

## **2019 Florida Legislative Session Bright Futures Scholarship Program Updates**

The 2019 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 190, Higher Education. Governor DeSantis signed the bill into law on June 18, 2019, and it became effective July 1, 2019. As described below, the law revises a number of policies related to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Please share this information with appropriate personnel at your institution.

### **Initial Eligibility**

- **Initial Eligibility Test Score Requirement:** Revises examination score requirements for award eligibility to align the ACT<sup>®</sup> and SAT<sup>®</sup> examination scores with the SAT<sup>®</sup> national percentile ranks.
  - For high school students graduating in the 2018-19 and the 2019-20 academic years, a student must achieve the following scores:
    - Florida Academic Scholars (FAS): SAT<sup>®</sup> combined score of 1290 or an ACT<sup>®</sup> composite score of 29.
    - Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS): SAT<sup>®</sup> combined score of 1170 or an ACT<sup>®</sup> composite score of 26.
  - For high school students graduating in the 2020-21 academic year, a student must achieve the required examination scores published by the department before each school year, where:
    - The FAS award must not be set lower than the 89<sup>th</sup> national percentile on the SAT<sup>®</sup>, and
    - The FMS award must not be set lower than the 75<sup>th</sup> national percentile on the SAT<sup>®</sup>.
- **Midyear Graduate Application Deadline:** Extends the annual deadline, from August 31 to December 31, for when a student graduates from high school midyear and must apply for a Bright Futures award.
- **Misadvised Students:** Clarifies that a student who is permitted additional time to meet eligibility criteria may receive funding for the full academic year, including the fall term, only after the student completes the remaining eligibility requirements.
- **High School Student Evaluation Reports:** School districts are no longer required to provide the Bright Futures program Evaluation Report and Key to high school students in grades 9 and 10. School districts will only be required to provide the Bright Futures program Evaluation Report and Key to high school students in grades 11 and 12.

### **Renewal Eligibility**

- **Bright Futures Scholarship Length:** Removes the two-year timeframe for the eligibility to receive an initial award. Specifically, a student who earns the award may accept funding at any time during the five-year eligibility period from high school graduation.
- **Religious or Service Obligation:** A student who is unable to accept an initial award due to a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months must begin such obligation within one year after completion of high school.
- **Annual Credit Hour:** Eliminates the 45-credit hour annual restriction in the award of a scholarship.
- **Bright Futures Gold Seal CAPE (GSC):** Specifies that a GSC student must maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale with an opportunity for one-time restoration pursuant to law. This provision is consistent with the Florida Gold Seal Vocational award.