

### March 20th, 2025

Presented by Step Up For Students

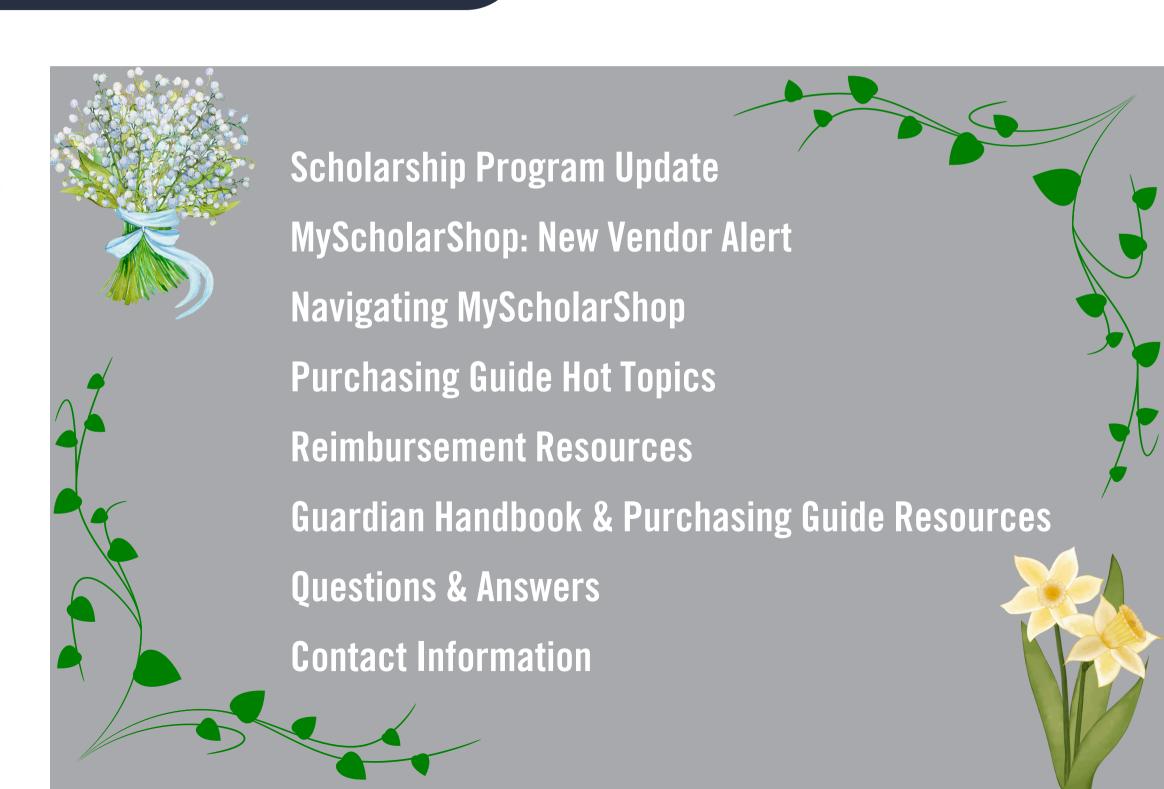




### Step Unique Abilities

## Agenda







#### **Scholarship Overview**

<u>Unique Abilities:</u> 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.

<u>Private School:</u> 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.

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





The Unique Abilities
Renewal Application
deadline is
April 30th!

If you **accept** a scholarship, you will receive either confirmation of the award OR notice that the scholarship program has reached capacity. This notification will be sent by email.



If you **decline** the scholarship, your student will be withdrawn from the scholarship program. If interested, you will then be able to apply through another scholarship program for this student. Reapplying for the same scholarship or another scholarship will reset your current priority status, and you will be considered a 'New' applicant.



### Step Up Unique Abilities For Students





FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES

PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK

2025-2026

**Parent/Guardian Handbook** 

#### Parent and Guardian Handbooks

- FES-UA Scholarship Parent and Guardian Handbook Updates
  - Added the "Access to School District Courses & Services" section
  - Language update that includes details for students who are not enrolling full-time with an eligible private school that a "letter of intent to be educated in a home education program" must be provided to their school district.
  - Removed the Scholarship Decline Form link from the handbook.
    - Please Note: If a parent or guardian wishes to decline their student's scholarship once funding has been disbursed, then the parent or guardian must contact Step Up For Students.
  - Highlighted language regarding prohibited full-time enrollment at a public school.
  - Updated language in the "Continuing Program Eligibility" section that now includes "Accounts will be closed after two years without any spending activity or any period of three (3) consecutive years after high school completion during which the student has not been enrolled in an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the institution".
  - Added the "Authorized Use of Scholarship Funds" Chart on the last page of the handbook.



### Step Up 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 <u>or</u> 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)  Mortgage acceptance letter  Property Deed	
Homestead or Property tax statement/assessment		
Permanent Change of Station (PCS) military orders*		
Verification of homelessness	Please note: Both documents from Column B need to be from the same guardian and must be from different categories.	
Migrant Address Verification Letter		

<sup>\*</sup>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).

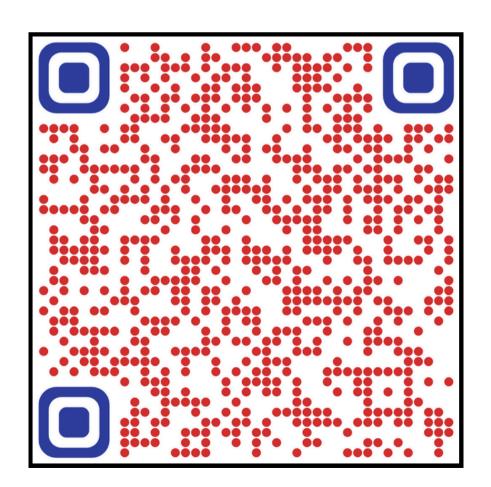
#### Diagnosis Documentation:

