<u>Helpful Websites for Financial Aid and Scholarship Information</u>

Pinellas County School District Financial Aid Webpage- <u>www.pcsb.org/financialaid</u>
- Scholarship Opportunities- Check back regularly for updates
- Bright Futures community service process for Pinellas County School District
- Links to:
  - o Bright Futures
  - o Pinellas Education Foundation
  - o FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Links to Scholarship Search Engines (see below)
- Copy of the Financial Aid PowerPoint presentation

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Naviance- students click on link in Clever
- College and Career Planning
- Scholarship Searches

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Pinellas Education Foundation- <u>www.pinellaseducation.org</u>
- Take Stock in Children
- Pinellas Technical College Scholarships
- Walker's Rising Stars
- Traditional High School Seniors Scholarship

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CollegeBoard BigFuture Scholarships- <u>www.bigfuturescholarships.org</u>
- Open to juniors and seniors
- Earn $500 and $40,000 scholarships by planning for college

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Scholarship Search Engines-

- www.FASTWEB.com
- www.Scholarships.com
- https://scholarshipowl.com/
- https://bold.org
- raise.me

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Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance- www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org (click on State Grants, Scholarships & Applications link)

- Review Bright Futures Requirements Criteria
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (required for Bright Futures & other state grants/scholarships) **OPENS OCTOBER 1st** (Complete senior year)
- Review all State Grant and Scholarship Programs

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Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA)- www.studentaid.gov

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- Types of Aid: Grants, Work Study, Loans
- SAR (Student Aid Report) emailed 3-5 days after submission
- Cost of Attendance – Expected Family Contribution = Financial Need

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Pinellas County School District FAFSA Webpage- www.pcsb.org/FAFSA

- Information on FAFSA Completion Events
- Links to where you can get help with the FAFSA
- Links to FAFSA resources

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Still have questions? Please feel free to contact me directly.

Brooke Pair, Financial Aid Counselor
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9/11/2023

2023-24 FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

	FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS (FAS)	FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS (FMS)	GOLD SEAL VOCATIONAL SCHOLARS (GSV)	GOLD SEAL CAPE SCHOLARS (GSC)
INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (As determined by the Dept. of Education)	1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation. 2. Graduate from a Florida high school with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent. 3. Complete the 16 college-preparatory courses required for admission to a state university. 4. Achieve the required weighted GPA in the 16 college-preparatory courses per the chart below. 5. Achieve the required composite ACT® score, Overall Score on the Classic Learning Test (CLT), or combined SAT® score no later than August 31 of the student's graduation year (or through January 31 for mid-year graduates) per the chart on the second page. 6. Complete the required number of volunteer service hours, paid work hours, or 100 total combined hours per the chart below.		1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation. 2. Graduate with a standard Florida high school diploma or its equivalent. 3. Achieve the required weighted 3.0 GPA in the non-elective high school courses. 4. Complete at least 3 full credits in a single Career and Technical Education program. 5. Achieve the required minimum 3.5 unweighted GPA in the single Career and Technical Education program. 6. Complete at least 30 volunteer service hours, 100 paid work hours, or a combination that equals a minimum of 100 total hours. 7. Achieve the required minimum scores on one of the college entrance exams per the chart on the second page no later than August 31 of the year the student graduates from high school.	1. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) no later than August 31 after high school graduation, 2. Graduate with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent. 3. Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit, and 4. Complete 30 volunteer service hours or 100 paid work hours or a combination that equals a minimum of 100 hours.
GRADE POINT AVERAGE	3.5 weighted GPA in the 16 college-prep courses listed below	3.0 weighted GPA in the 16 college-prep courses listed below	Minimum **3.0** weighted GPA in non-elective high school courses listed below and a minimum **3.5** unweighted GPA in a minimum of 3 full credits in a single Career & Technical Education program	Not applicable
COURSEWORK and CREDITS	16 HIGH SCHOOL COURSE CREDITS 4 English (3 must include substantial writing) 4 Mathematics (at or above Algebra 1 Level) 3 Natural Sciences (2 must have substantial lab) 3 Social Science 2 World Language (sequential, in same language) The required coursework aligns with the State University System admissions requirements found in regulation 6.002.		Non-Elective Courses on a 24-Credit Standard Diploma: * ** 4 English Language Arts 4 Mathematics (including Algebra I and Geometry) 3 Science (including Biology and 2 with lab component; additional 2 courses must be equally rigorous) 3 Social Science (US History, World History, US Government & Economics) 1 Fine or Performing Arts, Speech & Debate, or Practical Arts 1 Physical Education (to include integration of health) ½ credit in Personal Financial Literacy (beginning with class of 2027) *Physical Education is not required on the 18-Credit ACCEL option **Fine/Performing Arts, Speech & Debate, or Practical Arts and Physical Education are not required on the CTE Pathway option Plus, at least 3 full credits in a single Career & Technical Education program	Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications that articulate for college credit.
VOLUNTEER SERVICE/PAID WORK HOURS	Volunteer Service Hours: 100 or Paid Work Hours: 100 or 100 hours combination of both	Volunteer Service Hours: 75 or Paid Work Hours: 100 or 100 hours combination of both	Volunteer Service Hours: 30 or Paid Work Hours 100 or 100 hours combination of both	Volunteer Service Hours: 30 or Paid Work Hours 100 or 100 hours combination of both

