



SIP Bites – Florida School Recognition Program (A+ Funds)

Kelli Blackburn, School Improvement Coordinator

November 1, 2022 ~ Volume 2, Issue 4

Due Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Standard Operating Procedures

- The Florida Department of Education has provided a list of qualifying schools for the Florida School Recognition Program to the district.
- To meet the state law deadline and be afforded an opportunity to implement options for the allocations of the funds, the process provided is to be successfully completed by Wednesday, February 1, 2023 for all schools that qualify for the Florida School Recognition Program.
- **What schools are eligible for recognition under this program?**
 1. Schools that sustain high performance by receiving a school grade of "A;" or
 2. Schools that demonstrate exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort by improving at least one letter grade; or
 3. Schools that improve more than one letter grade and sustain the improvement the following school year; or
 4. Schools designated as alternative or Exceptional Student Education (ESE) center schools that receive a school improvement rating of "Commendable" or improve at least one level.
- **Funds may be used for:**
 1. One-time bonuses to faculty and staff,
 2. Purchase of educational equipment or materials, or
 3. To hire temporary personnel to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.

Need School Improvement Help???

Contact the School Improvement Team
at 754-321-2500

Did You Know?

All School Improvement Information is located on the Research, Evaluation, & Accountability site.

<https://www.browardschools.com/Page/47653>

Florida School Recognition Program (A+ Funds) Quick Reference

- 1. The School Advisory Council (SAC) creates written proposals in the form of a ballot for the expenditure of the funds:**
 - The ballot lists the options for dispensing the A+ Funds.
 - Use percentages or exact amounts when creating your award distribution proposals through SAC. (For example, 80% of the award to be distributed equally among all staff members employed at the school during the prior school year and 20% goes back to the school for student incentives.)
- 2. One of the options on the ballot must be “none of the above.”**
 - It is recommended that the ballot consist of 1 or 2 options and “none of the above.” This may allow for a greater chance of one of the options receiving a majority vote (51%) on the first round of voting.
 - The ballot must be presented to the faculty and staff a minimum of three workdays prior to the vote.
- 3. Faculty and staff must vote by secret ballot on the proposals.**
- 4. The proposal with the majority of votes (51%) will be implemented.**
- 5. If no proposal or “none of the above” receives the majority of votes, then the SAC reconvenes again and creates different proposals to be presented and voted on at another meeting.** (Start with number one and repeat the process)
- 6. SAC agenda, minutes and attendance sheets must be taken for each meeting and submitted to the principal.**
- 7. All schools must place the following A+ documentation (as a pdf) in the SAC Upload Center for each meeting and vote:**
 - SAC Documentation: Agendas, minutes, attendance sheets for each A+ Recognition Funds meeting held prior to Wednesday, February 1, 2023.
 - Staff Vote Documentation: Flyer announcing the vote, copy of the ballot, staff sign in sheets and final voting results
- 8. School goes through the District’s process and procedures for purchasing, hiring and bonus payments.**

Florida Statute 1008.36 states that, “If school staff and the School Advisory Council cannot reach agreement by February 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school.” For clarification purposes, a classroom teacher is one who is assigned to a classroom with students on a daily basis.
