



Family Empowerment Scholarship for
Students with Unique Abilities

April 17th, 2025

Presented by Step Up For Students

OPEN HOUSE
Unique Abilities





Unique Abilities

April

Agenda

Communications

MyScholarShop: New Vendor Alert

Reimbursement Process

Navigating MyScholarShop

Purchasing Guide Hot Topics

Questions & Answers

Contact Information



Unique Abilities

Communications

Subject: 📌 Renew your student's
Unique Abilities Scholarship by April 30!

Date: 03/25/2025



Renew your Unique Abilities Scholarship by April 30!

Please disregard if you have already submitted your application.

Hello.

If you would like to renew your student's Unique Abilities Scholarship for the 2025-26 school year, now's the time!

Important Details For Renewing Students:

📢 The renewal student application deadline is April 30, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

The application must be submitted by this deadline for the student to be reviewed as a renewal student. Please note that processing times vary and may take up to 30 days. To avoid issues, please make sure that you submit ALL required documentation with your application. Families will receive an email with status updates.

All applications submitted after this deadline will be considered new student applications.

📢 Renewal students must accept their Unique Abilities Scholarship by May 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET to maintain their renewal status.

If accepted after this deadline, the student will be considered a new student. *Note: Once your student is found eligible, you will receive an email with more information about how to accept the scholarship.*

[Click here to renew your scholarship](#)



Unique Abilities

When To Call The Engagement Center



877-735-7837

- Funding/Reimbursement Concerns, Timeline
- Application status
- Fixing an error with an application including Documentation Questions (diagnoses, proof of residency, etc.)
- How to Submit Documentation after season close for foster placement or military PCS
- Technical Issues/Locked out of account in EMA
- Following up on a ticket
- General scholarship or application questions that cannot be found in the Handbook/Purchasing Guide



Unique Abilities

Handbook Highlight

At the end of your Unique Abilities Family Handbook, you can find a chart that outlines the authorized uses of scholarship funds.

| Authorized Use of Scholarship Funds | Scholarship Program | | | | Payment Method |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-----|--------|----------------|
| | FES-UA | FTC/FES-EO | PEP | NWSA | |
| Instructional materials | X | X | X | X (DP) | DP or R |
| Curriculum and curriculum materials | X | X | X | X (DP) | DP or R |
| Tuition and fees for: | | | | | |
| Full-time, in-person private school | X | X | | | DP or R |
| Part-time, in-person eligible private school | X | | X | | DP or R |
| Hybrid private school | | | X | | DP or R |
| Home education instructional programs | X | | X | | DP or R |
| Eligible postsecondary institution | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Dual enrollment | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Approved pre-apprenticeship programs | X | X | X | | Reimbursement |
| Approved online or virtual provider | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Private-pay Florida Virtual School | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Approved VPK program provider | X | | | | DP or R |
| Approved school readiness provider | X | | | | DP or R |
| Standardized testing fees | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Contracted services provided by a public school or school district | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Private tutoring | | | | | |
| Full-time private tutoring | X | | X | | DP or R |
| Part-time private tutoring | X | X | X | X (DP) | DP or R |
| Services provided by a Choice Navigator | X | X | X | | DP or R |
| Contributions to approved college savings programs | | | | | |
| Stanley G. Tate FL Prepaid College Program | X | | | | Reimbursement |
| FL 529 Savings Program | X | | | | Direct Pay |
| Specialized services by approved providers or a Florida hospital | | | | | |
| Applied behavior analysis | X | | | | DP or R |
| Speech-language pathologist services | X | | | | DP or R |
| Occupational therapy services | X | | | | DP or R |
| Physical therapy services | X | | | | DP or R |
| Listening and spoken language specialist services | X | | | | DP or R |
| Fees for specialized summer education programs | X | | | | DP or R |
| Fees for specialized after-school education programs | X | | | | DP or R |
| Fees for summer education programs that improve reading, literacy, or math skills | | | | X (DP) | Direct Pay |
| Fees for after-school education programs that improve reading, literacy, or math skills | | | | X (DP) | Direct Pay |
| Transition services provided by job coaches | X | | | | Reimbursement |
| Annual home education evaluation fees | X | | | | DP or R |
| Fees for horse therapy | X | | | | DP or R |
| Fees for music and art therapy | X | | | | DP or R |

"DP" = Direct Pay through EMA or MSS; "R" = Reimbursement. All NWSA purchases must be made by Direct Pay



Unique Abilities

Scholarship Overview

Unique Abilities: Students from age 3 through grade 12 or age 22, whichever comes first, who have a specific diagnosis or have an IEP. The student can be either enrolled as home education with the district or enrolled in a private school.

Private School: The scholarship to attend an eligible private school, and any remaining funds can be accessed through your education savings account to further support your child's educational needs.

PEP: For Florida students who are not enrolled full-time in a private or public school.

New Worlds: The program benefits VPK and K-5 public school students who struggle early in reading and/or math skills.

Transportation Stipend: Supports the transportation costs associated with traveling to a different public school than the one the student has been assigned.



