

Special Session

Florida School Recognition Program (A+ Funds)

January 12, 2024

School Improvement Team
Research, Evaluation & Accountability Department

Florida School Recognition Program **Info**



Due Date:
Thursday, February 1, 2024

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.



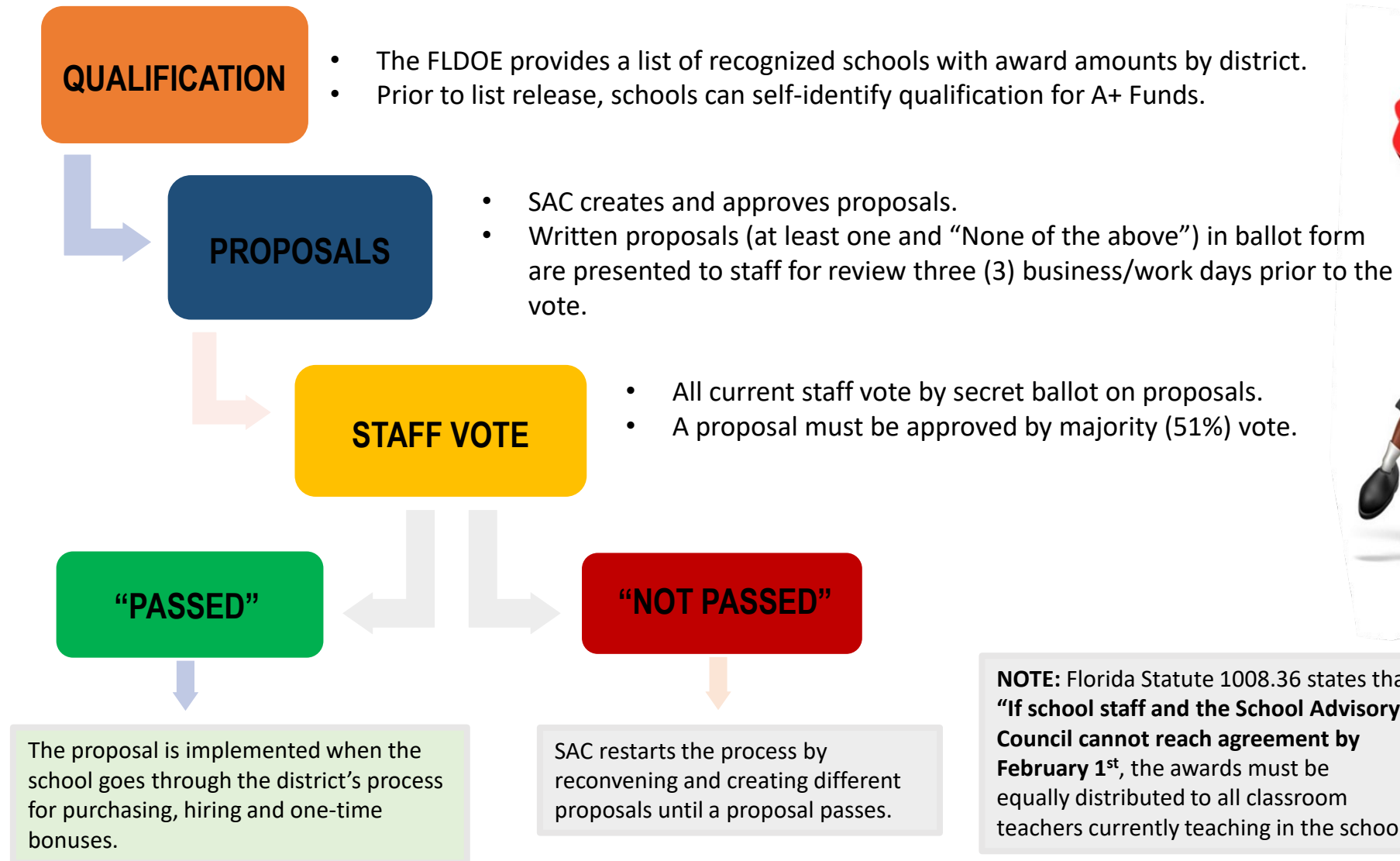
Florida School Recognition Program **Info**

Schools must use their awards for one or any combination of the following:

- Nonrecurring faculty and staff bonuses,
- Nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment or materials, or
- Hire temporary personnel to assist in maintaining and improving student performance.



A+ Funds Process Flow Chart



NOTE: 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.”

SAC Meeting **TIPS**



- Advertising Meetings
- Quorum
- Voting
- Minutes



Quorum **TIPS**

- Know your quorum number!
 - 51% or more of **SAC Committee members**, regardless of employee/non-employee status



Who Gets the Bonus **TIPS**



- Faculty and staff, at the discretion of the SAC



Proposal **TIPS**



- Ultimately, SAC creates the proposals during the SAC meeting.



Proposal Creation Meeting, Who Votes **TIPS**



- SAC Members ONLY
- All SAC members listed on your SAC composition get to vote at the proposal creation SAC meeting.



Does the Principal Vote **TIPS**



- YES
- As a member of SAC, the principal gets to vote at the proposal creation SAC meeting.



Ballot **TIPS**



- 1 or 2 proposal(s) and a choice of **“none of the above”** (suggested)
- Use Percentages (suggested)
- Returned ballots should match the number of voting signatures



Leftover Funds **TIPS**



- Include a statement on ballot to specify the use of any leftover funds.



