



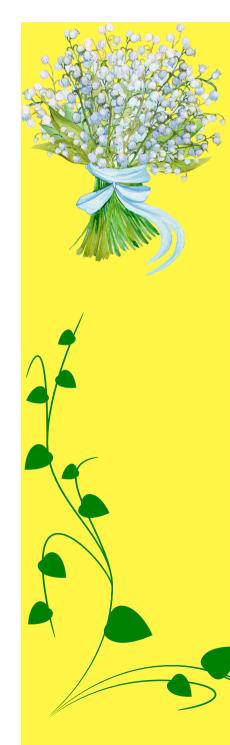
March 27th, 2025 **Presented by Step Up For Students**





Agenda







- **Communications**
- **Scholarship Program Update**
- **MyScholarShop: New Vendor Alert**
- Navigating MyScholarShop
- **Purchasing Guide Hot Topics**
- **Reimbursement Resources**
- **Guardian Handbook & Purchasing Guide Resources**
- **Questions & Answers**
- **Contact Information**



Communications

<u>Subject:</u> **t** PEP Handbook/Purchasing **Guide Updates & March Open House Registration!**

Date: 03/19/25

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We heard you and are excited to announce that we created a Parent/Guardian Handbook and Purchasing Guide specifically for the Personalized Education Program (PEP)! We also invite you to the March PEP Open House. Scroll to the bottom of this email to sign up.

To access the material, click the links below:

Handbook

Purchasing Guide

Please be aware that handbooks may be updated periodically throughout the year. For the most current version, always refer to our website.



Important Update For PEP Families

PEP Parent/Guardian Handbook

One-pager highlighting changes to the Parent/Guardian Handbook

PEP Purchasing Guide

One-pager highlighting changes to the Purchasing Guide



Communications

<u>Subject:</u> Act now! Renew your student's Private School Scholarship!

Date: 03/24/25



Hello.

Friendly reminder - applications for the 2025-26 school year are now available.

If you would like to renew your student's Private School, Unique Abilities, or PEP Scholarship, now's the time!

Please submit one application per family per program. If you're applying for a scholarship program for multiple students, be sure to include all applicable students on that application before submitting it and moving on to your next scholarship program application. If you forget to add a student to an application, you will need to wait until your application shows an "On Hold" or "Complete" status before you can add the missing student.

Processing times vary but may take up to 30 days. Families will receive an email with status changes.

For resources, including our application checklist and videos, please <u>click</u> here and select the scholarship of your choice.



Renew Your Scholarship Today!

Please disregard if you have already submitted your application.

Click here to renew your scholarship

Helpful Information:





<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.

<u>PEP:</u> 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.

Scholarship Overview





The PEP 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.



Florida Choice Scholarshins PEP FAMILY HANDBOOK **PEP Guardian**

Handbook

We are excited to announce that the New PEP Guardian/ Parent Handbook and Purchasing Guide are now available! This comprehensive resource is designed to assist parents in navigating the essential information and tools needed for their child's success. Inside, you'll find valuable insights, guidelines, and tips to make informed decisions regarding your child's education and well-being. Be sure to check it out and empower yourself with the knowledge to support your family effectively!

PEP Scholarship Parent and Guardian Handbook (NEW)

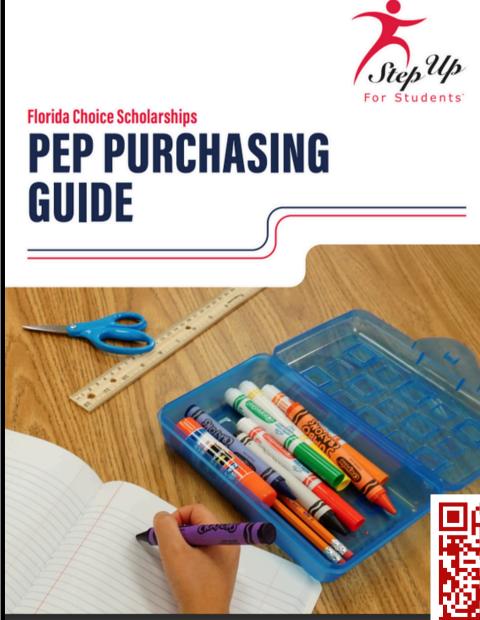
- FTC/FES-EO/PEP handbook.



