119 this subsection.

120 (5) Annually, by April 1, each school district must award  
121 a scholarship to each eligible school principal.

122 (6) A school district must provide a best and brightest  
123 principal with the additional authority and responsibilities  
124 provided in s. 1012.28(8) for a minimum of 2 years.

125 (7) For purposes of this section, the term "school

CS/HB 7069

2017

126 | district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
127 | and charter school governing boards.

128 |       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.