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



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



**Renewal Application Process** 



Renewal Application Process 2025-2026

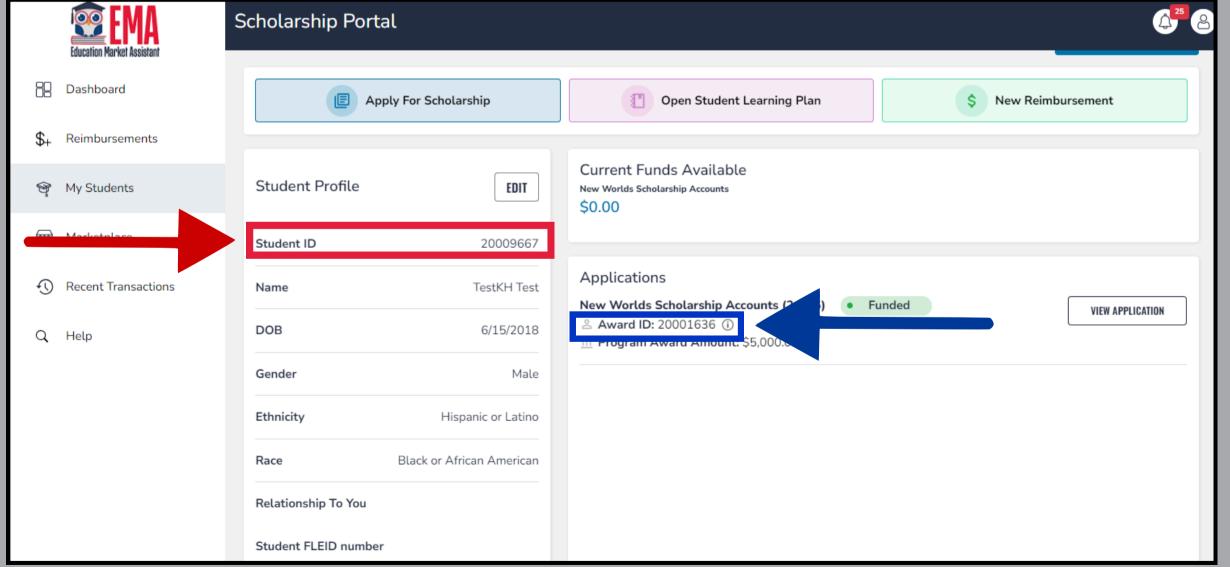
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA)





#### **Student ID:**

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



#### **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.



## What is my ScholarSHOP?

#### **Benefits of the MyScholarShop:**

MyScholarShop offers a seamless shopping experience for educational materials, allowing vendors to be paid directly through your child's scholarship account, eliminating any out-of-pocket expenses and the hassle of reimbursement paperwork. The process is straightforward: simply search for the items you need as you would on any online platform, mark your favorites, and proceed to checkout when ready. MyScholarShop ensures you have sufficient funds before finalizing your purchase, and it's essential to confirm your shipping address beforehand. While MyScholarShop provides a convenient option, families are not required to use it; they can still buy preapproved instructional materials directly from vendors and apply for reimbursement if preferred.



### Stepup Unique Abilities

noeo science



### MyScholarShop Vendor Alert

	Company Name	Description of Services	Website
	yoto	Yoto is a screen-free audio player for children, offering stories, music, and educational content. It encourages learning, confidence, and independent play, covering topics like phonics, languages, and math with hundreds of hours of activities and games.	https://us.yotoplay.com/
ı	OUT HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY	Our engaging video-based science curriculum for families combines a Christian worldview with vibrant visuals to simplify learning. It includes hands-on activities, virtual mentors passionate about science, and curated reading lists to deepen understanding and encourage exploration of complex topics.	https://journeyhomescho olacademy.com/
		Noeo combines science and fun by providing a comprehensive course with experiments and living books. Each Noeo Box contains materials for over 70 experiments using common household items, eliminating shopping trips and allowing hands-on practice. It simplifies lesson	https://noeoscience.com/ ?srsltid=AfmBOooB-

planning by coordinating experiments, readings, and reviews into

easy-to-follow lessons. Living books inspire curiosity and discovery

scheduling to accommodate varying intensities and unexpected life

events. Designed for multiple grades, Noeo allows siblings to learn

together through shared books and experiments.