There is now a specific handbook for the PEP Scholarship program, there is no longer a combined handbook for FTC/FES-EO/PEP. The details within the PEP Handbook align with the details that were previously outlined for the PEP Scholarship program in the

Added the "Authorized Use of Scholarship Funds" chart on the last page of the handbook.





2025-2026 **Purchasing Guide**



PEP Scholarship Purchasing Guide (NEW)

- due to safety.
- Grouped "Drafting Tables" with "Desks" in the At-Home Classroom Furnishings subcategory.
- institutions.
- from Appendix A: Summary of Prohibited or Ineligible Items.



Removed Private School scholarship-specific eligible items and services.

Added more information on "Product Safety" under the General Purchasing Provisions section to further describe when an item would not be considered eligible for a student

Added Eligible Postsecondary Institutions link that lists all eligible postsecondary

Removed "Family memberships to gyms, YMCAs, libraries, museums or other facilities"



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.

Upload a co

Utility bill (electric, gas

Mortgage statement

Proof of current gover Veterans Affairs, Disa SNAP, DCF correspon

Homestead or Proper

Permanent Change of

Verification of homele

Migrant Address Verif

*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 gualified for the FES-UA scholarship under one of the following categories, you must submit documentation to demonstrate the student gualifies under an eligible diagnosis for the 2025-26 school year:

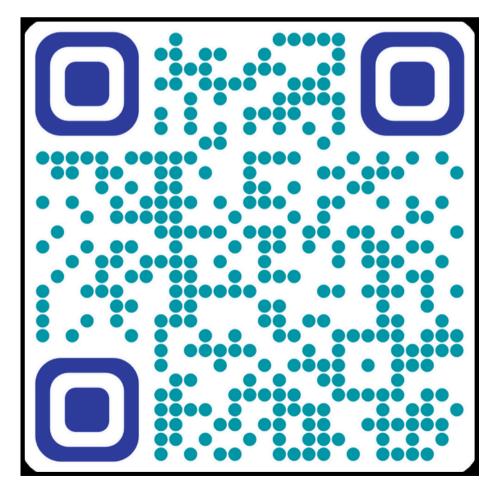


Column A opy of one of these documents	Column B Upload a copy of two of these documents	
is, water)	Florida Driver's License or state-issued ID card	
or residential lease agreement	Paystub	
ernment benefits (Social Security, ability, Medicare, Section 8/HUD, TANF, ondence)	Insurance policy statement (auto, health, home, or renters)	
erty tax statement/assessment	Mortgage acceptance letter	
of Station (PCS) military orders*	Property Deed	
essness	Please note: Both documents from Column B need to be from the same guardian and must be from different categories.	
ification Letter		

 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



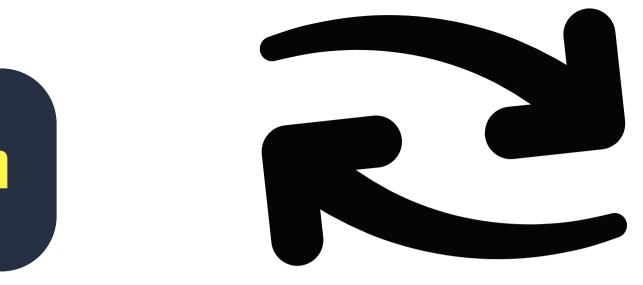


Switching to Another Scholarship

If you're considering switching from a PEP to a Private School Scholarship, or vice-versa, please do not decline your current scholarship. Instead, reach out to us at 1-877-735-7837 to initiate the switch!

However, if you're looking to change from the Private School Scholarship or PEP to a different scholarship, you must first decline your current scholarship. This will remove the student from the Private School Scholarship or PEP, making them eligible to apply for other scholarships.

Remember, the deadline for switching to PEP is April 30, 2025.





Student ID

Student ID: Provide this number when speaking with the Engagement Center.

