

## HB 1619 -- Twenty-First Century Scholars Program

Sponsor: Storch

This bill establishes the Twenty-first Century Scholars Program to be administered by the Department of Higher Education. A student will be eligible for the scholarship 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 federal free or reduced-price lunch program;
- (4) Signs an agreement, along with his or her parents or guardian, to graduate from high school; to apply for college admission and financial aid; and to not drive while intoxicated, use drugs, run away, or become truant or delinquent; and
- (5) Has at least a 2.0 grade point average on a four-point scale upon graduation from high school.

The Twenty-first Century Scholars Fund is created and will consist of moneys appropriated solely for student scholarships. The amount of each scholarship will vary 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 develop specific mentoring programs for scholarship recipients to provide them with academic and social counseling. The bill also contains scholarship renewal requirements.