with engaging narratives and illustrations. The program offers flexible

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z1NfZ5HbUylUAliX



### MyScholarShop Resources



Navigating MyScholarShop in EMA



Parents: Finding Services and Providers in the Marketplace

FES-UA Handbook pg. 36-37



Purchasing Guide
Hot Topics



Assistive Technology Devices & Annual Educational Evaluation Fees



### Step Up Unique Abilities For Students

### Approved Assistive Technology Devices



Augmentative Communication Device



Interactive Metronome



Proloquo2Go



**Braille Displays** 



Light Signaler Alerts



Vibroacoustic Therapy



FM System



**Braille Embossers** 



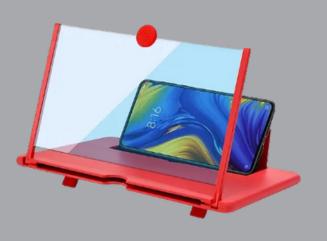
**Reading Tools** 



Text-to-speech (TTS) or Speech Synthesizers



### Unique Abilities Approved Assistive Technology Devices



Screen **Magnifiers/Enlargers** 



Talking and Large **Print Word** Processors



Student Response **Systems** 



**Screen Readers** 



Sip-And-Puff **Systems** 



Switches and other Devices





**Smart Board** 

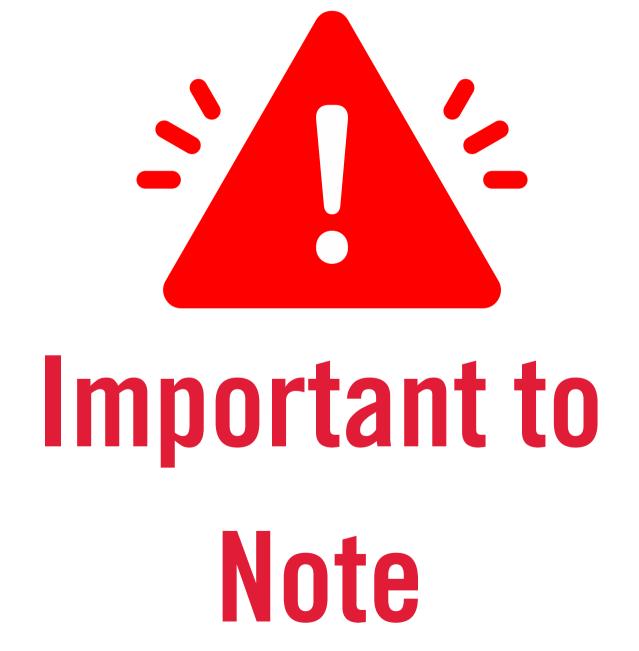


Speech or Voice **Recognition Programs** 



TTY/TTD Conversion Modems





**Unique Abilities Handbook pg. 36-37** 

Additional Assistive Devices may be eligible with Pre-Authorization

We will cover preauthorizations later in the presentation



FES-UA Handbook pg. 36-37 FTC/FES-EO Handbook pg. 29

Training On The Use Of Assistive Technology Devices

Scholarship funds can be used to train parents/guardians or students on how to use digital devices, digital peripheral devices, or assistive technology devices.



Fees

### Unique Abilities

FES-UA Handbook pg. 36-37

# Covered Annual Education Evaluation

#### <u>Approved standardized testing or assessments include:</u>

- National and state-standardized, norm-referenced assessments
- Advanced Placement (AP) examinations
- Industry certification examinations
- Transition assessments
- Assessments related to postsecondary education
- Conducting career and interest assessments
- Initial or re-evaluation assessments
- Other assessments may be eligible with pre-authorization





### Stepup Unique Abilities



**Annual Evaluation for home** education student or standardized testing guide

#### **Annual Evaluation for a Home Education Student or Standardized Testing**



External Guide

#### Definitions

Evaluation of a home education student's annual educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student, by a teacher, selected by the parent/quardian.

· Teacher must hold a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.

Standardized testing includes administration of any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.

#### Required Service Catalog documentation

- First and last name of the person rendering services.
- A copy of their FLDOE teaching certification number.

Eligible program: FES-UA

#### Eligible evaluation methods and the approved providers include:

- Evaluation of a student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student.
  - By a teacher holding a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.
- Administration of any nationally normed student achievement test administered.
  - By a certified teacher.
- Administration of a state student assessment test.
  - By a certified teacher at a location and under testing conditions approved by the school district

#### Approved standardized testing or assessments include:

- Nationally standardized, norm-referenced assessments
- Advanced Placement (AP) examinations
- Industry certification examinations
- Assessments related to postsecondary education
- Other assessments as outlined in the Purchasing Guide





Important
Items To Note:

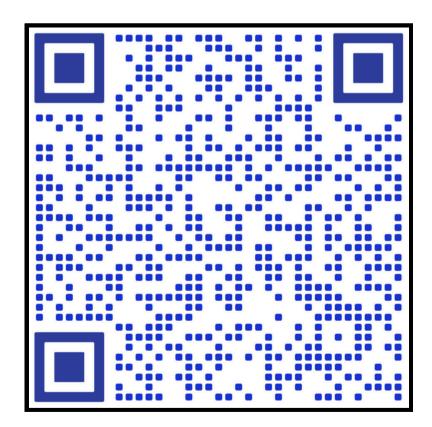
Annual Educational Evaluation

- Evaluation of a student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student by a teacher holding a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.
- Administration of any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.
- Administration of a state student assessment test by a certified teacher at a location and under testing conditions approved by the school district
- Fees for annual evaluations of the educational progress of a home education student as required under s. 1002.41(1)(f), F.S. is covered by the Family Empowerment Scholarship.



#### **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** 



#### **Educational Benefit Form**

Student Name: Johnny Doe

Student ID: 1234567890

Benefit

Educational

Of 0

Sample

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.



## Stepup Unique Abilities For Students

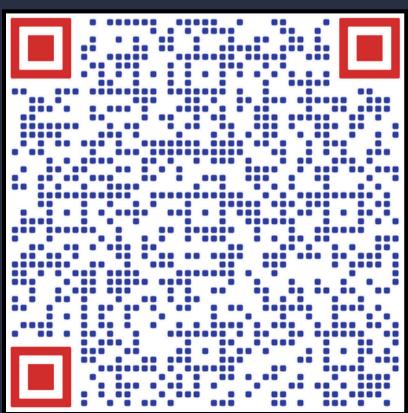
### Reimbursement Resources

#### 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

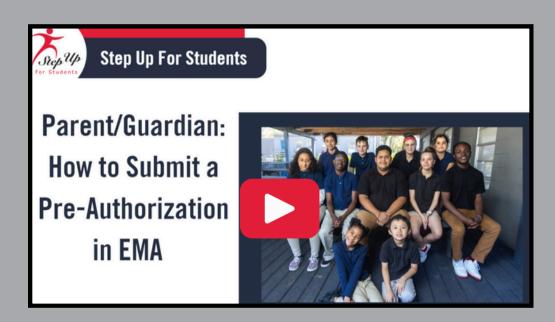
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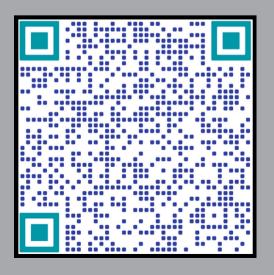
#### **Pre-Authorization**

A step by step guide to submitting a **Pre-Authorization in EMA** 

Please scan the QR code below or click the link to access the presentation. Also, you can click the link on the right to watch the YouTube video for this process.