	FLORIDA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS (FAS)	FLORIDA MEDALLION SCHOLARS (FMS)	GOLD SEAL VOCATIONAL SCHOLARS (GSV)	GOLD SEAL CAPE SCHOLARS (GSC)
COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS: Achieve the required minimum scores on one of the listed exams	2023-24 Graduates: 29 ACT or 96 CLT or 1340 SAT 2024-25 Graduates: 29 ACT or 96 CLT or 1340 SAT	2023-24 Graduates: 25 ACT or 84 CLT or 1210 SAT 2024-25 Graduates: 25 ACT or 84 CLT or 1210 SAT	See table below	Not applicable

Exam Type	Sub-Test	Required Score
ACT	Reading	19
	English	17
	Mathematics	19
SAT	Reading Test	24
	Writing & Language Test	25
	Math Test	24
Post Secondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)	Reading	106
	Writing	103
	Mathematics	114

REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE AN AWARD: (AS DETERMINED BY THE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION)

1. Be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) as meeting initial eligibility requirements.
2. Be a Florida resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
3. Enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student at a Florida institution in at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours.

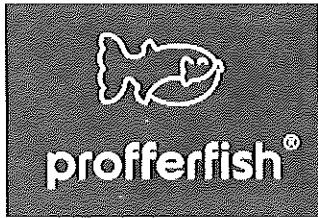### SCHOLARSHIP RESTRICTIONS:

- Gold Seal Vocational (GSV) Scholarships may only be used at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program.
- Until a student has earned an eligible associate degree, Gold Seal CAPE (GSC) scholarships may only be used at postsecondary institutions that offer an applied technology diploma, technical degree education program (associate in applied science or associate in science), or a career certificate program. Upon completion of an eligible associate degree program, a GSC Scholar may also receive an award for a maximum of 60 credit hours toward an eligible baccalaureate degree.

RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS: (As determined by grade and hours submitted by your postsecondary institution.)

1. Students must earn the number of credit hours based on the student's enrollment type per term.
2. The renewal cumulative GPA requirements are outlined in the table below.

	Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)	Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)
Minimum Cumulative GPA (unrounded and unweighted)	3.0	2.75	2.75	2.75

For detailed information, including other ways to qualify, please refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook. https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN. The student is responsible for tracking application and award status online and ensuring that funding for an academic year is accurate by contacting their institution's financial aid office.

These eligibility requirements are subject to change with each legislative session.

Parent and Student Quick Start Guide

Sign into your Profferfish account through your Clever

Find a volunteer organization. You can review approved organizations in Profferfish or find one on your own.

Contact the organization and let them know you are interested in volunteering and see if they are currently taking volunteers.

Once you have found an organization to volunteer at or if you have a paid work position, you will need to review our district policy and confirm that it meets the district requirements. You can review our district policy here: https://www.pcsb.org/Page/40036.

Sign into your Profferfish account by going to your Clever account and clicking on the Profferfish icon.

Review Pre-Approved Volunteer and Business organizations to see if your organization is already listed.
- If not listed, submit your organization for approval. Be sure to list an email address that is monitored and let your supervisor know to be on the lookout for an email from Profferfish. They have to respond to the email before they can be added.

If it is listed, click on the organization/business. At the bottom of the page, you will see General Volunteer and General Paid Work. Click the link for the appropriate type of hours you are earning.

