Bright Futures Scholarship Update

*Hello,*

*During this summer’s legislative session, paid work hours were approved for students to submit for their Bright Futures Scholarship volunteer hours. Recently, the Florida Department of Education provided clarification that students’ Bright Futures eligibility will be based either entirely on paid work hours* ***or*** *entirely on volunteer service hours, and they cannot be combined. The information given was that students must have either 100 hours of paid work for any Bright Futures Scholarship (i.e. Medallion, Academic or Gold Seal)* ***or*** *100, 75, or 30 volunteer hours for each respective Bright Futures scholarship as it has been in previous years.*

*The FLDOE has shared that in October, a new process for logging Bright Futures hours into separate categories on transcripts will be introduced to school districts. Students may continue turning in Bright Futures paid work hours or volunteer service hours. It will not hurt them to have hours in both categories, but they will only be evaluated for scholarship eligibility in one category, whichever meets criteria. Likewise, it will not give them a special advantage to have met criteria for hours in both categories.*

*St. Johns County School District wanted to notify you of this clarification so that students can focus their efforts accordingly. If a student is a senior for instance, they may want to focus purely on volunteer hours if they will not be able to gain 100 paid work hours before the end of this school year. The table below summarizes these changes.*

*Quick Points*

* Students will be evaluated for Bright Futures eligibility based on paid work hours or volunteer service hours
* These hours will be listed in separate categories on the transcript
* Hours cannot be combined for eligibility determination
* Students must have either 100 paid work hours for all levels of the Bright Futures scholarship or 100 (Academic), 75 (Medallion) or 30 (Gold Seal)
* It won’t hurt students or give them a special advantage to have hours in both categories
* Test score and Bright Futures GPA requirements remain unchanged.

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|  | **Type of Hours Required (one type or the other)** |
| **Scholarship Type** | **Paid Hours** | **Volunteer Hours** |
| Florida Academic Scholarship | 100 | 100 |
| Florida Medallion Scholarship | 100 | 75 |
| Florida Gold Seal Scholarships | 100 | 30 |