



Marva Johnson, *Chair*
John R. Padget, *Vice Chair*
Members
Gary Chartrand
Tom Grady
Rebecca Fishman Lipsey
Michael Olenick
Andy Tuck

Contact Information:

Bonita Hampton

850-245-0435

BestandBrightestScholarship@fldoe.org

DPS: 2016-84

MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Hershel Lyons

Date: July 8, 2016

Subject: **Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program**

The 2016 Legislature enacted section 1012.731, Florida Statutes (F.S.), The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program. The new statute requires that each district school board determine the eligibility of classroom teachers who qualify for the scholarship. The Legislature did not give rulemaking authority to the Department of Education (department), and the department has no authority to supervise or review the eligibility determinations made by the district school boards. **Each district school board should review the statute, and make its own decision regarding eligibility questions.** The current statute is available at the following link: <http://laws.flrules.org/2016/62>.

Eligibility

The statute establishes the following eligibility requirements for the scholarship. The individual applying for a scholarship must:

1. **Be a classroom teacher as defined in section 1012.01(2)(a), F.S.**, who is employed by a Florida school district, charter school or the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB) in 2016-2017;
2. Submit an official record that demonstrates his or her composite score on either the ACT or SAT was at or above the 80th percentile based on the National Rank in effect when the assessment was taken; and
3. A. Be newly hired by the district school board and not have been evaluated pursuant to section 1012.34, or
B. Have received an evaluation of highly effective on his or her evaluation for the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded.

A "classroom teacher" as defined in section 1012.01(2)(a), F.S., is:

Classroom teachers are staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing students in courses in classroom situations, including basic instruction, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education, including substitute teachers.

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Select Year: 2016 ▼ Go

The 2016 Florida Statutes

[Title XLVIII](#)
K-20 EDUCATION CODE

[Chapter 1012](#)
PERSONNEL

[View Entire Chapter](#)

1012.01 **Definitions.**—As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) **SCHOOL OFFICERS.**—The officers of the state system of public K-12 and Florida College System institution education shall be the Commissioner of Education and the members of the State Board of Education; for each district school system, the officers shall be the district school superintendent and members of the district school board; and for each Florida College System institution, the officers shall be the Florida College System institution president and members of the Florida College System institution board of trustees.

(2) **INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL.**—“Instructional personnel” means any K-12 staff member whose function includes the provision of direct instructional services to students. Instructional personnel also includes K-12 personnel whose functions provide direct support in the learning process of students. Included in the classification of instructional personnel are the following K-12 personnel:

(a) **Classroom teachers.**—Classroom teachers are staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing students in courses in classroom situations, including basic instruction, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education, including substitute teachers.

(b) **Student personnel services.**—Student personnel services include staff members responsible for: advising students with regard to their abilities and aptitudes, educational and occupational opportunities, and personal and social adjustments; providing placement services; performing educational evaluations; and similar functions. Included in this classification are certified school counselors, social workers, career specialists, and school psychologists.

(c) **Librarians/media specialists.**—Librarians/media specialists are staff members responsible for providing school library media services. These employees are responsible for evaluating, selecting, organizing, and managing media and technology resources, equipment, and related systems; facilitating access to information resources beyond the school; working with teachers to make resources available in the instructional programs; assisting teachers and students in media productions; and instructing students in the location and use of information resources.

(d) **Other instructional staff.**—Other instructional staff are staff members who are part of the instructional staff but are not classified in one of the categories specified in paragraphs (a)-(c). Included in this classification are primary specialists, learning resource specialists, instructional trainers, adjunct educators certified pursuant to s. 1012.57, and similar positions.

(e) **Education paraprofessionals.**—Education paraprofessionals are individuals who are under the direct supervision of an instructional staff member, aiding the instructional process. Included in this classification are classroom paraprofessionals in regular instruction, exceptional education paraprofessionals, career education paraprofessionals, adult education paraprofessionals, library paraprofessionals, physical education and playground paraprofessionals, and other school-level paraprofessionals.

(3) **ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.**—“Administrative personnel” includes K-12 personnel who perform management activities such as developing broad policies for the school district and executing those policies through the direction of personnel at all levels within the district. Administrative personnel are generally high-level, responsible personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of systemwide or schoolwide functions, such as district school superintendents, assistant superintendents, deputy superintendents, school principals, assistant principals, career