

Bright Futures Summer 2026 Funding Questions and Answers

1. Who is eligible to receive summer 2026 funding?

Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) that are eligible for the 2025-26 academic year can receive summer 2026 funding and should be disbursed on the 2025-26 “Term 6” Disbursement Eligibility Report (DER).

Any 2026 high school graduate who has been officially evaluated as an FAS or FMS recipient can receive 2026 summer funding and should be disbursed on the 2026-27 “Term 0” DER.

2. Can transient students receive summer 2026 funding?

Yes. Degree-seeking students at your institution during the 2025-26 academic year who attend another institution during the summer 2026 term can receive funding if the coursework is approved by the home institution. Students enrolled in a public postsecondary institution must submit a *Transient Student Admission Application* located online at [FloridaShines](https://www.floridashines.com). Students enrolled at a private postsecondary institution should contact their financial aid office.

3. What sessions are included in the summer term?

All sessions offered by the institution during the summer 2026 term will be included in a single “Term 6” reporting to the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for students eligible as 2025-26 FAS or FMS. 2026 high school graduates, who are 2026-27 initial FAS or FMS students, will be disbursed under the “Term 0” DER.

4. Which institution will receive the funding for transient students?

Funding will be sent to the home institution, i.e. the institution where the student is degree-seeking. The home institution will be responsible for reporting student data on both the DER and the Grade and Hours (G&H) Report.

5. Can graduate students who are FAS or FMS receive summer funding?

Yes. FAS and FMS students who meet graduate funding requirements can use the summer term as their one semester of graduate study funding.

6. Will FAS or FMS students enrolled less than half-time (6 semester hours) be funded?

FAS and FMS students enrolled less than half-time can only be funded if they are enrolled in the remaining course(s) to finish their degree. Students can also be funded less than half-time if they are disbursed the last remaining hours of eligibility.

7. Can a 2025-26 FAS or FMS student who did not renew for 2026-27 still receive summer funding?

Yes. The 2025-26 academic year includes the summer 2026 as “Term 6.” Any FAS or FMS student eligible for 2025-26 can receive summer funding, provided the student meets all enrollment criteria.

8. How is the summer award amount to be calculated?

Institutions will follow the same formula used to disburse 2025-26 FAS and FMS students in the fall through spring terms.

9. Will FAS students receive their Academic Top Scholar (ATS) award during the summer?

No. The ATS award is only available within the fall through spring terms.

10. What process will OSFA use to provide funds to institutions for the summer term?

Attached to the April 10, 2026, memo is a “Bright Futures Summer 2026 Allocation Request Form.” Institutions should complete this form and return to OSFA by May 1, 2026, in order to receive an initial allocation.

The allocation form should be sent via email to Amy Sebring, at Amy.Sebring@fldoe.org, or can be submitted via the “Document Upload” link located on the OSFA homepage. DER submissions should begin after your institution’s drop/add period. Institutions should reconcile the term’s Payment Summary to request additional funds.

NOTE: Institutions that have not reconciled and returned outstanding Bright Futures funds for prior term(s) will not receive additional summer funding.

11. Can institutions use prior term(s) Bright Futures allocations to disburse students for the summer?

No. Reconciliation must be completed per term. Institutions that have not reconciled and returned outstanding Bright Futures funds for prior term(s) and/or academic years will not receive summer funding.

12. What is the deadline for institutions to reconcile?

Reconciliation should be completed by August 7, 2026. Please notify OSFA, by this date, of the need for additional “Term 6” funds and/or the return of any outstanding summer refunds.

Term 0 is considered part of the preceding academic year. As such, institutions have the ability to make required DER adjustments and Payment Summary reconciliation for Term 0 through Term 6 from July 1, 2026, throughout the 2026-27 academic year.

13. How will students populate on the institution’s MEL/DER?

Students last disbursed at your institution during the 2025-26 academic year will be prepopulated on your Master Eligibility List (MEL) and DER for "Term 6". For students who are degree-seeking at your institution for the first time during the summer term, please confirm eligibility on the MEL and then report students on the DER. Students may also select their institution of attendance for summer 2026 on their profile with OSFA.

Recent high school graduates (i.e., 2026-27 initially eligible students) will populate on your "Term 0" MEL and DER based on their institution selection.

14. How will institutions report summer disbursements to OSFA?

The DER processes remain the same. The DER will open at the close of your drop/add period and remain open through August 14, 2026. The home institution will report approved transient students on the DER under “Other Institution” using the tuition and fee rate for the host institution where the student took the classes.

15. Will the summer term be used to evaluate renewal?

No. Renewal evaluations are based on G&H information submitted for the fall through spring term on your institution’s spring G&H Report.

16. Will institutions report grade and hour information for students funded in the summer term?

Yes. Grade and hour information will be reported for all students funded during the summer. Those summer students who received a disbursement will populate on the Summer Grade & Hour Report and should be reported on that file. That information is not used for renewal evaluations for 2026-27 but may be used to restore the scholarship for those students who have the one-time restoration available to them.

17. Can students receive other state aid, in addition to Bright Futures, during the summer?

Yes. Students can utilize the Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) award simultaneously while receiving a Bright Futures FAS or FMS award during summer 2026. The 2025-26 Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Summer Disbursements memorandum will provide greater detail for summer 2026 FSAG awarding. See memo #25-26: 23 for additional details.

18. As summer grade and hours will not be considered in the evaluation for renewal eligibility, will students still be required to repay summer dropped/withdrawn courses?

Yes. Repayment obligations remain the same regardless of the term funded.