Click on the Submit Hours link to add your hours.

Add the days and times you completed to the system. If you are still accruing hours with them, you can click Save as Draft and continue adding hours.

Once you have earned your required number of hours or are done volunteering/working with an organization/business, share your reflection and submit for approval OR if your agency supervisor is present, they can sign off on your device.

Parents will need to click on the thumbs up icon and sign through your account. It will then be submitted to your counselor for final approval.

INTRODUCING THE NEW FAFSA
Changes are coming to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

How is the FAFSA Changing?

The FAFSA Simplification Act was ratified in August 2022, with the intent to streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application process. It specified three goals: 1) expanded eligibility for federal financial aid, 2) reduced barriers for certain student populations and, 3) a better user experience for the FAFSA form. This PDF outlines changes that accomplish these goals.

Terminology

EFC (expected Family contribution)	SAI (Student Aid Index)
Household Size	Family Size
Parent(s)	Contributors
Student Aid Report	FAFSA Submission Summary
Dependency Status	Student Personal Circumstances
IRS Data Retrieval Tool	Direct Data Exchange

Process

Contributor could access the FAFSA without creating FSA ID first	Contributor will NOT be able to access the FAFSA without an FSA ID set up and verified by SSA prior to starting the form
Parent without social security number could not create FSA ID. Signature page required	Parent (s) without SSN will be required to create an FSA ID – process TBD
Using IRS Data Retrieval Tool was optional	Everyone has to click a permission box allowing their financial information to be transferred from the IRS, including non tax-filers
Parent Info provided was determined by "whom the student lived with more out of the year"	New definition of parent is "parent which provides the greater portion of the student's financial support"
Student could enter up to 10 colleges	Student will be able to add up to 20 colleges

Formula Changes

Household size reported by applicant	Family size based on number of people claimed as exemptions on tax forms
Businesses and farms with fewer than 100 employees not counted as an asset	Net value of businesses and farms of any size counted as an asset
Number in college included in EFC calculation	Number in college NO LONGER included in SAI calculation. Question will still appear for institutional purposes
Families with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) greater than $50,000 required to report asset information	Families with AGI greater than $60,000 will be required to report asset information
Lowest EFC is 0	Lowest SAI is - 1500

INTRODUCING THE NEW FAFSA
Changes are coming to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Contributors

A contributor is anyone who is required to provide information on the FAFSA; that means the student, parent(s), and spouse might all be referred to as "contributors" in the FAFSA form.

FSA ID

EVERY contributor will need an FSA ID to access the FAFSA. Undocumented parents will now be able to create an FSA ID.

Tip: Ensure every contributor creates an FSA ID before the FAFSA becomes available.

Family Size

For tax-filers, family size will be automatically calculated based on the number of individuals claimed on the tax return. If the family size is different from the tax return, there will be an option to enter it manually.

Tip: Have a copy of the tax return or tax transcript on hand to check who was claimed.

Number in College

The number of dependents in college will no longer impact the federal formula for aid distribution. However, questions about the number of dependents in the household attending college may still appear for institutional purposes.

Potential Impact on Students

The new formula allows a minimum SAI of negative $1,500 to give financial aid administrators more insight when making determinations for students with especially challenging situations. Some applicants will be able to determine Pell Grant eligibility prior to enrolling in college based on their family size, household income, and state's poverty standards.

8%	13%	78%
will have a higher SAI than EFC	will see no change	will have a lower SAI than EFC

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)

Federal Tax Information

Direct Data Exchange (DDX) will replace the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) as the process for transferring tax information from the IRS. This will reduce the number of financial questions that most families will see on the FAFSA.

All contributors must consent to having their tax information transferred, even if they did not file taxes for the required year. There will be few exceptions for manual entry.

If consent is not granted:
- the FAFSA will be considered incomplete
- the FAFSA will be ineligible for federal financial aid

Reporting

Families with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) greater than $60k will be required to report asset information. The net worth of businesses and farms of any size will now be included.

Don't Forget the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)!

While you wait to complete the FAFSA, remember to fill out your FFAA! The Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) administers state-funded grant and scholarship programs. The Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) is the application students complete for some of these programs, such as Bright Futures.

Apply at FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org by selecting Create a Student Account. Remember to pay attention to individual application deadlines!

Learn more about financial aid at pcsb.org/financialaid