A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the best and brightest teachers and
principals; amending s. 1012.731, F.S.; revising the
eligibility criteria for the Florida Best and
Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program; providing for
retention of a classroom teacher's scholarship
eligibility under certain circumstances; requiring
each school district to annually submit certain
information to the Department of Education; deleting
the scheduled expiration of the section; creating s.
1012.732, F.S.; creating the Florida Best and
Brightest Principal Scholarship Program; providing
legislative intent; providing for funding of the
program; providing for certain school principals to
receive a scholarship under the program; providing
eligibility requirements; requiring the department to
annually identify eligible school principals and
disburse funds to school districts by a specified
date; requiring each eligible school principal to
receive a scholarship; requiring scholarships to be
prorated under certain circumstances; requiring school
districts to annually award scholarships to eligible
school principals by a specified date; requiring
school districts to provide best and brightest
principals with specified additional authority and
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (3), (4), and (8) of section 1012.731, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1012.731 The Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program.—

(3)(a) To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom teacher must:

1. Have achieved a composite score at or above the 77th and 80th percentile on either the SAT, or the ACT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT, or MCAT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment.

2. and Have been evaluated as highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34, or have been evaluated as highly effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8), in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated pursuant to s. 1012.34.

(b) In order to demonstrate eligibility for an award, an eligible classroom teacher must submit to the school district, no later than November 1, an official record of his or her responsibilities; defining the term "school district"; providing an effective date.
qualifying assessment SAT or ACT score demonstrating that the classroom teacher scored at or above the 77th percentile based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the teacher took the assessment. Once a classroom teacher is deemed eligible by the school district, including teachers deemed eligible in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the teacher shall remain eligible as long as he or she remains employed by the school district as a classroom teacher at the time of the award and receives an annual performance evaluation rating of highly effective pursuant to s. 1012.34 or is evaluated as highly effective based on a commissioner-approved student learning growth formula pursuant to s. 1012.34(8).

(4) Annually, by December 1, each school district shall submit to the department:
   (a) The number of eligible classroom teachers who qualify for the scholarship.
   (b) The name and master school identification number (MSID) of each school in the district to which an eligible classroom teacher is assigned.
   (c) The name of the school principal of each eligible classroom teacher’s school if he or she has served as the school’s principal for at least 2 consecutive school years including the current school year.

(8) This section expires July 1, 2017.

Section 2. Section 1012.732, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1012.732 The Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that the most effective school principals establish a safe and supportive school environment for students and faculty. Research shows that these principals increase student learning by providing opportunities for the professional growth, collaboration, and autonomy that classroom teachers need to become and remain highly effective educational professionals. As a result, these principals are able to recruit and retain more of the best classroom teachers and improve student outcomes at their schools, including schools serving low-income and high-need student populations. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to designate school principals whose school faculty has a high percentage of classroom teachers who are designated as Florida's best and brightest teacher scholars pursuant to s. 1012.731 as Florida's best and brightest principals.

(2) There is created the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The program shall provide categorical funding for scholarships to be awarded to school principals, as defined in s. 1012.01(3)(c)1., who have recruited and retained a high percentage of best and brightest teachers.

(3) A school principal identified pursuant to s.
101.731(4)(c) is eligible to receive a scholarship under this section if he or she has served as school principal at his or her school for at least 2 consecutive school years including the current school year and his or her school has a ratio of best and brightest teachers to other classroom teachers that is at the 80th percentile or higher for schools within the same grade group, statewide, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and schools with a combination of grade levels.

(4) Annually, by February 1, the department shall identify eligible school principals and disburse funds to each school district for each eligible school principal to receive a scholarship as provided in the General Appropriations Act. A scholarship must be awarded to every eligible school principal, with a greater scholarship amount awarded to school principals who are assigned to a Title I school. If the number of eligible school principals exceeds the total appropriation authorized in the General Appropriations Act, the department shall prorate each school principal's scholarship in a manner consistent with this subsection.

(5) Annually, by April 1, each school district must award a scholarship to each eligible school principal.

(6) A school district must provide a best and brightest principal with the additional authority and responsibilities provided in s. 1012.28(8) for a minimum of 2 years.

(7) For purposes of this section, the term "school
Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.