**Pre-Authorization Presentation YouTube Video** 



**Pre-Authorization Presentation** 



## Overview of Florida 529 Savings Plan

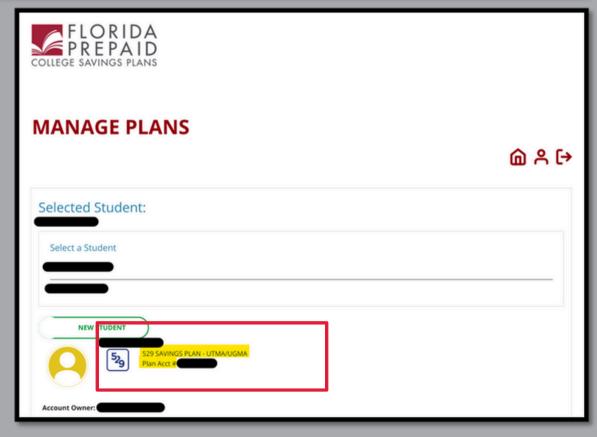
Step Up cannot provide a student's 529
Savings Plan number. If you are not able to
locate this number in the 529 account,
please contact your account holder.





Locate the 10-digit number associated with your student's 529 Savings Plan Account.







For guardians to contribute to the 529 College Savings Plans using scholarship funds, they will need to follow the steps below.

First, sign into your account in EMA and select Marketplace.





\$\\_ Reimbursements



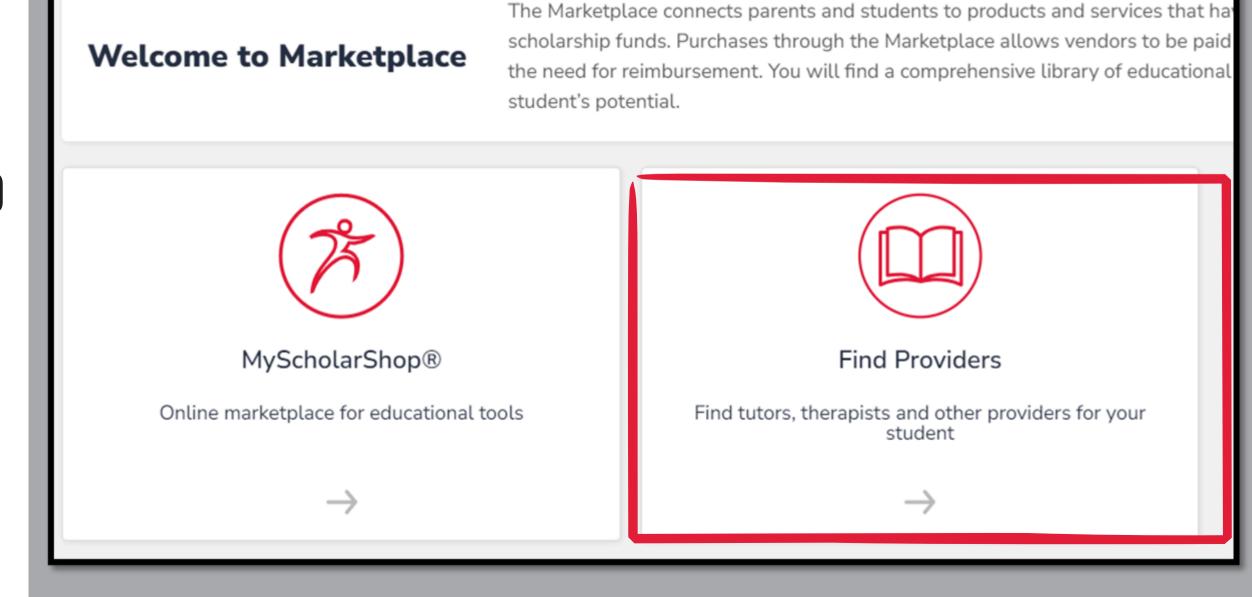
**Marketplace** 

Recent Transactions

Q Help

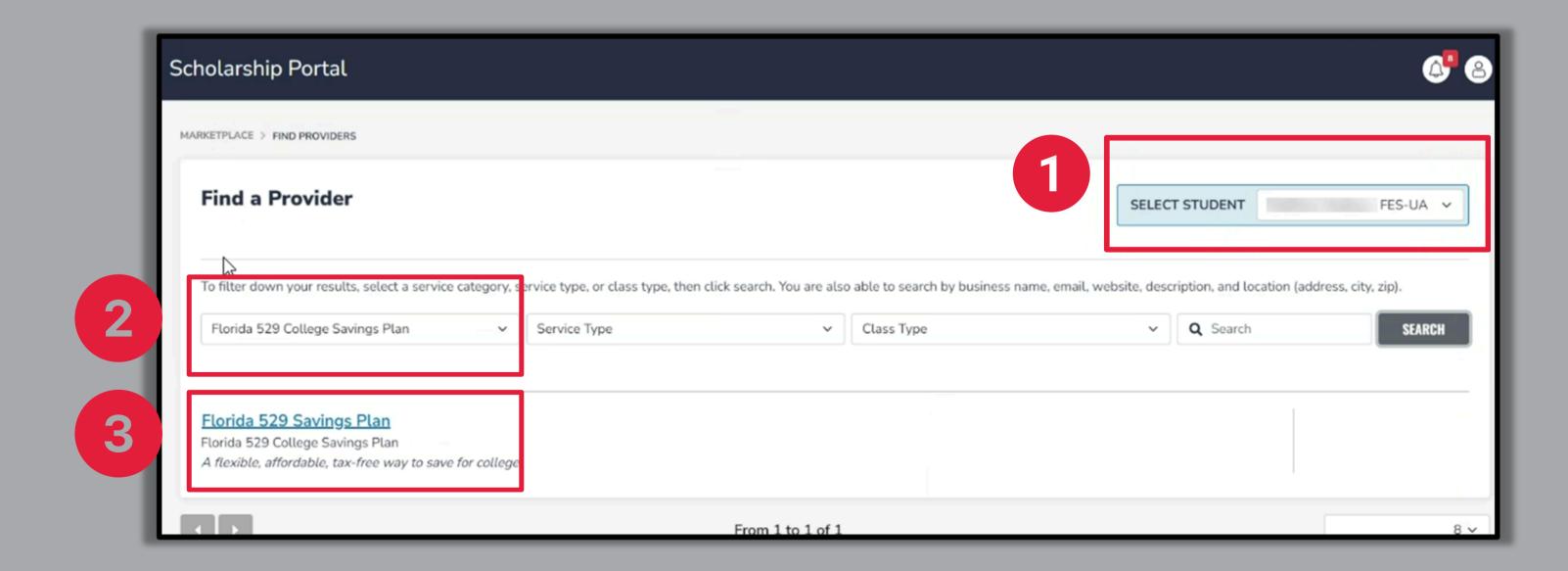


Once the guardian selects "Marketplace", they must choose "Find Providers" to bill for the 529 College Savings Plan.

