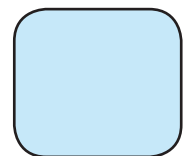
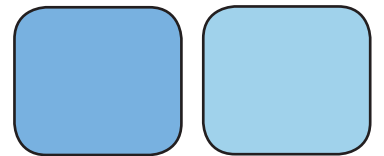
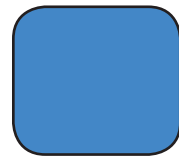
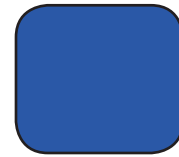
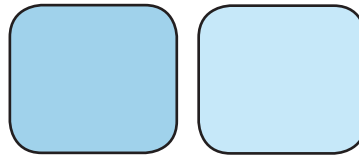
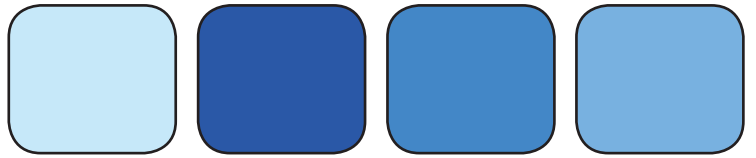
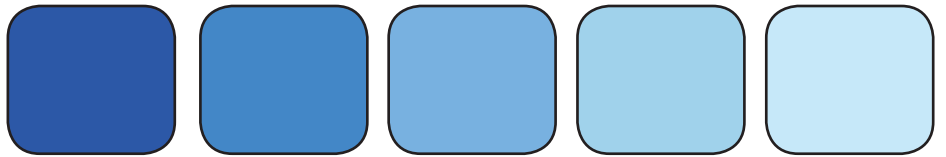


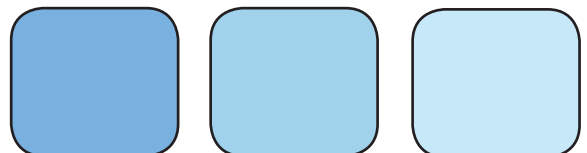
# 2013 High School Graduates Florida Bright Futures Scholarships



Predict Your Future...

Make It Happen...

Earn a Bright Futures Award!



**The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program** has helped more than 635,000 Florida students attend a postsecondary institution. The program offers three levels of scholarship awards – the Florida Academic Scholars award (FAS), the Florida Medallion Scholars award (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award (GSV). Read this brochure to find out how to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship.

## Your Responsibilities

It is your job to **know** and **meet** the requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program before high school graduation and throughout your college career. Requirements are subject to change with each Florida Legislative session.

## The Application

To apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you **must** submit a completed, error free *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) during your last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation). **You must apply during your last year in high school, before graduation,\* or you will forfeit all future eligibility for a Bright Futures Scholarship.** To apply online, visit [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) select “State Grants, Scholarships & Applications” and then select “Apply Here.” The application gives the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) permission to evaluate your high school transcript and test scores for eligibility for state scholarships and grants, including a Bright Futures Scholarship. You may apply prior to meeting all requirements.

**NEW!** An eligible student who graduates mid-year may receive an initial award in the spring term following the student’s graduation. The FFAA must be submitted by August 31 of the student’s graduation year (prior to the spring term enrolled).

## Activate Your User ID & PIN

Know it, Use it,  
Be Responsible for your state financial aid!

After submitting an *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application*, you will:

- create a PIN (Personal Identification Number) online,
- update your demographic information (on your original application), as necessary, and
- monitor your Financial Aid Recipient History (award status) online.

You are responsible for checking your application and award status. It is also your responsibility to provide your correct name, address, date of birth, social security number, and to inform us of any changes.

**Note:** In addition, the submission of a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) is an annual requirement for Bright Futures eligibility. The FAFSA does not have to indicate financial need; however, must be completed and processed error free prior to a student’s first disbursement. (The May 15 FAFSA deadline for other Florida scholarship and grant programs does not apply.) You are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Submission of the FAFSA may help you find other available financial aid as well. Visit the website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for online processing.

## Your Transcript Evaluations

### End-of-Year Graduates

Your high school will automatically submit your transcript electronically to the FDOE multiple times for evaluation during the year, but you submit only ONE application:

- Mid-year, 7<sup>th</sup> semester – after the fall term is completed and semester grades are posted. A mid-year 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcript evaluation includes fall coursework completed, spring coursework in progress, community service hours completed, and test scores for test dates through January 31.
- Final, 8<sup>th</sup> semester – several weeks after your spring graduation and after all grades are posted. A final, 8<sup>th</sup> semester transcript evaluation includes all coursework and community service hours completed, and test scores for test dates through June 30.