	Education Market Assistant	Scholarship Portal		¢ ²⁵ &
	Dashboard	Apply For Scholarship	Open Student Learning Plan	\$ New Reimbursement
\$+	Reimbursements		,	
ð.	My Students	Student Profile EDIT	Current Funds Available New Worlds Scholarship Accounts \$0.00	
		Student ID 200		
Ð	Recent Transactions	Name	Applications New Worlds Scholarship Accounts (24-25) • Fu	unded VIEW APPLICATION
Q	Help	DOB 6/15	은 Award ID: 20001636 ()	
		Gender Male		
		Ethnicity Hispanic or Latino		
		Race Black or African American		
		Relationship To You		
		Student FLEID number		



What is ScholarSHOP ?

These are the benefits of MyScholarShop

- 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.

• Vendors are paid directly through your child's scholarship account with no out-of-





MyScholarShop Vendor Alert

Company Name	Description of Services	Website
rtr yoto	Yoto is a screen-free audio player for children that offers stories, music, and educational content. It promotes learning and independent play with hundreds of hours of activities focused on phonics, languages, and math.	<u>https://us.yotoplay.com/</u>
HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY	Journey Homeschool Academy provides an engaging video-based science curriculum that blends a Christian worldview with vibrant visuals. It features hands-on activities, passionate virtual mentors, and curated reading lists to enhance understanding and foster exploration of complex topics.	<u>https://journeyhomescho</u> <u>olacademy.com/</u>
DOEO SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, GADGETS, & EXPLOSIONS	Noeo combines science and fun with a curriculum that includes over 70 experiments using household items. It simplifies lesson planning by integrating experiments, readings, and reviews into easy instructions. The engaging living books inspire curiosity, and flexible scheduling accommodates different learning paces, allowing siblings to learn together.	https://noeoscience.com/ ?srsltid=AfmBOooB- OgSCs9YFI- mVfaYWtyf7208bCRim6yt z1NfZ5HbUylUAliX



Stepup Personalized Education Program

MyScholarShop Resources





Navigating MyScholarShop in EMA



Parents: Finding Services and Providers in the Marketplace





Handbook Hot Topic



PEP Handbook Pg. 12



Annual Assessment Requirement



Covered Annual Education **Evaluation** Fees

Approved standardized testing or assessments include:

- 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

FTC/FES-EO Handbook pg. 12



EDUCATION W	hat are you looking for today? Q DIVISIONS ~ EXPLORE ~ FEATURED TOPICS ~	<u>Annual</u>	
	K-12 Scholarship Programs Florida Tax Credit Scholarships Annual Assessment Requirement	<u>Assessment</u>	Progr
		Requirements Per	nation
Contact Us	ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT		Howe
School Choice Resources for Parents	Florida Statutes require a private school participating in either prong of the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, or an individual student participating in the Personalized Education Program (PEP), to	the DOE Site	this replease
Secured Login	demonstrate academic accountability by annually administering or making provisions for students participating in a scholarship		My st
Directories	program to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education.		diagn
Facts & Figures	Alternatively, private schools <u>may apply</u> to administer Florida's statewide, standardized assessments pursuant to section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, in order to fulfill this requirement. If the parents of students participating in PEP would like their child to		deter
Statute & Rule	participate in a statewide, standardized assessment to fulfill this requirement, they may arrange with their school district to have their student test at a district location. (Note: private school/PEP students are only able to participate in end-of year assessments		
Florida Tax Credit FAQs	in grades 3-10 and end-of-course (EOC) assessments; they are not able to participate in PM1 and PM2 of the FAST progress monitoring assessments or in any kindergarten through grade 2 assessments).		
Personalized Education	Students with disabilities for whom standardized testing is not appropriate are exempt from this requirement.		
Program (PEP) FAQs	Norm-Referenced Assessment		
	Below is the list of approved norm-referenced assessments and, if possible, a link to the test publisher's website. To determine		
	test mode, available accommodations, and how to administer one of the tests below, please contact the respective testing company directly.		
	1. ACT		•
	2. <u>Classic Learning Test</u> (CLT3-8, CLT10, CLT)		
	3. Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP) - School-based testing only		
	4. Curriculum Associates – i-Ready Assessments		
	5. Educational Development Series (EDSERIES), Forms J and K 6. Edmentum Exact Path		
	7. Iowa Assessments-Core Battery, Forms E, F, and G		
	8. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)-Core Battery, Forms A, B, and C		l certi
	9. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)-Complete Battery, Form C		from
	10. Iowa Tests of Educational Development® (ITED®), Form C		misre
	11. IXL Real-Time Diagnostic		eligib
	12. Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement Third Edition, Comprehensive Form (KTEA-III)		
	13. NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)		Paren
	14. Pivot INSPECT Summative Assessment		
	15. PreACT Secure		Paren
	16. <u>PSAT 8/9</u>		i alci
	17 PSAT 10		
			Ctondordi
			Standardi