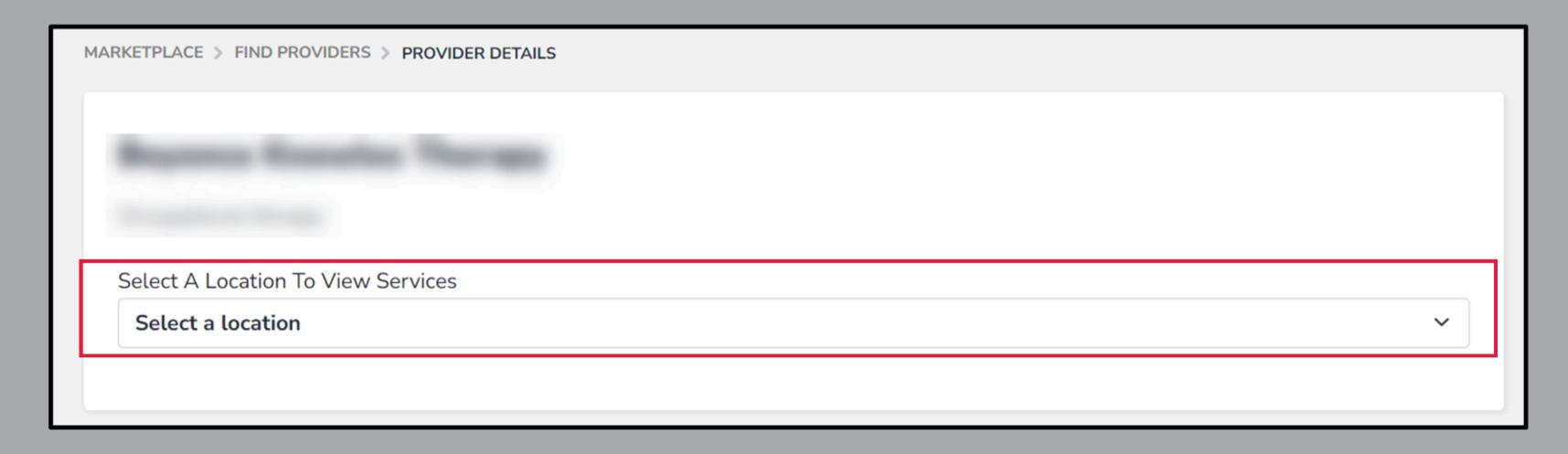




After selecting a student, guardians can filter by selecting Florida 529 College Savings Plan from the drop-down, then click on the Hyperlink below in the search results.



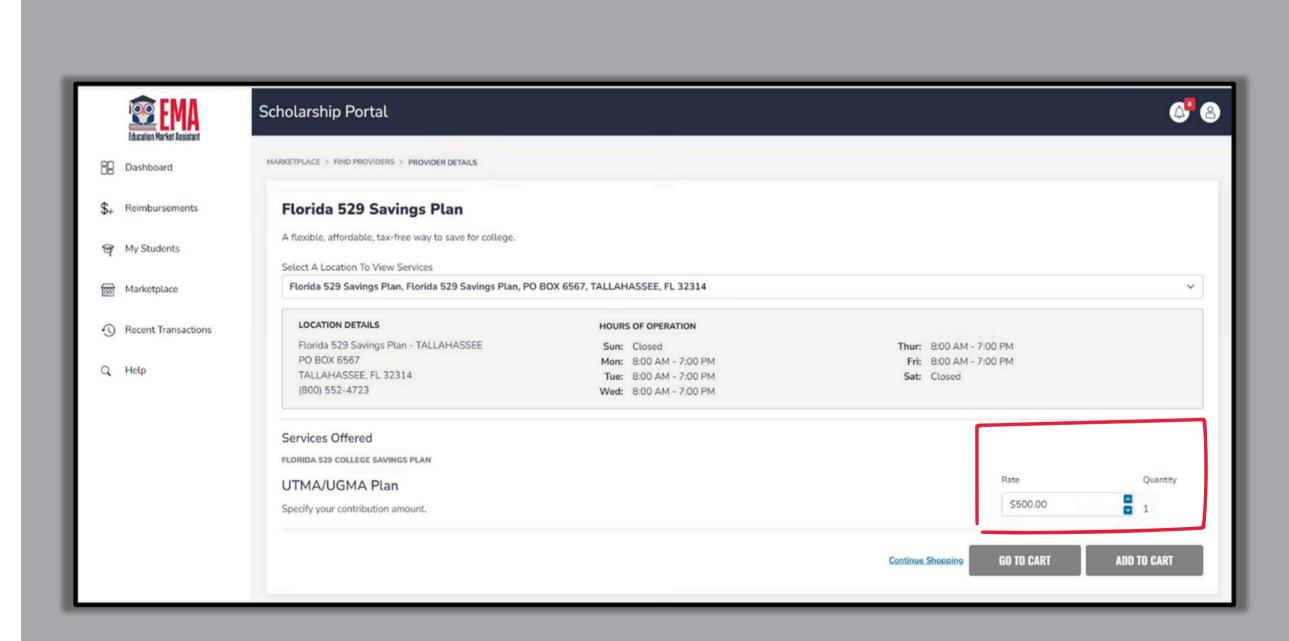




After selecting the provider, the guardian must then select the location associated with the "service provider".