Unique Abilities

2025-2026 Application Dates



2025-26 Scholarship Application Dates

| | Private School Scholarship | Unique Abilities Scholarship | PEP Scholarship |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Renewal Application Season | February 1 to April 30 | February 1 to April 30 | February 1 to April 30 |
| New Application Season | February 1 to November 15 | February 1 to November 15 | February 1 to April 30 |

Applications submitted after the renewal deadline will be processed as a new application.
Families will have 30 days after the application deadline to accept or decline the scholarship.

English

Spanish

Fechas de Solicitud de Beca 2025-26

| | Beca Escuela Privada | Beca Necesidades Especiales | Beca PEP |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Temporada de Solicitud de Renovación | 1 de febrero a 30 de abril | 1 de febrero a 30 de abril | 1 de febrero a 30 de abril |
| Temporada de Solicitud Nueva | 1 de febrero a 15 de noviembre | 1 de febrero a 15 de noviembre | 1 de febrero a 30 de abril |

Las solicitudes enviadas después de la fecha límite de renovación se procesarán como una nueva solicitud.
Las familias tendrán 30 días después de la fecha límite de solicitud para aceptar o rechazar la beca.



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Military Application Process



Dependents of active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces have the opportunity to apply for scholarships throughout the school year. This initiative aims to support military families by easing the financial burden of education. Parents or guardians interested in this scholarship after applications are closed for the season must initiate the process by contacting Step Up For Students at (877) 735-7837, where they can open an application for their student.



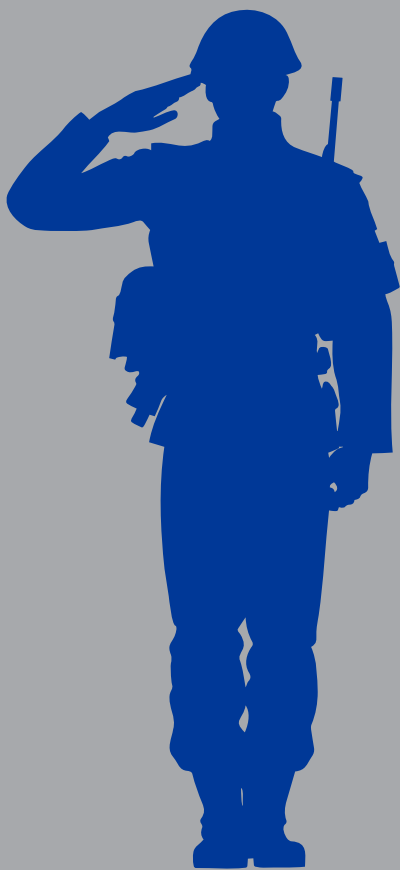
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Military Application - Documentation Needed

To successfully complete the application, parents or guardians need to provide specific documentation based on their residency status in Florida.

- **For established Florida residents:**
 - A copy of the Service Member's Leave & Earnings Statement (LES) for the month of application.
- **For renewal students moving out of Florida:**
 - A copy of the Permanent Change of Station orders.
 - Leave and Earnings Statement.
 - IRS Domicile 2058 or DFAS Form 702.
- **For new students moving into Florida:**
 - A copy of the Permanent Change of Station orders.





Unique Abilities

Please follow the link or scan the QR code provided below to access the necessary application documents for your review.



New & Renewal Student Application Checklist



2025-26 RENEWAL STUDENT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Renewing your child's scholarship for a Private School (FTC/FES-EO), Unique Abilities (FES-UA), or PEP Scholarship requires certain documents for review and this guide is here to help you gather everything you need. If your student received funds in 2024-25, they're considered a renewal student.

Proof of Florida Residency:

Proof of Residency requires one document from Column A or two different documents from Column B. All documents must be current (dated within two months for recurring bills or statements), valid, and match the parent's or guardian's (primary or secondary) full name and the physical address on the application.

| Column A Upload a copy of one of these documents | Column B Upload a copy of two of these documents |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Utility bill (electric, gas, water) | Florida Driver's License or state-issued ID card |
| Mortgage statement or residential lease agreement | Paystub |
| Proof of current government benefits (Social Security, Veterans Affairs, Disability, Medicare, Section 8/HUD, TANF, SNAP, DCF correspondence) | Insurance policy statement (auto, health, home, or renters) |
| Homestead or Property tax statement/assessment | Mortgage acceptance letter |
| Permanent Change of Station (PCS) military orders* | Property Deed |
| Verification of homelessness | <i>Please note: Both documents from Column B need to be from the same guardian and must be from different categories.</i> |
| Migrant Address Verification Letter | |

*Active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces who do not have a Florida residential address at the time of application but have received Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders must provide a copy of their PCS orders in the application documents and list the Florida address of the unit to which they are being assigned or from which they are being relieved.

Social Security Number

A Social Security Number will need to be entered for you and your student.

Note: FES applications require student social security numbers. If you or your student do not have a Social Security Number, leave this question blank. Your student will only be considered for a Private School Scholarship (FTC).