You may lose a mid-year 7<sup>th</sup> semester award only if you do not graduate from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school. However, if your GPA improves and/or other requirements are met during your final high school semester, you may then qualify for an award or higher award level based on the evaluation of your final high school transcript.

**Notifications** – will be posted online to your Financial Aid Recipient History.

- Mid-year, 7<sup>th</sup> semester notifications begin posting in March
- Final, 8<sup>th</sup> semester notifications begin posting in August

### Mid-Year Graduates

Your high school will automatically submit your transcript electronically to the FDOE multiple times for evaluation during the year, but you submit only ONE application:

- 7<sup>th</sup> semester – after the spring term of your junior year is completed and semester grades are posted. A mid-year 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcript evaluation includes spring coursework completed, community service hours completed, and test scores for test dates through the end of June.
- Final, 8<sup>th</sup> semester – several weeks after the fall graduation and all grades are posted. A final, 8<sup>th</sup> semester transcript evaluation includes all coursework and community service hours completed, and test scores for test dates through the end of December.

You may lose a mid-year 7<sup>th</sup> semester award only if you do not graduate from a Florida public or FDOE-registered private high school. However, if your GPA improves and/or other requirements are met during your final high school semester, you may then qualify for an award or higher award level based on the evaluation of your final high school transcript.

**Notifications** – will be posted online to your Financial Aid Recipient History.

- Mid-year 7<sup>th</sup> semester notifications may begin posting as early as August
- Final, 8<sup>th</sup> semester notifications begin posting in February

**Activate Your User ID & PIN**

**Know it, Use it, Be Responsible for your state financial aid!**

## Make the Grade

It is your responsibility to earn the necessary Grade Point Average (GPA) in the **required** high school classes. Not all high school courses will qualify you for a Bright Futures Scholarship. Ask your guidance counselor or refer to the Bright Futures website for course information.

## Earn the Score

To qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you **must** earn the minimum required test score (SAT, ACT, or PERT) for the award for which you wish to qualify.

## Graduate!

You may receive early notification of your award status during your last term of high school; however, if you do not graduate,\* you **will not** receive the award!

## Stay Clean

You **must** not be found guilty of, or plead no contest to, a felony charge.

## Not Sure About College?

You **should** apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship even if you are considering not going to college, are planning to go out of state, are taking a few years off, or are enlisting in the military. Eligible students have up to two years from high school graduation to begin using the scholarship.

**Note:** Initially eligible students who enlist in the United States Armed Forces immediately after high school graduation must (within two years after separation from active duty):

- complete and submit a *Reinstatement/Restoration Application* online and
- submit to FDOE an official copy of the DD Form 214 via U.S. mail to verify time served in the military.

## Getting Your Money

**The Florida Department of Education will:**

- Begin funding your scholarship during the **fall term** following your high school **graduation**.\* The academic year begins in the fall and ends in the summer. Scholarship recipients are not eligible for funding during the summer term immediately following high school graduation.\* **Summer disbursements are only made if funds are available or if you are enrolled in the Innovation Academy pilot program at the University of Florida. Check our website each year for summer funding information.**
- Award an eligible student who is enrolled in the Innovation Academy pilot program at the University of Florida Bright Futures funding for attendance during no more than two semesters or the equivalent in any fiscal year.
- Send scholarship funds to the eligible Florida postsecondary institution of your choice prior to the beginning of each term. The money will then be applied to your account after the last day of the drop/add period at your postsecondary institution.
- Send funds to each eligible Florida postsecondary institution for their mid-year Bright Futures recipients prior to the beginning of the spring term following the student's high school graduation.

## Getting Your Money (cont.)

### You must:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, **as determined by your postsecondary institution.**
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at an eligible Florida college, or enroll in a postsecondary adult vocational certificate program.
- Begin using the scholarship funds within two years of your high school **graduation.\* If you enlist directly in the military after graduation,\* your two-year period begins upon the date of separation from active duty.**
- Enroll for at least **six non-remedial** semester hours (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours) per term.

## Keep Up the Good Work

Remember, you must **maintain** the required cumulative GPA and earn the minimum credit hours in order to renew your scholarship each year. Requirements are subject to change with each Florida Legislative session.

## Why Do We Need Your Social Security Number (SSN)?

Your SSN is essential for matching your test scores with your student records, and for matching your Bright Futures Scholarship with your college records. However, if you choose to leave your SSN blank on the **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application**, the system will generate a pseudo number. Financial assistance will not be denied for failure to disclose your SSN.

### Already Have the Florida Prepaid College Plan?

You can use both the Prepaid College Plan and the Bright Futures Scholarship. See a financial aid officer at the post-secondary institution you plan to attend for details.