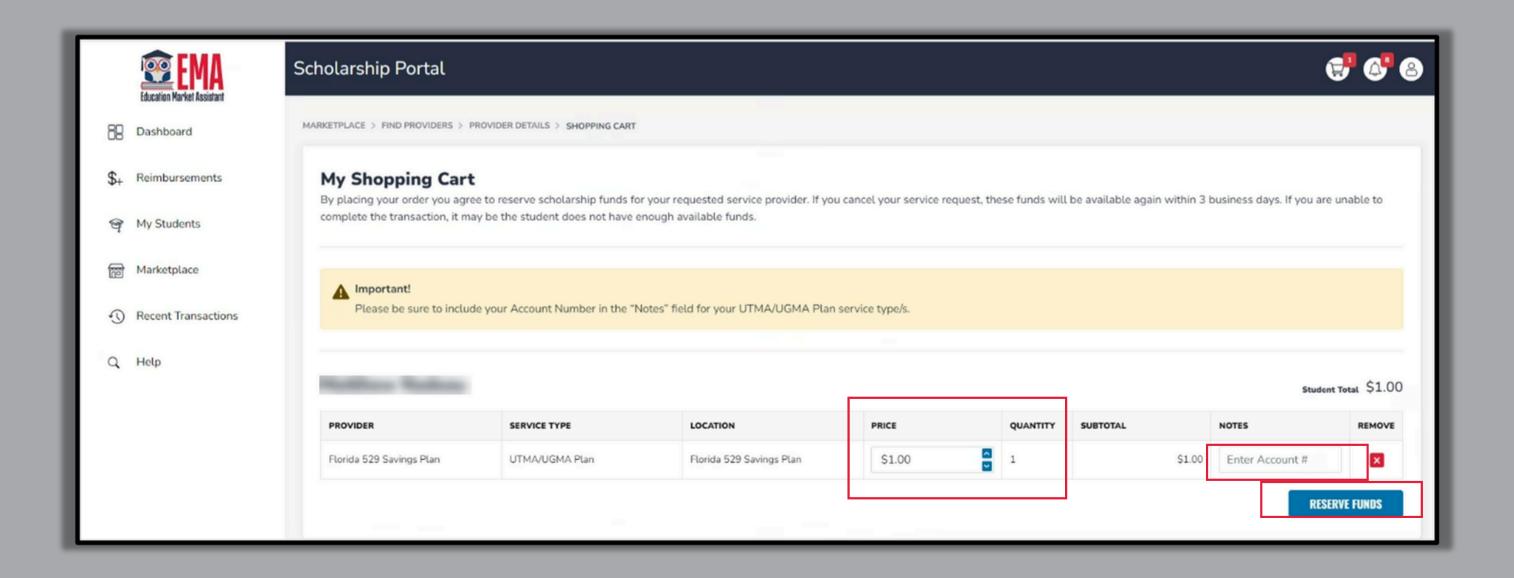
Guardians need to indicate the rate (amount) they wish to contribute to their 529 College Savings Plan to make contributions. The quantity cannot be changed.



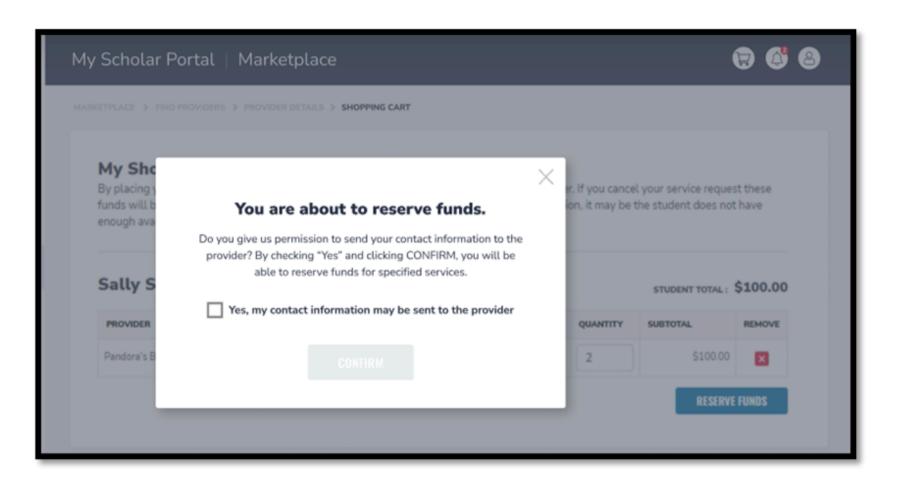


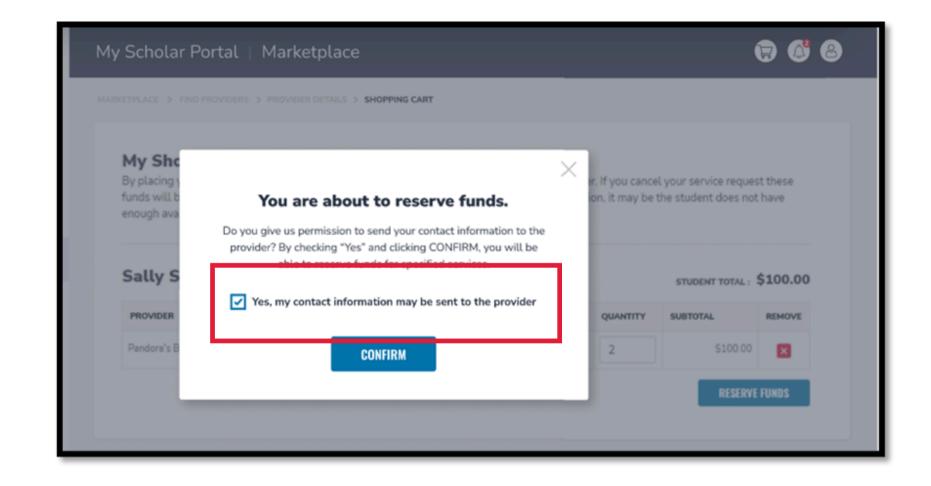
Double-check the amount you want to contribute to the 529 plan. Once correct, enter the 529 account number in the notes column. Once you have confirmed everything, click reserve funds.

