



Best and Brightest “Scholarship” Update

What is it?

The **Best and Brightest “Scholarship” program** is the brainchild of **State Rep. Erik Fresen (R-Miami)**. He decided that it would be a good way to reward teachers with a bonus if they had earned high college admissions scores. Yep, those SAT or ACT scores from your high school days could still have value even if they are not related to your work in your classroom today. About \$44 million was appropriated for this bonus during closed-door budget negotiations, which Gov. Rick Scott left in the budget.

How do I qualify?

Four conditions: If you ...

1. Are a classroom teacher based on the statutory definition in FS 1012.01(2)(a). (“...staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing students in courses in classroom situations, including basic instruction, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education, including substitute teachers”).
2. Have scored in the 80th percentile or above on your ACT composite score or both your SAT verbal and math scores, based on the national percentiles for the year you took the test.
3. Are a new teacher with no evaluation OR an experienced teacher with a highly effective evaluation on your most recent evaluation as of October 1, 2015.
4. Turn in your documentation to your local school district by October 1, 2015.

Where do I get my scores and percentiles?

The ACT and College Board both have records of your scores and will provide them for a fee of about \$40, depending on how long ago you took the test. The information about rankings will come with the ACT scores and with more recent SAT scores.

Note: The College Board (SAT) intends to publish the percentiles for the years 1972-2004 on their website and can provide you your scores and percentiles. For scores after 2004, the percentile rankings are already on the score report. If you took the test before 1972, there are no rankings available. If you took the test before 1972, tell us! Fill out our questionnaire at FEAAActionCenter.org. Click the **Take Action** button on the navigation bar.

My evaluation is not complete for last year. What about me?

The most recent evaluation “available” is the one that will be used. If your 2014-15 evaluation is not completed by October 1, 2015, the previous year’s evaluation is acceptable.

What do I need to do?

Submit your scores and evaluation to your local school district by October 1, which will determine your eligibility and submit the information to the Department of Education. The payments will be made by April 1, 2016. **Contact your local affiliate for more ways to get involved.**

Stay tuned for more updates and information about our fight for better decisions for our schools.