Diagnosis Documentation:

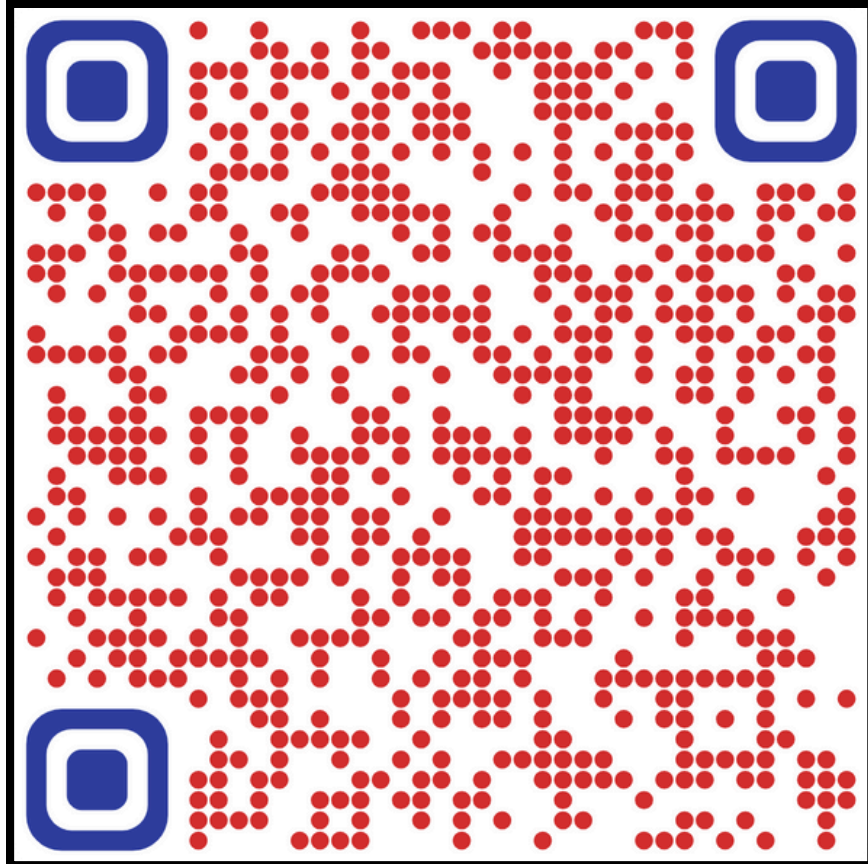
Additional documentation may be necessary for certain Unique Abilities Scholarship (FES-UA) applications. If your student previously qualified for the FES-UA scholarship under one of the following categories, you must submit documentation to demonstrate the student qualifies under an eligible diagnosis for the 2025-26 school year:

- Students who qualified as "high-risk" and who are turning 6 on or before September 1, 2025
- Students who qualified based on being hospitalized or homebound



Unique Abilities

Click the link or scan the QR code below for a step-by-step guide for a renewal student.



[Renewal Application Process](#)



Step Up For Students

Renewal Application Process 2025-2026

Family Empowerment Scholarship
for Unique Abilities (FES-UA)





Unique Abilities

Student ID:

This is your student's unique identification number that will be needed for the engagement center to look up your student's account.

The screenshot shows the "Scholarship Portal" interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, Reimbursements, My Students, Marketplace, Recent Transactions, and Help. The main content area has a top bar with three buttons: "Apply For Scholarship", "Open Student Learning Plan", and "New Reimbursement". Below this, the "Student Profile" section is highlighted with a red box around the "Student ID" field, which contains the value "20...". A red arrow points from the "My Students" link in the sidebar to this field. To the right of the profile is a "Current Funds Available" section showing "\$0.00". Below that is an "Applications" section for "New Worlds Scholarship Accounts (2...)", which is marked as "Funded". A blue box highlights the "Award ID: 20..." field, and a blue arrow points from this field to the right. A "VIEW APPLICATION" button is also visible.

Award ID:

Give this number to an eligible private school of your choice. They will use this number to enroll your student. This number changes yearly.



Unique Abilities

What is *my* **ScholarSHOP** ?

These are the benefits of MyScholarShop

- Vendors are paid directly through your child's scholarship account with no out-of-pocket costs.
- No reimbursement paperwork is needed.

How Does MyScholarShop Work? "Pick it, Click it, and Ship it"

Search for what you need as you would on any online store and find the items you want. Mark them as a favorite for later, and check them out when you're ready. MyScholarShop will do the rest, including checking to ensure you have available funds. Don't forget to verify your shipping address before checking out!



You are not obligated to use MyScholarShop. You can purchase pre-approved instructional materials and curricula directly from vendors and then apply for reimbursement.