Note: An incorrect account number may result in the purchase not getting processed!









After adding the 529 to your cart, select "Reserve Funds" to proceed to checkout. You will need to confirm permission to send your contact information to the provider by checking the box for "Yes" before the "Confirm" button appears.



### Florida Prepaid

Direct contribution requests must be submitted by the 14th day of each month and will be sent to Florida Prepaid for verification monthly before each payment is made. The student's name listed on the scholarship account must match the name of the beneficiary of the Florida Prepaid account. Any requests received after the 14th day of each month will not be sent to Florida Prepaid for verification until the next month.



#### Florida Prepaid

Prepaid College Program account must be paid out of pocket and reimbursed to the parent. There is no direct payment option for Florida Prepaid Accounts.

The student's name listed on the scholarship account must match the name of the beneficiary of the <u>Stanley G.</u>

<u>Tate Florida Prepaid College Savings</u>

<u>Program.</u>

**UA Purchasing Guide Pg. 24-25** 

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO APPROVED COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

This link will take you to a website describing Florida PrePaid College options: https://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/resources/prepaid-vs-savings/

#### s.1002.394(4)(b), F.S.

 Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to <u>s. 1009.98</u> or the Florida College Savings Program pursuant to <u>s.1009.981</u> for the benefit of the eligible student.

#### s.1009.98 F.S.

(1) STANLEY G. TATE FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PROGRAM; CREATION. There is created the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program to provide a medium through which the cost of registration and dormitory residence may be paid in advance of enrollment in a state postsecondary institution at a rate lower than the projected corresponding cost at the time of actual enrollment. Such payments shall be combined and invested in a manner that yields, at a minimum, sufficient interest to generate the difference between the prepaid amount and the cost of registration and dormitory residence at the time of actual enrollment. Students who enroll in a state postsecondary institution pursuant to this section shall be charged no fees in excess of the terms delineated in the advance payment contract.

Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to <u>s. 1009.98</u>, Florida Statutes, or the Florida College Savings Program pursuant to <u>s. 1009.981</u>, Florida Statutes, for the benefit of the eligible student, are covered by the FES-UA.

#### Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program

The following plans are eligible for contributions:

- 1-Year University Plan
- 4-Year University Plan
- 2-Year College Plan
- 4-Year College Plan
- 2+2 Florida Plan
- Dormitory Plan



The following restrictions on the FES-UA scholarship fund contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Fund apply:

- Contributions can only be made on behalf of the eligible FES-UA scholarship student.
- The account owner cannot change the beneficiary of an account that contains scholarship funds
- Any privately contributed funds in the account will be used to pay plan benefits before the scholarship funds.
- If a Prepaid College account is closed the money will go back to the open scholarship
  account along with any interest accumulated, or to the State of Florida if the scholarship
  account has been or is being closed.
- If a student's scholarship account closes for any reason, money in the student's Florida
   Prepaid account contributed through the scholarship will be returned to the State of Florida.

Contributions to a Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program account must be paid out of pocket and reimbursed to the parent. There is no direct payment option for Florida Prepaid Accounts.













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.





Question: What happens if I have FTC or FES-EO and want to apply for UA (2025-2026)?

Answer: Starting in the 2025-2026 academic year, declining and accepting scholarships will be managed through your EMA account. To apply for the FES-UA scholarship, you must first decline your current FTC or FES-EO scholarship, which involves your school returning any received payments. Consult your school about their procedures for tuition and fees. After declining, you can apply for FES-UA, and if awarded, provide the new Award ID to your school.

Question: How do I move my Legacy funds to use in EMA for reimbursements?

Answer:Your available funds are already accessible in EMA. Please use the Marketplace to find Providers or use MyScholarShop or submit reimbursements in your EMA account. Click here for the YouTube video regarding reimbursements and pre-authorizations.





Question: Do I have to tell my school what my student's award amount is?

Answer: These discussions occur between the parent and the school. While there is no obligation for a parent to disclose their award amount, a school is free to inquire about it.

Question: What are the requirements for someone to be a tutor in EMA or for reimbursement?

Answer: Pages 17-18 in the FES-UA Purchasing Guide detail the requirements for full-time and part-time tutors.



### **Guardian Handbook & Purchasing Guide** Resources



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

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES (FES-UA) **Purchasing Guide** 



