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MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Hershel Lyons

Date: August 11, 2017

Subject: **Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program for FY 2017-18**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2017-82

The 2017 Legislature revised section 1012.731, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program*. The current statute is available at http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=1012.731&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.731.html.

For 2017-2018, section 1012.731, F.S., continues to require that each district school board determine the eligibility of classroom teachers who qualify for the teacher scholarship. Each district school board should review the statute and make its own decision regarding eligibility questions.

The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program

There are three scholarships available under this section for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$6,000, \$1,200 and \$800. Each scholarship has its own eligibility requirements that districts must review and administer locally.

Test Scores

For information about the availability of test scores, districts should contact ACT and the College Board directly.

Deadlines

No later than November 1, 2017:

Pursuant to s. 1012.731(3), F.S., for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program, an eligible teacher must submit to the school district an official score report of his or her SAT or ACT score demonstrating that the teacher scored at or above the 80th percentile based on the percentile ranks in effect when the teacher took the assessment.

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By December 1, 2017, the school district must submit the following information for the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program:

1. The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify for The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship to the department. The department will provide additional reporting instructions to school districts and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in fall 2017; and
2. Name and master school identification number (MSID) of each district school to which eligible classroom teachers are assigned.

The department will provide instructions for how to submit the required information in the fall.

By February 1, 2018:

Based on the information provided by the school districts, the department will disburse scholarship funds to each school district for each eligible classroom teacher. Scholarship funds for eligible charter school teachers will be disbursed similar to other funds under s. 1002.33 (17).

By April 1, 2018:

Each school district will award the scholarship to each eligible classroom teacher.

Information regarding the Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program will be sent in the near future.

HL/em