## What is the Academic Top Scholars Award?

The Academic Top Scholars award, announced by the Florida Department of Education before the end of the fall term after all term-one disbursements, is awarded to the Florida Academic Scholar with the highest academic ranking in each county (based on the product of multiplying the Bright Futures GPA and the highest qualifying SAT/ACT test score). The recipient receives a cost per credit hour award established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act in addition to the Florida Academic Scholars award. For current year award amounts visit: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm).

## Accelerated High School Graduation Options

Students may qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship using the three-year accelerated high school graduation option. For details, see your high school guidance counselor.

## Florida Virtual Campus

Public high school students should visit the [Florida Virtual Campus](#) website to review their academic progress toward meeting Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program eligibility requirements and State University System course requirements for college admission. Evaluations will be based on current program requirements and the most recent transcript received from a student's school district. Public high school students in grades 9-12 may access their records at the [Florida Virtual Campus](#) website by creating their own login ID and password. Private high school students may see their guidance counselors for a copy of their Bright Futures Student Evaluation Report.

\* To qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, you must earn a standard Florida high school diploma from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school; however, if you are a home education student, GED recipient, or an out-of-state student due to a parent's military or public service assignment, you may still qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship (see the "Other Ways to Qualify" section in this brochure for eligibility guidelines). Contact our office or visit our website for specific requirements.

### Make the Grade...

Bright Futures website: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/)

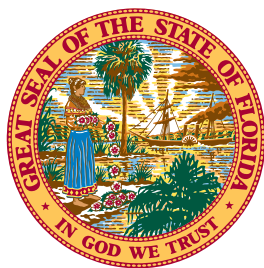
Office of Student Financial Assistance website: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)

Toll-Free: 1-888-827-2004

E-mail: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

### Earn the Score...

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution and receives funding within 2 years of graduation from high school.



# Initial Eligibility Requirements For Year 2013 High School Graduates

The following initial eligibility requirements must be met, in addition to earning a standard Florida high school diploma, prior to graduation from a Florida public high school or a registered Florida Department of Education private high school. Students must apply by submitting an **Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application** at [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm) during their last year in high school, prior to their high school graduation or **forever forfeit** a Bright Futures Scholarship.

The Florida Legislature is authorized to change eligibility and funding	Florida Academic Scholars Award	Florida Medallion Scholars Award	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award				
<p><b>Award Amount</b></p> <p>A student may receive funding for only one award (FAS, FMS, or GSV). The highest award earned by the student will be selected.</p>	<p><b>Public and Private Institutions</b></p> <p>All students will receive the specified award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award amounts for the 2013-14 academic year will be available on the Bright Futures website in summer 2013, after the legislative session.</p> <p>For current year award amounts visit: <a href="http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm">www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm</a></p>						
<p><b>Grade Point Average (GPA)</b></p> <p>Weighting for more challenging, higher level courses is prescribed by law as .50 per course per year.</p> <p>Example:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="138 1207 324 1270"> <thead> <tr> <th>Credit</th> <th>Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.00</td> <td>.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Credit	Weighting	1.00	.50	<p>3.5 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA using the credits listed below, combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 core credits listed below for a 4-year Diploma and a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program, combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.</p> <p>(See “Other Ways to Qualify” for 3-year graduation options.)</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded.)</p>
Credit	Weighting						
1.00	.50						
<p><b>Required Credits</b></p> <p>See the Comprehensive Course Table on the Bright Futures website to identify courses that count toward each award level.</p>	<p>Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>3 Social Science</li> <li>2 World Language** (sequential, in the same language)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>16 Credits</p>	<p>Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>3 Social Science</li> <li>2 World Language** (sequential, in the same language)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>16 Credits</p>	<p>4-year Diploma***</p> <p>Credits must include 16 core credits required for high school graduation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English</li> <li>4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with lab component)</li> <li>3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)</li> <li>1 Fine OR Identified Practical Art OR .5 credit in each</li> </ul>				