Unique Abilities



MyScholarShop Vendor Alert




| Company Name | Description of Services | Website |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Each week, you'll receive a historical letter in your mailbox from notable figures like Benjamin Franklin and Sojourner Truth. Choose from topics such as World War II, the Industrial Revolution, and the Civil War, featuring a variety of eras and personalities. Each letter comes with "The Postscript," an article providing background information from our expert researchers. | https://www.letterjoy.com/?srsltid=AfmBOoplbsYAtsFYFzl0sMUf_kRTRZ6B4ieFDqkjKtqfJy66YX0-jiWR |
|  | Nicole the Math Lady teaches Saxon Math and offers memberships for one-year access to lesson videos, online grading, and support tools for individuals, families, co-ops, and schools. Saxon Math uses a spiral method to introduce new skills daily while reviewing previous concepts. With her video lessons, students can effectively learn Saxon Math. | https://nicolethemathlady.com/ |



Unique Abilities



MyScholarShop Vendor Alert

| Company Name | Description of Services | Website |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Discover effortless baking and family bonding with our Bake & Explore kits. Each kit features Recipe Cards, Quality Ingredients, and engaging Activities. Create lasting memories as you bake and taste global treats together, strengthening family ties through the joy of cooking. | https://www.bakitbox.com/ |
|  | The "2 Hour Learning" model redefines education by allowing students to focus on their studies for just two hours each morning, using adaptive learning apps and AI tutoring to customize their experience. The rest of the day offers flexibility for activities that develop life skills and personal interests, promoting a balance between academic success and real-world experiences. | https://2hourlearning.com/ |
|  | Super Duper Publications creates fun educational materials for children ages 3 to 12, including games, workbooks, and online programs, with a focus on those with speech and language delays, developmental disabilities, and autism. | https://www.superduperinc.com/ |



Unique Abilities

MyScholarShop Resources

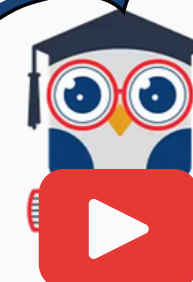


Welcome to



NAVIGATING MyScholarShop In EMA

[Navigating MyScholarShop
in EMA](#)



PARENTS: FINDING PROVIDERS &
SERVICES IN THE MARKETPLACE

[Parents: Finding Services and
Providers in the Marketplace](#)

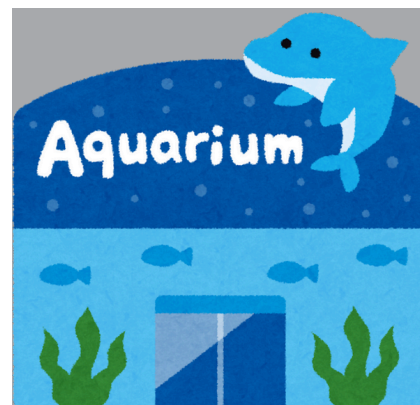


Unique Abilities

Unique Abilities Purchasing Guide pg. 9-10



Purchasing Guide Hot Topics



Florida Theme Parks & Field Trips





Unique Abilities

Florida Theme Parks & Field Trips

Unique Abilities Purchasing Guide pg. 9-10

Approved Florida Theme Parks & Field Trips



- Museum Admission
- Aquarium/Zoo Admission
- Programs or Events at Museums/Zoos/Aquariums
- Museum or Library Memberships
- Aquarium/Zoo Memberships
- Ticketed Events (including plays, musicals, or orchestral performances)
- Admission to Cultural Programming Events or Facilities
- Admission to a Florida theme park
- School Field Trips fees paid to an Eligible Private School





Unique Abilities

Eligible Florida Theme Parks

Please Note: An annual pass or multi-day ticket includes admission to more than one of the theme parks above in the same resort family.

Unique Abilities Purchasing Guide pg. 9-10



Magic Kingdom



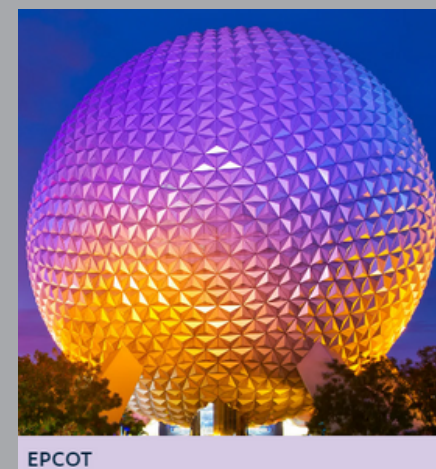
Hollywood Studios



Universal Studios Florida



Animal Kingdom



Epcot



Islands of Adventure



Peppa Pig Theme Park



SeaWorld Orlando



Legoland Florida



Busch Gardens Tampa Bay



Unique Abilities

Florida Theme Parks & Field Trips

Unique Abilities Purchasing Guide pg. 9-10

Important Items To Note



- Student admission only- Family admissions reimbursements will be prorated to cover only the student's cost
- The student's ticket price must be age-appropriate
- Special event ticketing (for example, after-hours events) at a Florida Theme Park is not an eligible expense
- Tickets or admission must be purchased directly from the venue/vendor or an authorized third-party seller.
- Secondary market or resale tickets are not reimbursable




Unique Abilities

Reimbursement in EMA for Field Trips




Florida Theme Parks & Field Trips


Please use 'Add Item' for each line item of your receipt/invoice.


edu benfit form .png  Your Receipt


ITEM 1

Purchase Date* 04/09/2025 

Invoice # 1223445

Category* ⓘ Instructional Material 

Type* ⓘ Field Trips 


Description ⓘ 

Amount*

Who did you pay?* ⓘ

Educational Benefit* ⓘ

Attach Additional Documents
You may attach any additional documents that include proof of payment.

