

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; requiring  
6           certain classroom teachers to submit an official  
7           transcript with a specified honor to demonstrate  
8           eligibility; providing for retention of a classroom  
9           teacher's scholarship eligibility under certain  
10          circumstances; requiring each school district to  
11          annually submit certain information to the Department  
12          of Education; deleting the scheduled expiration of the  
13          section; creating s. 1012.732, F.S.; creating the  
14          Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship  
15          Program; providing legislative intent; providing for  
16          funding of the program; providing for certain school  
17          principals to receive a scholarship under the program;  
18          providing eligibility requirements; requiring the  
19          department to annually identify eligible school  
20          principals and disburse funds to school districts by a  
21          specified date; requiring each eligible school  
22          principal to receive a scholarship; requiring  
23          scholarships to be prorated under certain  
24          circumstances; requiring school districts to annually  
25          award scholarships to eligible school principals by a

26 | specified date; requiring school districts to provide  
 27 | best and brightest principals with specified  
 28 | additional authority and responsibilities; defining  
 29 | the term "school district"; providing an effective  
 30 | date.  
 31 |

32 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 33 |

34 | Section 1. Subsections (3), (4), and (8) of section  
 35 | 1012.731, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

36 | 1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher  
 37 | Scholarship Program.—

38 | (3)(a) To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom  
 39 | teacher must:

40 | 1. Have achieved a composite score at or above the 75th  
 41 | ~~80th~~ percentile or, if the classroom teacher graduated cum laude  
 42 | or higher with a baccalaureate degree, the 70th percentile on  
 43 | either the SAT, or the ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, or MCAT based on  
 44 | the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom  
 45 | teacher took the assessment.

46 | 2. ~~and~~ Have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to  
 47 | s. 1012.34, or have been evaluated as highly effective based on  
 48 | a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant  
 49 | to s. 1012.34(8), in the school year immediately preceding the  
 50 | year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the

51 classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board  
52 and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

53 (b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an  
54 eligible classroom teacher must submit to the school district,  
55 no later than November 1, an official record of his or her  
56 qualifying assessment SAT or ACT score and, if applicable, an  
57 official transcript demonstrating that he or she graduated cum  
58 laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree ~~the classroom~~  
59 ~~teacher scored at or above the 80th percentile based on the~~  
60 ~~National Percentile Ranks in effect when the teacher took the~~  
61 ~~assessment~~. Once a classroom teacher is deemed eligible by the  
62 school district, ~~including teachers deemed eligible in the 2015-~~  
63 ~~2016 fiscal year,~~ the teacher shall remain eligible as long as  
64 he or she remains employed by the school district as a classroom  
65 teacher at the time of the award and receives an annual  
66 performance evaluation rating of highly effective pursuant to s.  
67 1012.34 or is evaluated as highly effective based on a  
68 commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant  
69 to s. 1012.34(8).

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

72 (a) The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify  
73 for the scholarship.

74 (b) The name and master school identification number  
75 (MSID) of each school in the district to which an eligible

76 classroom teacher is assigned.

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

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

82 Section 2. Section 1012.732, Florida Statutes, is created  
83 to read:

84 1012.732 The Florida Best and Brightest Principal  
85 Scholarship Program.—

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

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

107       (3) A school principal identified pursuant to s.  
108 1012.731(4)(c) is eligible to receive a scholarship under this  
109 section if he or she has served as school principal at his or  
110 her school for at least 2 consecutive school years including the  
111 current school year and his or her school has a ratio of best  
112 and brightest teachers to other classroom teachers that is at  
113 the 80th percentile or higher for schools within the same grade  
114 group, statewide, including elementary schools, middle schools,  
115 high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels.

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

HB 7069

2017

126 | this subsection.

127 |       (5) Annually, by April 1, each school district must award  
128 | a scholarship to each eligible school principal.

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

132 |       (7) For purposes of this section, the term "school  
133 | district" includes the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
134 | and charter school governing boards.

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