Standardized Testing Exemption Form & Annual Assessment Requirements



Standardized Testing Exemption Form

ram statutes for the Florida Tax Credit and Family Empowerment Scholarship rams require that scholarship students in grades 3-10 and all PEP students take a nally norm-referenced test identified by the Department of Education, or a wide assessment under s. 1008.22, F.S.

vever, students with disabilities for whom testing is not appropriate are exempt from requirement. If testing is not appropriate for your student because of a disability, se complete the fields below and submit this to Step Up For Students.

student, Student Name: ____ Student ID#: , has a nosed disability and is a student for whom standardize testing is not appropriate as mined by either (complete one):

A current Individualized Education Plan (IEP), less than three years old from the

date of issue				
0	Issuing State:			
0	Issuing County:			
0	Date of Issue:			
	— OR —			

A diagnosed disability from a licensed physician or psychologist

State of diagnosing physician: _____

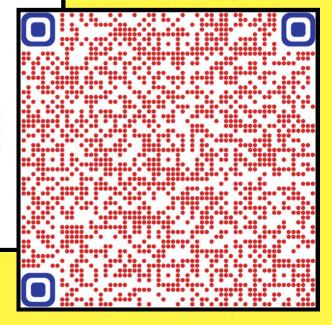
 Diagnosing physician: _ Date of diagnosis:

ify that the above information is true and accurate and that my student is exempt standardized testing requirements under state law. I understand that any epresentation of this exemption may result in the loss of my student's scholarship pility, loss of scholarship funds, and possible legal or financial penalties.

nt or Guardian Name:

nt or Guardian Signature:

zed Testing Exemption Form

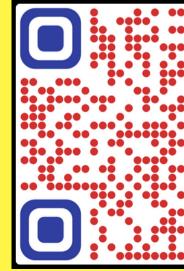




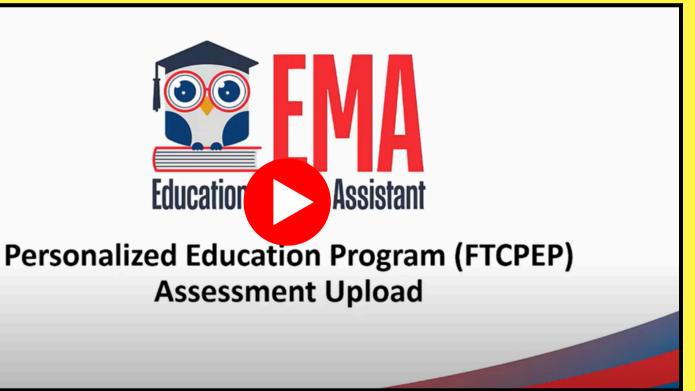


Personalized Education Program (FTCPEP) <u>Student Learning Plan (SLP)</u>





Student Learning Plan & Assessment Upload Resources





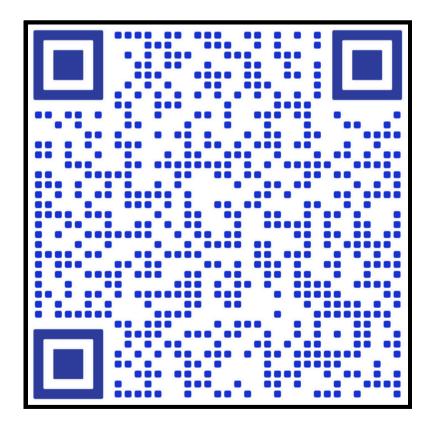
Personalized Education Program (FTCPEP) Assessment Upload



