

Bright Futures & Financial Aid Info

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes lottery-funded scholarships to reward Florida high school graduates for high academic achievement. The program offers three levels of scholarship awards - the Florida Academic Scholars award (FAS), the Florida Medallion Scholars award (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award (GSV). **For complete information, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 1 at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>**

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT®/CLT®/SAT®)	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2025-26 Graduates: 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2025-26 Graduates: 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

The online application for Bright Futures for the Class of 2025 opens on October 1, 2024!

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- Submit the completed, error free *Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)* (after October 1 and prior to August 31 after high school graduation),
- Complete the requirements on the chart above (courses, GPA, test scores, service/work hours).
- Bright Futures GPA is not the same as the BTHS GPA: weighting for honors, AP, and dual enrollment classes equally with 0.5 per credit earned; two additional academic electives will be used toward the GPA calculation if it benefits the student.
- Students will be evaluated based on official test scores from the FDOE repository. Test scores can be sent to one of Florida's public colleges or state universities when registering for the ACT®, CLT®, or SAT®.
- Students have until graduation day to increase your GPA, credits, and service/work hours.
- After submitting the FFAA, the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online and keeping the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) informed of any changes.
- Enroll in an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary institution
- Enroll in a minimum of 6 non-remedial semester credit hours per term (or the equivalent)
- If not funded in the academic year immediately following high school graduation, apply within five years of high school graduation to have your award reinstated (must still apply during senior year of HS)
- The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award may be funded if a student is enrolled in a career education or certificate program. (Bright Futures Handbook, Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility.)

Service Hours - Turn in at Mrs. Richards' desk in Guidance

Students must earn either the required volunteer service, paid work hours, or a combination of 100 total hours. Volunteer hours must be documented in writing, and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization. Students using paid hours as community service are required to submit pay stubs to have their hours counted. Students must submit a **Service Plan** for their Bright Futures Community Service Hours and/or work hours to be approved.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is any resource that can assist in offsetting the cost of college. It covers such expenses as books and supplies, tuition and fees, room and board, and transportation. Typically, students/families will apply for financial aid at four levels: Federal, State, Institutional and Private Aid. Note: No one should assume they will not qualify for financial aid! Scholarships and university programs consider a wide range of factors when awarding money for education.

Federal Student Aid

Federal student aid is money that students can use to help pay for college. There are three main types of aid: grants, work-study, and loans.

Who gets it? Everyone should apply for federal student aid regardless of income.

How to apply? Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov
Tools & Resources to help you Prepare: <https://studentaid.gov/resources>

When to apply? FAFSA becomes available December 1st of a student's senior year. Students need to apply EVERY year throughout college.

State Financial Aid

State student aid is money that students can use to help pay for college. There are many grants and scholarships available but Bright Futures and First Generation Grant are the most common.

Who gets it? Everyone should apply for Florida financial aid regardless of income, GPA, or test scores.

How to apply? Complete the [Florida Financial Aid Application](#)

When to apply? The Florida financial aid application becomes available October 1. Students should apply as soon as possible senior year.

Institutional Financial Aid [\(Scholarships offered from Specific Schools\)](#)

Institutional (college/university) student aid is money that students can use to help pay for college. Often the college or university will require a separate application for aid.

Who gets it? Students should talk to the college's financial aid office to determine what the qualifications are for their financial aid.

How to apply? Colleges usually have a separate application process for financial aid. Check the school's website to determine how you should apply for financial aid.

When to apply? Financial aid deadlines vary from school to school but keep checking the schools website and apply as soon as possible.

Private Aid [\(Check out the Scholarships located on BTHS Guidance Link\)](#)

Scholarships can come from a variety of sources.

Who gets it? There are many different scholarships that are available to many different students.

How to apply? There are many ways to find scholarships. For tips and ways to find scholarships, go to <https://www-bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/scholarships-information-and-tips/>

When to apply? Start thinking about and applying for scholarships in 9th grade! If you qualify, apply!