



## Florida's Best and Brightest Scholarship Program Bonus

This is a State funded opportunity. Volusia County Public Schools is not responsible for funding or program parameters.

### 1. Who is eligible?

- A classroom teacher who received a "Highly Effective" or "Effective" on his/her 2017-18 classroom teacher summative evaluation.
- Classroom teachers who were in their first year of teaching in 2018-19. First year of teaching means a teacher with no prior teaching experience and with no evaluation in 2017-18 or ever before.
- Individuals who were classroom teachers in 2017-18 with a "highly effective" classroom teacher summative evaluation, still employed by VCS but no longer in a classroom teacher position.

AND

A score on the SAT (Critical Reading **AND** Mathematics) or ACT that was at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile at the time taken.

### 2. How I do apply for the \$6000 scholarship?

Submit a hardcopy signed application provided on the website  
and

Provide VCS with an **official** College Board or ACT document showing your SAT/ACT score. Not all score documents will have the corresponding percentile for the year taken, but College Board or ACT has provided that information for those years.

If you worked for and received a Summative Evaluation rating from VCS (as a **Classroom Teacher**) in 2017-18, then VCS will have your evaluation on file; you do not need to submit any evaluation data. You will, however still need to submit your **official** score report.

However, if you worked at another Florida School District or Charter School as a Classroom Teacher in 2017-18, then you must provide VCS with an official summative evaluation document that shows your summative rating as "Highly Effective" as a classroom teacher in addition to your **official** score report.

#### **What about the \$1200 and \$800 scholarships?**

If you were a VCS teacher in 2017-18 and 2018-19, you do not need to do anything; we will automatically submit your name if your 2017-18 **summative** evaluation score was "Effective" or "Highly Effective."

If you worked for a charter school or another Florida district, you will need to submit the completed, signed application and a copy of your 2017-18 **summative** evaluation score report.

### 3. Which teachers are eligible to receive the FL Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program Bonus? **Classroom Teachers, as defined in s.1012.01(2)(a)F.S.:**

"Classroom teachers – Classroom teachers are staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing student in courses in classroom situations, including basic instruction, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education..."

Guidance Counselors, Resource Teachers, Media Specialists, Social Workers, School Psychologists, Teachers on Assignment, Academic Coaches, Peer Assistance & Review (PARs) **are NOT eligible**, per the Florida Statute.

You must have received a summative evaluation rating of “Highly Effective” or “Effective” as a Classroom Teacher.

**4. In what year must I have received a Summative Evaluation (Instructional Practice Score + VAM) rating of Highly Effective or Effective?**

2017-18

**5. What if I am a new Classroom Teacher with no prior evaluation rating?**

First year teachers are eligible if you submit a qualifying SAT or ACT percentile score on an official document.

**6. ACT – What score do I need to qualify?** – You need a composite score that was at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in the year you took the exam. You are responsible for retrieving your **official** score report and submitting it to the District. To obtain your score, go to: [www.actstudent.org/pdf/asrform.pdf](http://www.actstudent.org/pdf/asrform.pdf) or call (319) 337-1270.

**SAT – What score do I need to qualify?** - You need scores that were at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in **BOTH Critical Reading and Mathematics** in the year you took the exam. You are responsible for retrieving your official score report and submitting it to the District. To obtain your score, go to: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/send-old-sat-scores> or call (866) 756-7346.

**NO OTHER TESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**7. Submittals to VCS**

**What?** Hardcopy original signature Best and Brightest application and official ACT/SAT document that shows your score was at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile based on the rank in effect when the assessment was taken. Not all score documents will have the corresponding percentile for the year taken, but College Board or ACT has provided that information for those years.

**Please send scores to yourself, and then send to Human Resources with your application.**

**When?** By 5:00 PM, November 1, 2018

**To Whom?** Robin King, Certification Specialist  
Human Resources – DeLand Administration Complex  
200 N. Clara Ave.  
DeLand, FL 32720

**How Much?** \$6,000 for “Highly Effective + ACT/SAT score in the 80%,” \$1200 for “Highly Effective,” \$800 for “Effective.” If more teachers are eligible statewide than the amount appropriated the scholarship award will be prorated accordingly.

**8. When will this bonus be paid?**

By April 1, 2019

**9. Must I be an active employee at VCS at the time of payout?**

No. However, you must be an active employee with VCS at the time of the submittal deadline to Florida DOE (December 1, 2018).

**10. I was a classroom teacher in 2017-18 and received a “Highly Effective” or “Effective” but I am now retired. Am I eligible?**

No. You must be an **active classroom** teacher with VCS at the time of the submittal deadline (December 1, 2018).

**11. I was a classroom teacher in 2017-18 and received a “Highly Effective” but I am now an administrator or non-classroom position. Am I eligible for the \$6000 scholarship?**

Yes, if you are actively working.

**12. I was a classroom teacher in 2017-18 and received a “Highly Effective” or “Effective” but I transferred to a non-classroom position. Am I eligible for the \$1200 or \$800 scholarship?**

No.

**13. I taught in Volusia County Schools in 2017-18 and received the Best and Brightest Scholarship last year, do I need to apply again this year?**

For the \$6000 scholarship you must submit the Best and Brightest information sheet as documentation of your continued eligibility; this sheet is on the VCS Human Resources website under the compensation tab.

**14. For the Evaluation only scholarship of \$1200 and \$800 that does not require a test score do I need to complete an application.**

No, if you were a Volusia County employee for the 17/18 school year. If you were not a Volusia County Schools employee in 2017-18, you need to submit an application and copy of your Florida summative evaluation from your previous school district.

**15. When and how will I know if I qualify for the scholarship award?**

Once you submit your application, you will receive an email with an application status “received” to include, if applicable, any additional required documentation. And you will be updated when additional documents are received.

Once the District determines that all criteria have been met an email with “approved” status will be sent prior to the submittal deadline. All denials will also receive an email with that status

**16. I work at a Charter School. How do I apply for the scholarship award?**

Please contact your Charter School Administration for further information.

**17. What is considered an official score?**

A hardcopy score received directly from the testing company with an official final score. Copies printed from an online record or a copy received from the testing office with an estimated score are not considered official.