

5455 - FLORIDA'S BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Early Graduation and Florida Bright Futures Scholarships

Eligible students who graduate from high school midyear may receive an initial Bright Futures Scholarship award during the spring term following the student's graduation, as long as the student applies for the scholarship award no later than August 31 of the student's graduation year.

Students who receive an initial award during the spring term will be evaluated for scholarship renewal after the completion of a full academic year, which begins with the fall term.

Community Service Work Experience for Florida Bright Futures Awards

A. Policy

This policy addresses only community service work experience required for students to be eligible to receive the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, or the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Bright Futures Scholarship.

B. Requirements

1. To be eligible to receive the Florida Academic Scholars Award a student must complete a program of community service work that includes a "minimum of one hundred (100) hours of community service."
2. To be eligible to receive the Florida Medallion Scholars Award a student must complete a program of community service work that includes a "minimum of seventy-five (75) hours of community service."
3. To be eligible to receive the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award a student must complete a program of community service work that includes a "minimum of thirty (30) hours of community service."
4. The student will identify a social problem that interests him/her, develop a plan of personal involvement in addressing the problem and evaluate and reflect upon the experience.
- ~~5. The community service work shall address a social problem with preference to benefiting the State of Florida and/or Pinellas County.~~
65. The service may be performed at more than one (1) agency and address more than one (1) social problem, however, each ~~agency-plan~~ must be approved by the high school's community service designee prior to the beginning of the experience.
- ~~7. The high school's community service designee must approve the student's plan prior to the beginning of the experience.~~
86. The student must be a high school student enrolled in grades 9-12.
7. If a student transfers to a Pinellas County high school from a Florida public or private high school, the community service hours earned will be honored if the previous school verifies the hours. Students in a Florida homeschool program

will have their hours honored if they provide documentation on agency letterhead of the number of hours and dates of service completed.

C. Procedures

The following steps are the process that the student will use for documenting the community service experience.

1. Meet with the community service designee at the student's high school to review policies and procedures on the Student Community Service Information Sheet (PCS 2-2602-1).
2. Contact the community agency for an interview to discuss the social issue and a plan of action to address the social issue.
3. Complete form #1 (PCS 2-2602-2) after developing a detailed identification of the social problem and plan of action.

Complete the Community Service Proposal Form online at Counselor Connect after developing a detailed identification of the social problem and plan of action. Community Service Proposal Form is available in paper format upon request (PCS 2-2602-2).

4. Submit community service form #1 (PCS form 2-2602-2) to the community service designee at the high school for approval, prior to beginning the project.

Submit the Community Service Proposal Form electronically for approval by the community service designee at the high school. If doing paper form submit the completed (PCS form 2-2602-2) to the community service designee at the high school for approval.

5. Log community service hours on form #2 (PCS form 2-2602-3). The agency contact person must sign this documentation.
6. Summarize, evaluate, and reflect upon the community service work experience and the persons in the community that the student interacted with during this service work. Submit this information to the high school community service designee by completing the reverse side of the community service form #2 (PCS form 2-2602-3).
7. The completed paper forms shall be placed in the student's official cumulative file at the high school.

D. Restrictions

What hours cannot be counted?

~~1. Hours logged prior to the high school community service designee's approval and signature.~~

~~2~~1. Court mandated community service.

~~3~~2. An activity for which a student benefited financially or materially for the community service work.

~~43.~~ All forms of duty within the family. The student's family to include: parents (including step), siblings (including step), any of their grandchildren (including step) and any of their spouses, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

~~54.~~ Religious devotion or any activity which can be interpreted primarily as proselytizing.

~~65.~~ An activity where there is no leader or responsible adult on site to evaluate and confirm student performance.

6. An activity that promotes a political candidate or party.

7. Donations, such as Locks of Love or giving blood.

E. Appeals

If a proposed plan is not approved by a high school's community service designee, the student may appeal the denial to the Bright Futures Community Service Appeals Committee, which will render a final decision on the student's plan. The committee will be appointed by the District Guidance office who will develop procedures for the committee. Decisions of the committee (without personal identifiable information about an individual student) will be distributed to all high schools.

F.S. 1001.32(2), 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43, 1009.531, 1009.534, 1009.536

Adopted 12/9/09; Revised 12/6/11, 01/15/13, and / /14

Approved as to form and legality:



School Board Attorney