

HB 438 -- Twenty-First Century Scholars Program

Sponsor: Storch

This bill establishes a new scholarship, the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program, to be administered by the Department of Higher Education. A student will be eligible for the program if he or she:

- (1) Is a Missouri resident;
- (2) Is enrolled in the eighth grade in a public or private school;
- (3) Is eligible for the free or reduced lunch program;
- (4) Signs an agreement, along with his or her parents, to finish high school; to apply for college admission and financial aid; and pledging not to drive while intoxicated, use drugs, run away, or become truant; and
- (5) Has a 2.0 grade point average upon graduation from high school.

The amount of the scholarship varies based on the choice of the college and the availability of other financial assistance. Scholarships may be granted for up to eight semesters, and participating colleges must create mentoring programs for scholarship recipients.