

Understanding the NEW Florida Scholarship Options

Florida's Private School Scholarships, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) and Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO)

2023-24 STEP UP FAST FACTS (Statewide)

- 130,126 students enrolled on FTC
- 146,540 students enrolled on FES-EO
- 56% of recipients were Black or Hispanic
- 39% of recipients were from single-parent homes
- 2,000+ participating private schools

Last year, more than 275,000 students utilized K-12 education savings accounts (ESAs) to cover expenses like private school tuition, fees, curriculum, tutoring, and more. Florida's Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) and Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) are the largest programs of their kind in the nation. These ESA programs allow parents and guardians to pay for not just private school tuition and fees, but also a wide range of related educational costs, including textbooks, testing, and tutoring. This year, more than 300,000 students are expected to benefit from these scholarships.

The 2023 Florida Legislative session dramatically expanded the education choice options for families. First, it removed income eligibility caps on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options, making them available to all K-12 students in the state. Second, it turned both those programs into Education Savings Accounts, or ESAs, giving families more flexibility in how they can spend their children's scholarship funds.

Hope Scholarship (Scholarship merged with FTC/FES-EO)

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA)

2023-24 STEP UP FAST FACTS (Statewide)

- 96,678 students funded
- Over \$1 billion in scholarships funded
- 20,000+ participating providers
- 2,000+ participating private schools
- \$10,000 average scholarship

Formerly referred to as the Gardiner Scholarship, this scholarship allows parents to personalize the education of their child with special needs by directing money toward a combination of programs and approved providers. The average scholarship is approxi-

mately \$10,000 per child per year, with funds capable of being rolled over from year to year. Eligible students are ages 3 to 22 with one of the following diagnoses: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Spina Bifida, William Syndrome, Deaf, Visual or Dual Sensory Impaired and Hospital Bound Brain Injury. Eligible expenses include: private school tuition, part and full-time tutoring, therapy, post-secondary transition, summer and after-school programs, instructional materials, public school services and online courses.

Personalized Education Program (PEP)

Last year, Florida became the first state to offer an ESA to students in home education environments. The Personalized Education Program (PEP) served approximately 20,000 students and is expected to serve around 50,000 students in the 2024-25 school year. Florida students who are not full-time private or public school students can access the PEP program through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Through the PEP scholarship, parents can cover costs such as instructional materials, curriculum, testing fees, tutoring, part-time

tuition at public, virtual, or private schools, or even choose a hybrid learning option where students attend class twice a week.

New Worlds Scholarship Accounts (Reading and Math Scholarship)

In 2018 Florida became the first state to offer an Education Savings Account (ESA) program for students enrolled in public schools who struggled with reading. Beginning in 2023-24, math was added to the program, renamed the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts. The program offers parents of VPK and K-5 public school students up to \$1,200 to pay for part-time tutoring in reading and math, summer and after-school programs designed to improve reading or math skills, and curriculum or instructional materials, including books and some technology items. About 31,764 students were funded in the 2023-24 school year.

Public School Transportation Stipend

Every child has unique needs and sometimes the best school may be one other than the one he/she is assigned. To support transportation costs associated with traveling to a different public school than the one the student has been assigned, families can benefit from a transportation stipend of \$750. The transportation stipend is available to households, regardless of income, with student(s) in K-8 who are Florida residents. Unique to this program, stipends are issued per household, not student. Families can easily apply through Step Up For Students. 🧩

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727-796-7679
www.thedepaulschool.org

dePaul School for Dyslexia

Scholarship Funding Organizations

Step Up for Students
www.stepupforstudents.org
 877-735-7837
info@stepupforstudents.org

• A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation
 • www.aaascholarships.org
 • 888-707-2465
 • info@aaascholarships.org