

Frequently Asked Questions

Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program (2015 GAA Line 99)

Are substitute teachers eligible for the scholarship?

No. Per the proviso language, the teacher must have been evaluated as highly effective per section 1012.34, F.S. Per s. 1012.34, a performance evaluation is not conducted for substitute teachers.

What is the requirement for a first-year teacher who meets the requirement as a classroom teacher?

For a first year teacher, an individual who has not previously taught, eligibility is based solely on ACT or SAT results.

What if the experienced teacher is from out-of-state or from a Florida private school?

For experienced teachers who are from out-of-state or a private school and are new to Florida public schools, charter schools or FSDB, eligibility is based on meeting the classroom teacher definition and the ACT or SAT requirement since he or she does not have a Florida teacher evaluation.

We have hired experienced Florida classroom teachers for 2015-2016 who were not evaluated in 2013-2014 or 2014-2015 because they were not employed. How will these teachers meet eligibility requirements?

Experienced teachers who were hired in 2015-2016 and were not employed in 2014-2015 or 2013-2014, are considered "new."

What is the definition of an "official" record of the teacher's ACT or SAT score?

An official record is the original score report from ACT OR the College Board (SAT) or high school/college transcripts that contain the ACT/SAT score(s).

Which percentile should be used for meeting eligibility requirements for the ACT or SAT score report – national or state?

The national percentile score should be used to meet eligibility requirements.

What if the teacher is not able to obtain an official score report from ACT or SAT by the deadline?

Both ACT and the College Board/SAT are working with the department to ensure available test score reports are sent to the individuals requesting them. Additional information is available from ACT and the College Board upon request.

What if the official score report is received after October 1, 2015?

Pursuant to the language in law, in order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an eligible teacher must submit to the school district, no later than October 1, 2015, 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.

If an eligible teacher who was reported December 1, 2015, is terminated or resigns prior to February 1, will they receive funds from the district?

No, districts must return funds to the department for any teacher that is no longer employed after the December 1, 2015, reporting date.