

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
September 17, 2014**

SUBJECT: Academically Qualified Need-Based Financial Aid Deficit due to Criteria Changes in Bright Futures Legislative Budget Request

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information and discussion

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Statutory changes to the Bright Futures scholarship eligibility are fully phased-in beginning with students who graduate high school in 2013-2014. Prior to 2011-2012, a student qualified for Bright Futures with a SAT score of 970 or an ACT of 20. The new eligibility requirements require a SAT score of 1170 or an ACT score of 26. Research has predicted that these changes will have a significant impact on lower-income, underserved and minority students. A recent analysis by the Board of Governors examined Fall 2013 admission data for those FTIC Florida resident students who were admitted and registered and met the Florida Medallion Scholars (based on the 2012 criteria), with a break out of those same students showing those who also met the new 2013 criteria. The study found that the change in criteria impacted 38% of the 2013 entering class, varying considerably by race and university.

In addition, there is evidence of a strong positive correlation between income and SAT test scores, which supports the concern that the change in the eligibility requirements will disproportionately affect lower-income, underserved and minority students.

This Legislative Budget Request is for \$45 million in additional funds to support need-based aid to ensure these students have the funds necessary to succeed in their educational goals.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Academically Qualified Need-Based
Financial Aid Deficit due to Criteria
Changes in Bright Futures LBR Form 1

Facilitators/Presenters:

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