	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)																
<b>Required Credits (cont.)</b>	<p>May use up to 2 additional optional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA if necessary</p> <p><b>**For details on the World Language requirements, visit the Bright Futures website at <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/</a> and under <b>First-Time Applicants</b> select <b>Florida Academic Scholars</b>.</b></p>	<p>May use up to 2 additional optional credits from courses in the academic areas listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA if necessary</p> <p><b>**For details on the World Language requirements, visit the Bright Futures website at <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/</a> and under <b>First-Time Applicants</b> select <b>Florida Medallion Scholars</b>.</b></p>	<p>1 Physical Education (to include integration of health)</p> <hr/> <p>16 Credits</p> <p>Plus a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program</p> <p>(See “Other Ways to Qualify” for 3-year graduation options.)</p>																
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>100</b> hours, as approved by the district or private school	<b>75</b> hours, as approved by the district or private school	<b>30</b> hours, as approved by the district or private school																
<p><b>Test Scores</b></p> <p>Sections of the SAT, ACT, or PERT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria.</p> <p>For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of January will be admissible.</p> <p>For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of June will be admissible.</p>	<p>Best combined score of <b>1280</b> SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Best composite score of <b>28</b> ACT (excluding the writing section).</p> <p>NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.</p> <p>(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)</p>	<p>Best combined score of <b>1020</b> SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Best composite score of <b>22</b> ACT (excluding the writing section).</p> <p>NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.</p> <p>(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)</p>	<p>Students must earn the minimum score on each section of the <b>SAT</b> or <b>ACT</b> or Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT). Sections of different test types may not be combined.</p> <p>SAT Reasoning Test:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Critical Reading</td> <td>440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>440</td> </tr> </table> <p>Or ACT:</p> <table> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </table> <p>Or PERT:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Reading</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing</td> <td>99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Math</td> <td>113</td> </tr> </table>	Critical Reading	440	Math	440	English	17	Reading	18	Math	19	Reading	104	Writing	99	Math	113
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	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)
<p><b>Other Ways to Qualify</b></p> <p>Initial eligibility criteria used in “Other Ways to Qualify” must be met by high school graduation. Contact the Bright Futures office for further details.</p>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include the community service hours requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists</li> <li>• National Hispanic Scholars</li> <li>• IB Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)</li> <li>• Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of <b>1280 SAT</b> or <b>28 ACT</b></li> <li>• AICE Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to and during the high school graduation exam administration series ending mid-June)</li> <li>• Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of <b>1280 SAT</b> or <b>28 ACT</b></li> <li>• Students who have attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41, F.S., registered with the district during grades 11 and 12, and have a best composite score of <b>1280 SAT</b> or <b>28 ACT</b></li> <li>• GED with best composite score of <b>1280 SAT</b> or <b>28 ACT</b> and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include the community service hours requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Merit or Achievement Scholars and Finalists</li> <li>• National Hispanic Scholars</li> <li>• IB Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to high school graduation)</li> <li>• Students who have completed the IB Curriculum with best composite score of <b>1020 SAT</b> or <b>22 ACT</b></li> <li>• AICE Diploma Recipients (based on exams taken prior to and during the high school graduation exam administration series ending mid-June)</li> <li>• Students who have completed the AICE Curriculum with best composite score of <b>1020 SAT</b> or <b>22 ACT</b></li> <li>• Students who have attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41, F.S., registered with the district during grades 11 and 12, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a best combined score of <b>1070 SAT</b> or <b>23 ACT</b></li> <li><b>Or</b></li> <li>• Have a best combined score of <b>1020 SAT</b> or <b>22 ACT</b> with a weighted 3.0 GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The other ways to qualify listed below must also include a 3.5 unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program, minimum test scores listed above, and the community service hours requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3-year Career Preparatory Diploma***</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 14 core credits required for graduation listed below <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (including Algebra I)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with lab component)</li> <li>3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)</li> </ol> <p>14 Credits</p> </li> <li>• <b>3-year College Preparatory Diploma***</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the 16 core credits required for graduation listed below <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with lab component)</li> <li>3 Social Science (U.S. Hist., World Hist., U.S. Govt., and Economics)</li> <li>2 World Language**</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)
<p><b>Other Ways to Qualify (cont.)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of <b>1280 SAT</b> or <b>28 ACT</b> and a 3.5 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul>	<p>(documented through Florida public, FDOE-registered private, FLVS or dual enrollment transcripts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GED with best composite score of <b>1020 SAT</b> or <b>22 ACT</b> and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> <li>3-year standard college preparatory program with best composite score of <b>1020 SAT</b> or <b>22 ACT</b> and a 3.0 weighted GPA in the above 16 required credits</li> </ul>	<p>(sequential, in the same language)</p> <hr/> <p>16 Credits</p> <p>**For details on the World Language requirements, visit the Bright Futures website at <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/</a>. Under <b>First-Time Applicants</b>, select <b>Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars</b> and then select <b>World Language Requirements</b> from the <b>Site Index</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GED</b> with 3.0 weighted GPA using the core credits required for your selected high school graduation option (standard, career, or college)</li> </ul> <p>***Note: For other diploma options established by legislative sessions, visit <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm</a></p>

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**Verification of Receipt** (This is not the application for the scholarship.)

I verify that I have received and read the initial eligibility requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for the 2012-13 academic year.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this verification portion to your high school counselor.