

# 2019-2020 Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program

The 2019 Florida legislative session enacted significant changes to this program. This page will provide a summary of those changes found in Section [1012.731](#), Florida Statutes.

**Eligibility for this state award will no longer require ACT or SAT scores.**

The purpose of the new Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal program is “to recruit, retain and recognize teachers who meet the needs of this state and have achieved success in the classroom” as well as “to designate school principals whose schools make noticeable academic improvement as Florida’s best and brightest principals”

There are three ways employees may be eligible to be part of this state program:

- **Retention Award – must work in a school which has improved an average of three (3) percentage points or more in the percentage of total possible points achieved for determining school grades over the prior three (3) years** and satisfy the following:
  - A classroom teacher as defined in [S. 1012.01\(a\)](#) must have been rated as Highly Effective or Effective the preceding year, and teach in a school for two (2) consecutive school years, including the current year.
  - A school principal is eligible to receive an award if he or she has served as school principal at his or her school for at least four (4) consecutive school years, including the current school year.

Here is a list of qualifying schools for the Retention Award as determined by FLDOE:

Atlantic HS	Blue Lake ES	Coronado Bch ES	Deltona HS
Deltona Lakes ES	Enterprise ES	Forest Lake ES	Freedom ES
George Marks ES	Hinson MS	Indian River ES	Longstreet ES
NSB HS	Ortona ES	Pathways ES	Pierson ES
Port Orange ES	Seabreeze HS	Silver Sands MS	Spruce Creek ES
Sugar Mill ES	Sunrise ES	Turie T. Small ES	

Burns Science & Technology   The Reading Edge Academy

- **Recruitment Award** – To be eligible for a one-time recruitment award, a newly hired classroom teacher to VCS in the 2019-2020 school year, must be considered a “content expert” in mathematics, science, computer science, reading or civics based on the criteria established by the State Board of Education,. A “content expert” is defined by FLDOE by this State Board of Education rule [6AER19-01](#).

We are currently working on identifying new to Volusia County classroom teachers who may eligible for this award. We can automatically qualify some based on their degree and verified years of

experience in the “content expert areas”. Teachers new to VCS this year who have not verified previous teaching experience or might be able to provide documentation of work experience in the above-named content areas will be contacted directly by Human Resources to determine eligibility.

- Recognition Award – To be eligible for a recognition award, instructional personnel as defined in S. 1012.01 (a – e) must be rated as Highly Effective or Effective, based on performance criteria and policies adopted by the district school board or charter school governing board. This section is still under development.

The following are the award amounts as set forth by state statute for eligible employees:

- Retention Award
  - \$2,500 for Highly Effective classroom teachers and \$1,000 for Effective classroom teachers
  - \$5,000 for principals
- Recruitment Award
  - Up to \$4,000
- Recognition Award
  - The state has not set an amount for this award. Funds remaining after all recruitment and retention payments will be used to determine the sum of the award.

No action needs to be taken at this time for eligible employees. This memo is meant to simply inform employees of the changes to the States Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Program.

For More Information:

<https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8600/dps-2019-109a.pdf>

<https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8615/DPS-2019-118-a.pdf>

<https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8697/DPS 2019-159a.pdf>