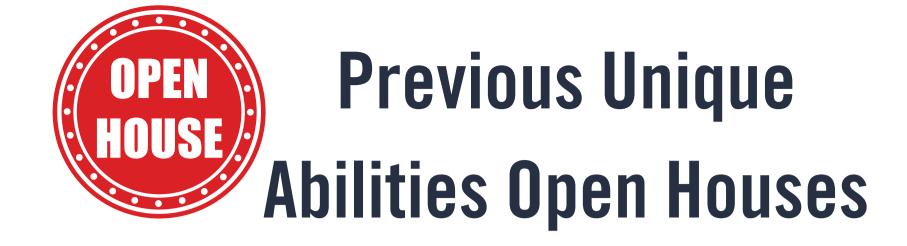


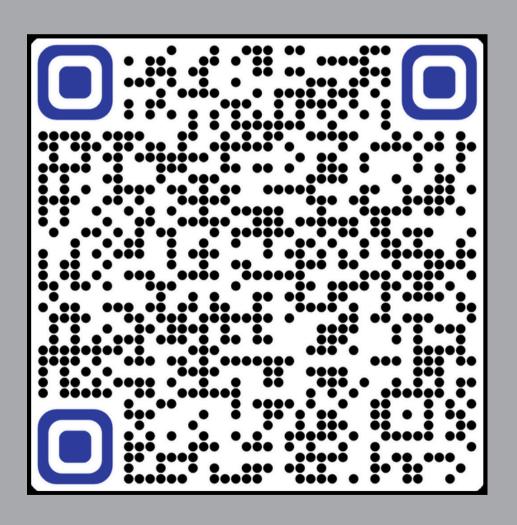
2025-2026

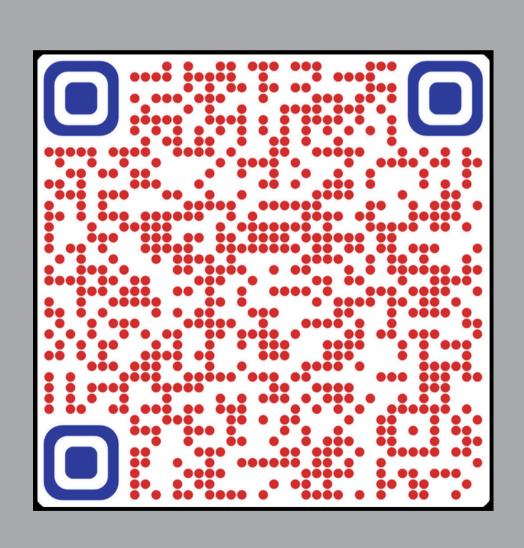
**Parent/Guardian Handbook** 

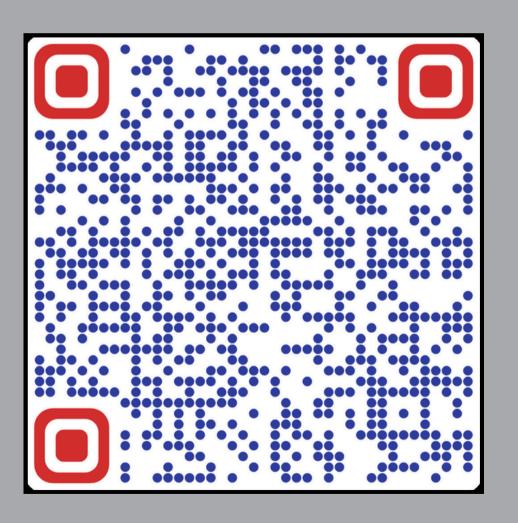
2025-2026 **Purchasing Guide** 











**December Open House** 

**January Open House** 

**February Open House** 



Looking Ahead: Here are the registration links for the upcoming FTC/EO, PEP, NWSA Open Houses



New World Open House
May 14, 2025



FTC/FES-EO Open House
April 10, 2025



FES-UA Open House
April 17, 2025



PEP Open House March 27, 2025

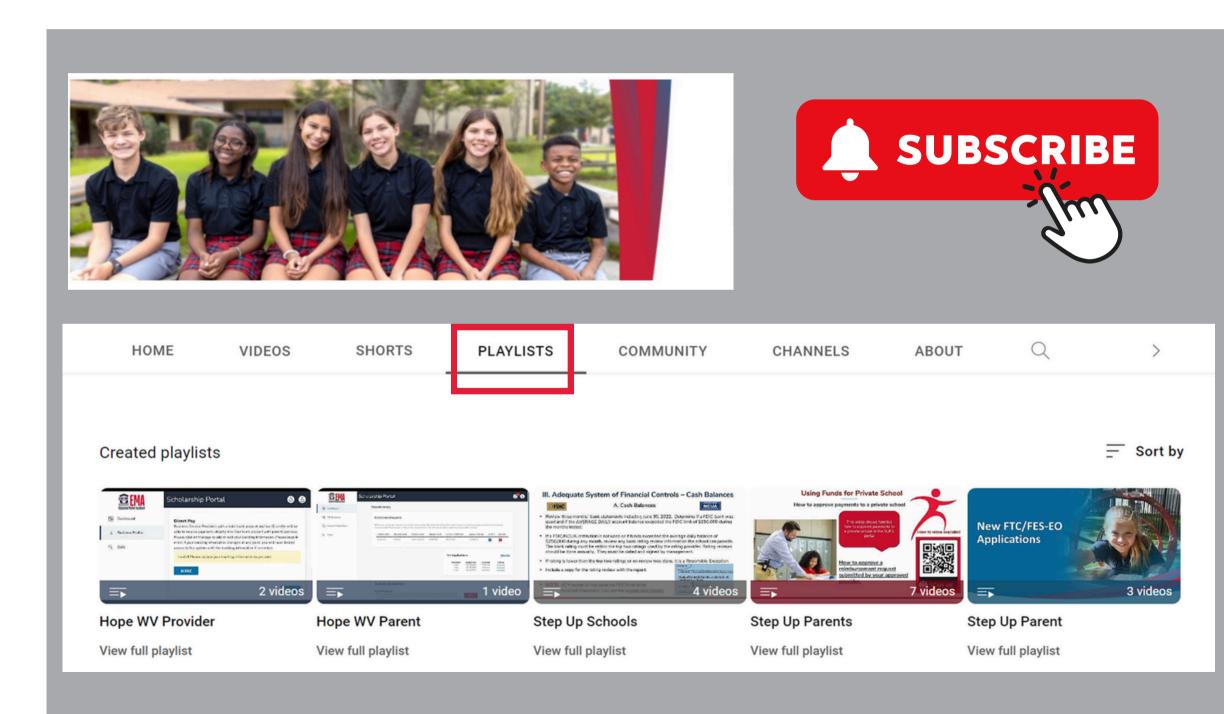




Looking for additional help? Scan the QR code or click the link to access our YouTube channel.



**STEP UP FOR STUDENTS YOUTUBE CHANNEL** 





### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Applications are officially open, but you have time and we will be here to support you every step of the way!

Deadlines to remember for 2025-26

### Renewal Applications are due February 1-April 30

Private Schools, Unique Abilities, PEP

**New Application due dates:** 

**Private Schools: February 1-November 15** 

**Unique Abilities: February 1-November 15** 

PEP: February 1-April 30





### Contact Us

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



Chat with us sufs.org



877-735-7837



## Thank you for attending! Upcoming webinar: April 17th, 2025

Registration Link