Sample Ballot TIPS

SIP Montessori Academy
Florida School Recognition Program Ballot
Approximate Funds to be Allocated to SIP Montessori Academy: \$90,000
Voting will take place on January 10, 2024

ONLY Vote for 1 of the Options

42 (65%) **Option 1: Winning Option**

- 25% of the funds will go to the school **to be used for students**. These funds may be utilized for field trips, the school carnival or anything that supports student learning or provides recognition for student achievement.
- 75% of the funds will be used for a **one-time bonus to be divided** amongst all the faculty and staff on the 2022-2023 Staff Roster. Staff must have worked at least 99 days of the 2022-2023 school year.
- Any left-over A+ Funds will be _____.

18 (28%) **Option 2:**

- 50% of the funds will go to the school **to be used for students**. These funds may be utilized to support student learning or provide recognition for student achievement.
- 50% of the funds will be used for a **one-time bonus to be divided** amongst the 2022-2023 faculty and staff.
- Any left-over A+ Funds will be _____.

5 (8%) **Option 3:**

- **None of the above**



Ballot Count Summary Info

- Complete school information with the correct names of representatives.
- Fill in the proposals that was approved by the school.
- Include the number of votes and the percentage for each option.
- Fill in the final option result that received 51% or more of the vote.
- Make sure that the required signatures are complete.

School Recognition Funds (A+ Funds) Ballot Count Summary Sheet 2023-2024

Date:	School Name:	
Principal:		
BTU Steward or Designee:		
School Advisory Council (SAC) Chair/Co-Chairs:		
Other, if applicable:		

Votes: Fill in your proposals below

1.	
2.	
3.	None of the above

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Total Number of Votes: _____	Total Number of Votes: _____	Total Number of Votes: _____
Percentage of the Vote: _____ %	Percentage of the Vote: _____ %	Percentage of the Vote: _____ %

Final Result :Circle the option that had 51% or more of votes and include the passing percentage.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Passes with _____ %		

Signatures :

Principal:	
BTU Steward (or Designee):	
SAC Chair/Co-Chairs:	
Other, if applicable:	



Resource: *SIP Bites* Info



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

Kelli S. Blackburn, School Improvement Coordinator

January 9, 2024 – Volume 3, Issue 11

Due Thursday, February 1, 2024

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>

Revised 1/9/2024

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.


Revised 1/9/2024



Required Documentation Info

All Florida School Recognition Program required documents must be placed in the SAC Upload Center (in pdf format).

SAC Meeting (for each meeting held):	Staff and Faculty Vote (for each vote held):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda(s) Minutes Attendance Sheets Copy of the Ballot - Approved by SAC SAC Meeting Advertisement w/Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Advertisement to Staff Ballot Staff Sign-in Sheets Voting Results: Ballot Count Summary Sheet



Florida School Recognition Program (A+) Checklist

Kelli S. Blackburn, School Improvement Coordinator

The following process must be successfully completed by Thursday, February 1, 2024. 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.

Action (Must happen in the order presented)	Required Documents SAC Upload Center Documentation (provide for each meeting) <i>*All documents must be uploaded as a PDF</i>	1 st Meeting	2 nd Meeting (if applicable)	3 rd Meeting (if applicable)
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting				
Advertise meeting to all stakeholders at least three (3) full business/workdays prior to the meeting.	SAC Meeting Advertisement w/Agenda • At least 1 form of advertisement (Flyer, school website, newsletter, email, Parent Link, etc.) • Advertisement must include agenda, date, time and location of meeting	Date:	Date:	Date:
SAC meets to discuss and create ballot from stakeholder's proposals.	SAC Meeting Agenda • "Florida School Recognition Program (A+)" Proposals and Ballot Creation" is shown as a topic			
Create written proposals in the form of a ballot which consist of 1 or 2 proposals and "None of the above" for the allocation of the funds.	SAC Meeting Minutes • Must reflect discussion of Florida School Recognition Program (A+) proposals and ballot creation			
Conduct a vote (only SAC committee members) to approve the ballot and record results of vote in the minutes.	SAC Meeting Sign-In Sheets • For SAC members and guests			
A quorum must be met for voting to occur.				
General Staff Vote				
Advertise general staff vote in written form to all staff members at least three (3) full business/workdays prior to voting.	Written Advertisement to Staff (via email, posted notice, etc.) • Must include purpose of vote (e.g., voting on Florida School Recognition Program (A+) funds distribution), copy of the approved 2024 Florida Recognition Program (A+) Ballot, date, time and location of the vote			
Staff votes by secret ballot on the proposals • Proposal with the majority of votes (51% or more) will be implemented. • If none of the proposal gets 51% or more of the votes, SAC reconvenes to restart the process.	2023-2024 Staff Roster of Eligible Voters • All staff members that vote must sign next to their names on the staff roster (only signatures will be accepted)			
	Approved Ballot • A copy of the 2023-2024 approved Florida School Recognition Fund ballot			
	School Recognition Fund Ballot Count Summary Sheet 2023-24 • Each section of the form (posted on our website) must be completed and must have all the required signatures			



Payment Information **Info**



- The State has not provided a list of allotted fund amounts per school.







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