



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

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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 Thursday, February 1, 2024, for all schools that qualify for the Florida School Recognition Program.

How will the 2020-21 optional grade year factor into award eligibility for the 2023-24 Florida School Recognition Program?

- Section 1008.36(2)(b), F.S., allows a school to qualify for School Recognition if the school improves by more than one letter grade and sustains the improvement in the following school year. For the 2023-24 award, this would require a school to improve their school grade by more than one letter grade between the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, and then to sustain that improvement in the 2022-23 school year. Only schools that opted in to receive a school grade in the 2020-21 school year may qualify under these criteria. Schools that did not opt in to receive a school grade in 2020-21 must qualify under one of the other criteria to receive an award in 2023-24.

Funds may be used for:

- One-time bonuses to faculty and staff,
- Purchase of educational equipment or materials, or
- 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.)
 - *Note: At this time percentages may be the better option to use as FLDOE has not released individual school award amounts.*
2. **One of the proposals on the ballot must be “none of the above.”**
 - It is recommended that the ballot consist of 1 or 2 proposals and “none of the above.” This may allow for a greater chance of one of the proposals 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 before 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, and attendance sheets for each A+ Recognition Funds meeting held before Thursday, February 1, 2024.
 - Staff Vote Documentation: Flyer announcing the vote, copy of the ballot, staff sign-in sheets and the “School Recognition Funds Ballot Count Summary Sheet.”
8. **The 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 1st, 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.