 Upload a document

Select a Description

- Select a Description
- Cultural Programming Event or Facility Admission
- Eligible Home Education Instructional Program Field Trip
- Eligible Private School Field Trip (including Hybrid)
- Florida Theme Park Admission
- Museum or Similar Admission
- Museum or Similar Program or Event Admission
- Museum, Library, or Similar Membership
- State/National Park Admission
- Ticketed Event (including plays, musicals, or orchestral performances)
- Zoo/Aquarium Admission
- Zoo/Aquarium Membership



Unique Abilities

Florida Theme Parks & Field Trips

Unique Abilities Purchasing Guide pg. 9-10



- One reimbursement request for a Florida theme park ticket or annual pass during the school year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) can be submitted per scholarship student
- Additional services (such as parking, food and beverage packages, photographs or souvenirs, or premium access) will not be covered
- Theme park admissions have to be in the State of Florida
- Florida theme park admissions or annual passes are eligible once a year at a max of \$299 plus tax.
- Non-school-associated out-of-state field trips require Pre-Authorization AND the Educational Benefit Form.
- Florida theme park admission reimbursement requests must be accompanied by educational benefit form



Unique Abilities

Educational Benefit Form Explained

Please ensure all necessary questions are thoroughly answered and a detailed description is given for the educational benefit of that item, lesson, field trip.



Educational Benefit Form

Sample of Educational Benefit Form



Educational Benefit Form

Student Name: Johnny Doe

Student ID: 1234567890

Item for which reimbursement is requested (the item you purchased or plan to purchase):

Florida Theme Park Admission

What is the Educational Benefit of this item?

The park incorporates technology, engineering, and physics into its rides and attractions.

Discussions about how rides work, such as roller coaster mechanics or 3D/4D technology, can spark interest in STEM fields.

☒ I affirm scholarship program funds are used only for authorized purposes as described in ss. 1002.394(4) or 1002.395(6), F.S., as applicable, and serve the listed student's educational needs.

Parent Name: Jane Doe

Parent Signature: Jane Doe

PLEASE NOTE: Any violation of the FES/FTC scholarship statutes, rules, policies, or procedures may result in the loss of the scholarship, ineligibility for future scholarships, or financial or criminal penalties. Please see the Parent Handbooks for [FES-UA](#) or [FES-EO/FTC/PEP](#).



Unique Abilities



At this time we do not have the staffing for live Q&A sessions during the webinars but all questions turned in after the webinar are reviewed and we do our best to answer them in the following month's webinar.





Unique Abilities

**When will the governor
sign the budget?**



**Finalized award amounts
will be announced once the
Governor signs the budget
which will be no later than
July 1, 2025.**



Unique Abilities



Question: We are transforming a playhouse into a school room. Can we get reimbursed for the construction materials needed such as insulation, paneling, carpeting, etc.?

Answer: Construction materials for a room are not considered approved expenses. However, educational items within the room may be approved. Examples of these educational items include:

- Desk
- Chair
- Storage (bookshelves, organization containers)
- Architect/drafting table
- Picnic table
- Television (size meets student's unique needs)
- Indoor projector
- Standing or drop-down screen
- Whiteboard
- Rug or foam tile
- Maps/globes/atlas
- Bulletin board
- Timer/clock
- Educational poster/visual support
- Other furniture and equipment that supports student's learning needs

For more details, please refer to page 11 of the Unique Abilities Purchasing Guide.



Unique Abilities



Question: Our child qualifies for VPK for the Children with Disabilities program (SIS) at a county public school. Does this conflict with the UA scholarship?

Answer:

Students awarded a Unique Abilities Scholarship may not enroll in any public school, full-time or part-time, that reports them to the State for funding.

Students may use the FES-UA scholarship and the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program at an eligible private school at the same time.

They may not use an FES-UA scholarship and VPK's Specialized Instructional Services (VPK-SIS) at the same time.

Please refer to page 12 of the Unique Abilities Parent Handbook

(This applies for the 2024-2025 school year)



