

**From:** Chancellor, Career and Adult Ed.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:45 PM  
**Subject:** Implementation of 2016 Legislation affecting State Programs

*Statewide Email to: Career and Technical Education Directors, Technical Center Directors*

Dear Colleagues:

I am forwarding the attached memorandum dated March 28, 2016 that summarizes 2016 legislative changes affecting state scholarship and grant programs which may impact eligible postsecondary institutions, such as school district career centers or charter career centers.

You will find specific information concerning the establishment of the Florida Gold Seal CAPE (Career and Professional Education) Scholars award on page 2 of the memorandum. My office has received inquiries concerning the CAPE Scholars award and it is important to note that the Division of Career and Adult Education does not administer this program. Please refer to the [Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program](#) website come July 1, 2016 for additional information concerning the CAPE Scholarship for 2016-17 high school graduates.

Additionally, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/about-us/governmental-relations/index.shtml> for comprehensive information concerning K-20 impactful legislation passed during the 2016 regular session including an archive of the Department's legislative webcast, an overview chart and the 2016 Legislative Review Book.

Thank you,

Rod Duckworth  
Chancellor  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**OSFA-STATE: #15-16:25**

**TO:** Financial Aid Directors at Florida Postsecondary Institutions Participating in State Scholarship and Grant Programs

**FROM:** Brian Underhill, Director  
State Scholarship and Grant Programs

**DATE:** March 28, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of 2016 Legislation Affecting State Programs

The General Appropriations Act (GAA), which provides funding for state scholarship and grant programs, and House Bill 5003, the implementing bill, have been signed by the Governor and are effective July 1, 2016. The attachment provides awards amounts for the 2016-17 academic year.

Following is a list of legislation that impacts eligible postsecondary institutions.

**HB 5001 General Appropriations Act – Proviso Language**

Reporting requirements remain the same as in the 2015-16 GAA. OSFA will provide additional details at a later date regarding these reporting requirements.

**The Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program** will provide supplemental need-based benefits to active duty and honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001. Although not a new initiative, let this serve as a reminder so that you can plan for these students.

**HB 5003 Implementing Bill**

**Florida Student Assistance Grants (Public, Private, Postsecondary and Career Education)** are amended to clarify awarding processes. Institutions must conduct an assessment of all financial resources, including, but not limited to: Pell Grants, state scholarships and grants, institutional awards, private awards, other available funding. Institutions will report all students eligible for the program (which includes Otherwise Eligibles) and also report other grant, scholarship and aid awards, including student loans. Additional information regarding implementation will be provided in **OSFA-STATE: #15-16:26**. These provisions expire July 1, 2017.

**Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc.** may expend no more than five percent of the funds appropriated and up to \$250,000 from available funds for administration, the required training program, and purchase of an online management and administration system. These provisions expire July 1, 2017.

Levis Hughes  
Chief, Office of Student Financial Assistance

**CS/CS/HB 7029**

**The Florida National Merit Scholar Incentive Program** (Florida Incentive Scholarship) is renamed the Benacquisto Scholarship Program. All eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institutions are encouraged to become, and all eligible state universities shall become, college sponsors of the National Merit Scholarship Program. As of the date of this memo, the Governor has not yet signed this bill into law.

**CS/HB 793**

**The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is amended to:**

- Allow a student who has full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months, to begin the 2-year eligibility period for an initial award and the 5-year period for a renewal award upon completion of the obligation. The organization sponsoring the obligation will meet requirements for nonprofit status or be a federal government service organization and documentation in writing is required and will be verified by the organization on a form prescribed by the department.
- Eliminate obsolete language related to test score requirements.
- Eliminate a higher Florida Medallion Scholars award test score requirement for home-educated students.
- Create the Florida Gold Seal CAPE (Career and Professional Education) Scholars award as an alternative to the current Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award. High school students graduating in 2016-17 are eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award if they earn 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications and complete at least 30 hours of volunteer service work.

Students initially eligible in the 2017-18 academic year may receive an award for specific applied technology diplomas, technical degree programs or career certificate programs. Expanded funding will be available to CAPE scholars for an eligible Bachelor of Science degree or Bachelor of Applied Science degree upon completion of an eligible technical degree.

- Clarify community service as volunteer service work for Bright Futures initial eligibility and expand volunteer work areas to include business or governmental internship or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. Accountability requirements are provided that include documentation in writing by the student, the student's parent and a representative of the organization for which the student volunteered.

We look forward to working with you for a successful 2016-17 academic year.