

# **Sunshine State Scholars 2025-26**

## **Required and Optional Criteria for Eligibility**

### **Minimum State Requirements:**

- The student has achieved **junior** class status and has an interest in pursuing postsecondary education opportunities in Florida.
- The student has expressed and/or demonstrated an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related studies.
- The student has a weighted grade point average of 3.9 or higher.  
Based upon information available at this point in time, the student should be on track to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholars Award according to the current guidelines established for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program (<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm>).
- The student should have documentation to support at least 25 hours of approved community service.
- Districts are allotted a scholar count based on the district's student enrollment.
  - Districts with less than 20,000 students are allotted one scholar.
  - Districts that have 20,001-78,999 students are allotted two scholars.
  - Districts that have more than 79,000+ students are allotted three scholars.

### **Other optional criteria as determined by district:**

#### **Essay:**

Student writes a short essay based on one or more of the following topics.

- Describe your plans to pursue a science, technology, engineering and mathematics related field.
- Describe your academic passion. What makes it your passion?
- What are your postsecondary plans as of right now?
- What do you think is the greatest challenge America has right now in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics? What contribution do you think you could make to help resolve it?
- What impact will your science, technology, engineering and mathematics studies have on your life?
- How do you expect to use what you learn in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to benefit your community in the future?

#### **Interview:**

The student will conduct an interview with a science, technology, engineering or mathematics professional, community member.

### **Advanced Coursework:**

Student has taken or is currently enrolled in advanced courses.

- Dual enrollment credit for mathematics and/or science courses
- Advanced Placement mathematics and/or science courses
- Advanced technology and/or career and technical education courses
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) or International Baccalaureate (IB) mathematics and/or science courses



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#### **Assessment and Testing:**

Student has consistently scored well on statewide assessments.

- Combined score of 1300 or higher on the SAT (based upon the Critical Reading and Mathematics sections only)
- Composite score of 30 or higher on the ACT (excluding the Writing section)
- Score of 3.0 or higher on one or more Advanced Placement Tests
- Score of 98 or higher on the CLT
- Consistently scored Level 4 or 5 on Mathematics and Science state assessments

#### **Competitions and Contests:**

Student has actively participated in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related competitions or has shown leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related activities.