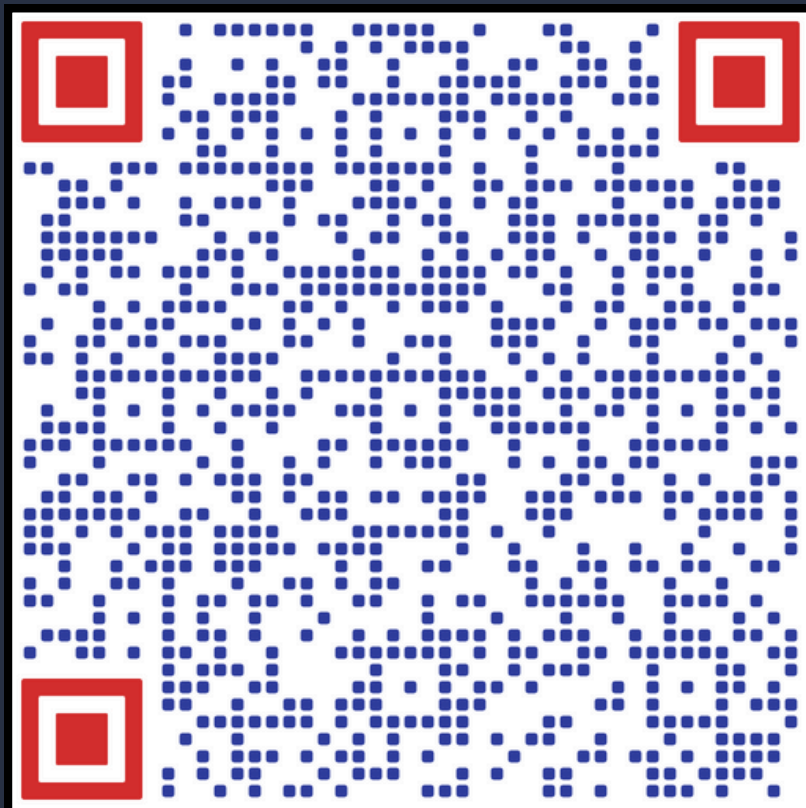
Unique Abilities

Reimbursement Resources

Reimbursement Guide

A step by step guide to submitting a Reimbursement in EMA.

Please scan the QR code or you can click the link to access the presentation.

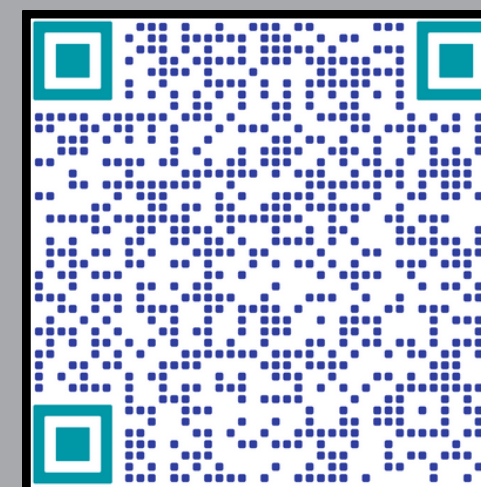


[Guardians Reimbursement Guide](#)

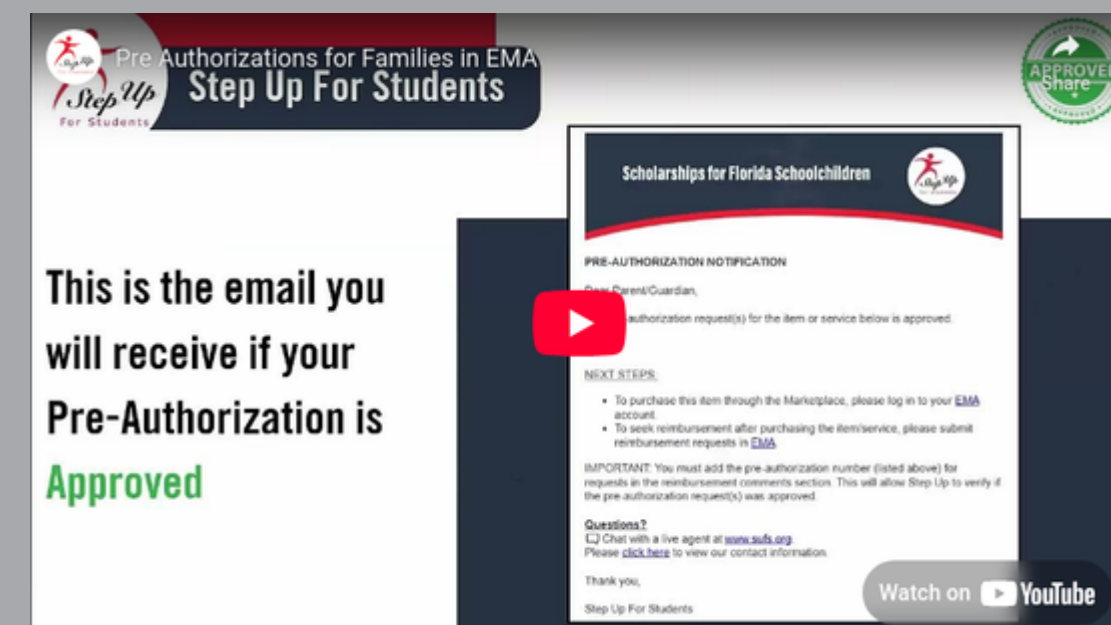
Pre-Authorization

A step-by-step guide to submitting a Pre-Authorization in EMA. Please scan the QR code below, or you can click the link to access the presentation.

Additionally, to your right, you can click the link to access the YouTube video for this process.



