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NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

NyFF NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

OCT - NOV 2026

View information about the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at the following link: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN

The Bright Futures Student Handbook is divided into three chapters covering a variety of topics.

CHAPTER 1: INITIAL ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDES:

- Requirements for Scholarship Types (FAS, FMS, GSC, and GSV); and
- Non-Traditional Students (Home-Education, Personalized Education Program, GED, Out-of-State, and Mid-Year).

CHAPTER 2: SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION, INCLUDES:

- Length of the Scholarship Award;
- Award Amounts; and
- Transferring the Award between Institutions.

CHAPTER 3: RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDES:

- Renewal Requirements; and
- Reinstatement/Restoration Requirements.

Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship (BFFMS) students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution receive 100 percent of tuition and specific fees. Upon completing an associate degree, a student may use his or her award to pursue a baccalaureate degree and receive 75 percent of tuition and specific fees.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 2027-28 *Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA): We encourage all high school seniors to submit an application, even if you do not plan to attend a Florida university, college, or technical center or attend immediately after graduation. The state application will **open on October 1, 2026**. Read the fact sheets for program deadlines found here: https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf
- 2027-28 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA): The anticipated opening date for the federal application was **September 23, 2026**. Create your FSA_ID and Password here: https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch?continueTo=fafsa
- National College Fairs: https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Many scholarship committees are looking for students who have the ability to communicate effectively in writing. Essays are an excellent way for scholarship judges to choose the most qualified candidates. Tips for writing the essay include:

- Giving yourself time - Quality essays take time;
- Following directions - Word count and font size may be eligibility requirements;
- Focusing on the topic - Answer the question that is being asked;
- Proofreading and editing your work - Be clear, concise, and correct any errors; and
- Getting feedback - Ask family or counselors to read your essay and provide feedback.