[Pre-Authorization Presentation](#)

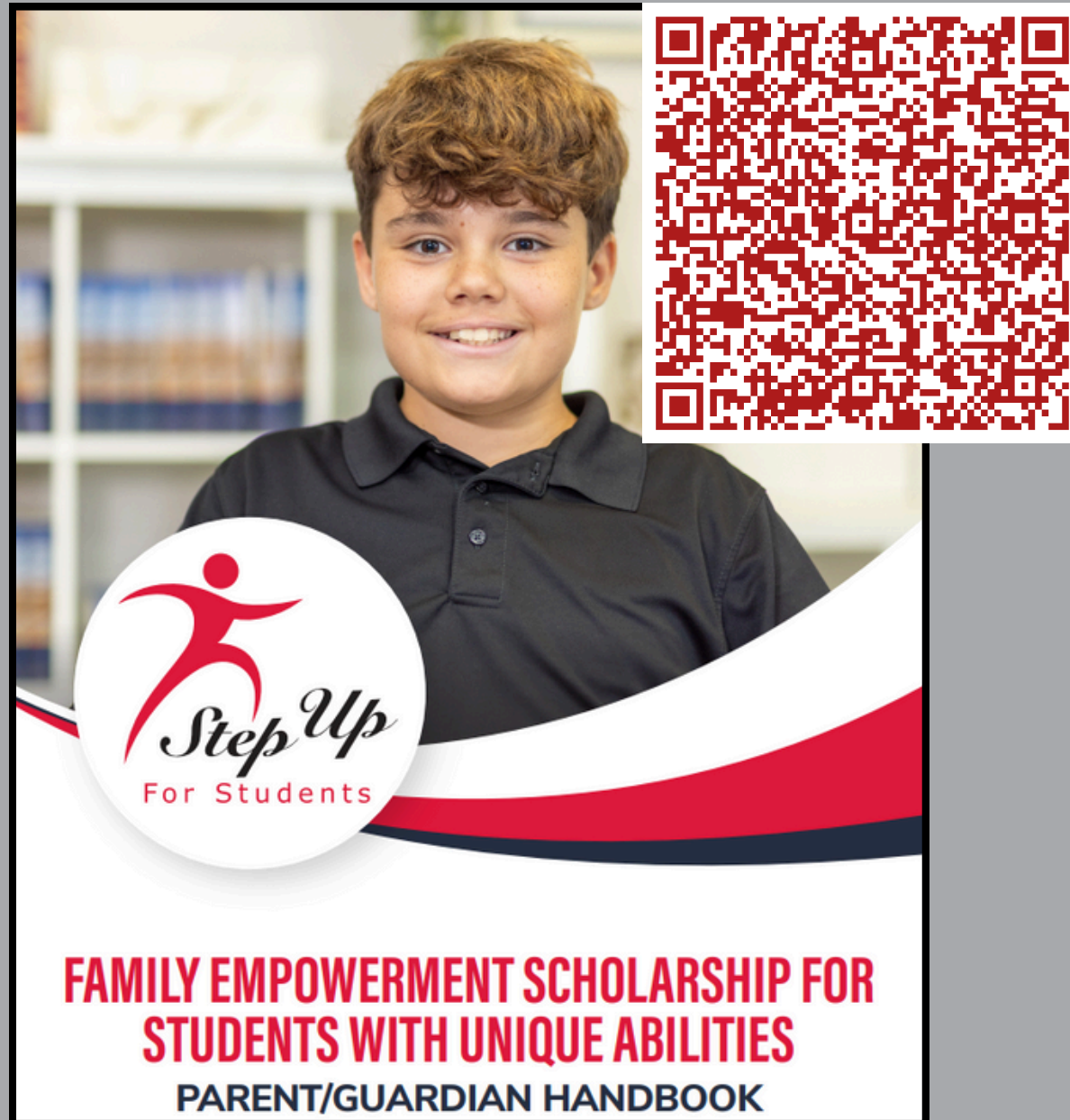


[Pre-Authorization Presentation YouTube Video](#)



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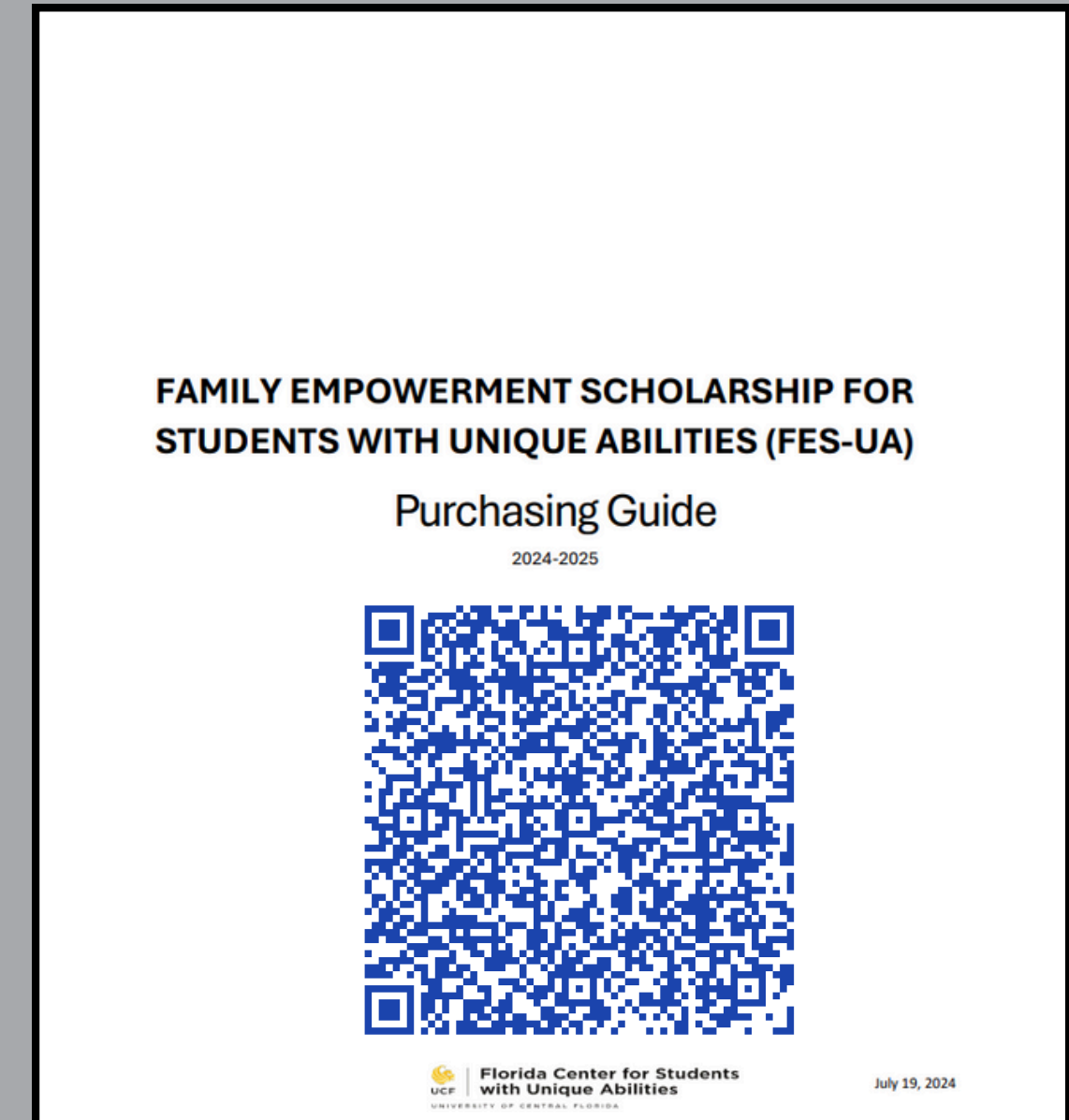
Guardian Handbook & Purchasing Guide Resources



Please scan the QR code
or click the link to
access the Guardian
Handbook and/or the
Purchasing Guide

2024-2025

[Parent/Guardian Handbook](#)



2024-2025

[Purchasing Guide](#)



Unique Abilities



Previous Unique Abilities Open Houses



[January Open House](#)



[February Open House](#)



[March Open House](#)



Unique Abilities

Looking Ahead: Here are the registration links for the upcoming Open House presentations for each scholarship.



[New Worlds Open House](#)

May 14, 2025



[Private School Open House](#)

May 8, 2025



[Unique Abilities Open House](#)

May 15, 2025



[PEP Open House](#)

April 24, 2025

**REGISTER
NOW!**



Unique Abilities

Are you looking for
additional helpful videos?
Scan the QR code or click
the link below.



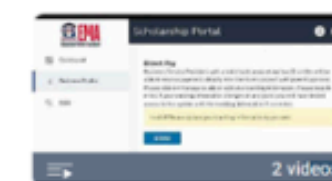
[STEP UP FOR STUDENTS YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

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Created playlists



Hope WV Provider
View full playlist



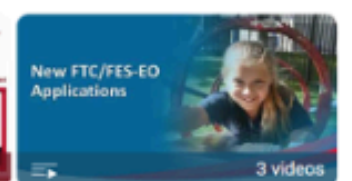
Hope WV Parent
View full playlist



Step Up Schools
View full playlist



Step Up Parents
View full playlist



Step Up Parent
View full playlist



Will you be in attendance? Visit our table.

Since 1998, The Annual Family Café has united Floridians with disabilities for three days of information, training, and networking each June. It features breakout sessions, an Exhibit Hall with vendors, keynote speakers, and the Governors' Summit on Disabilities, providing resources, access to policymakers, and networking opportunities. The 27th Annual Family Café will take place June 13-15, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Orlando.

Registration for The 27th Annual Family Cafe is now open!

To register, click the "[Register Here](#)"





Unique Abilities



Contact Us

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm EST



Chat with us sufs.org



877-735-7837



Unique Abilities

Thank you for attending!

Upcoming webinar: May 15, 2025

[Registration Link](#)