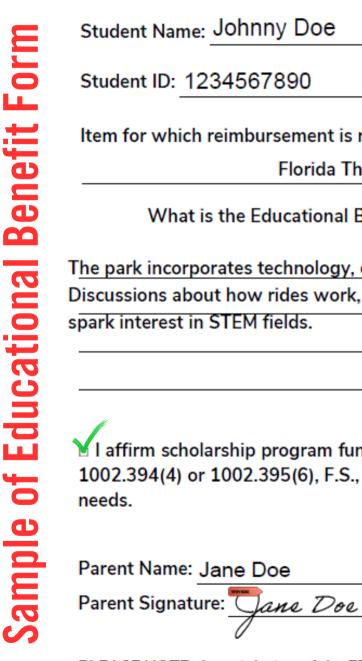
Step Up Personalized Education Program

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 or field trip.



Educational Benefit Form



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.



Educational Benefit Form

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

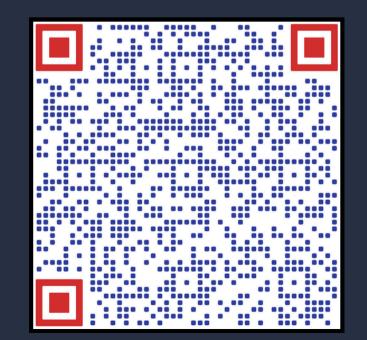
Y I affirm scholarship program funds are used only for authorized purposes as described in ss. 1002.394(4) or 1002.395(6), F.S., as applicable, and serve the listed student's educational



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



uardians Reimbursemen

Pre-Authorization

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

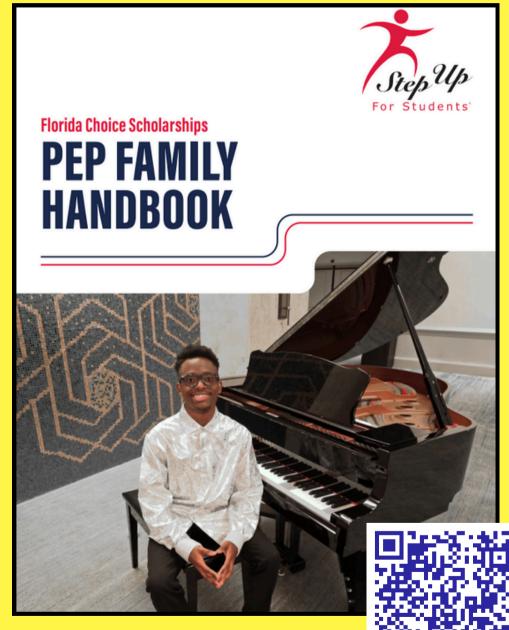
Please scan the QR code below or click the link to access the presentation. Also, you can click the link on the right to watch the YouTube video for this process.

Reimbursement Resources









Please scan the QR code or you can click the link to access the Guardian Handbook or the **Purchasing Guide**



Guardian Handbook & Purchasing Guide Resources





PEP PURCHASING GUIDE

2025-2026 **Purchasing Guide**







Q: Will assessment scores affect my student's eligibility for receiving a scholarship?

A: The results of the test will not impact your eligibility for scholarships or your ability to access your student's scholarship funds or any provider's services.

Q: Are swim lessons covered?

A: Yes, swim lessons are covered. Please refer to Physical Education (PE) section of the PEP Purchasing Guide.

Q: If you apply for PEP, and then decide not to use it because you will attend a private school, can you re-apply for another scholarship?

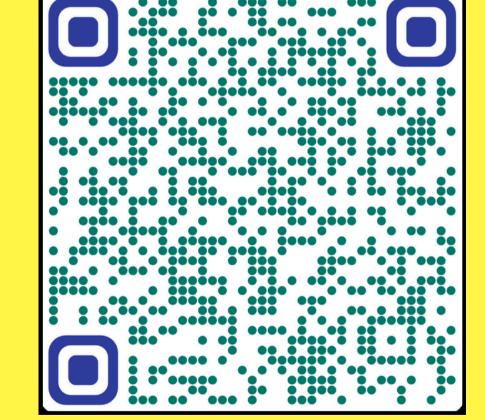
A: If you want to switch from a PEP to a Private School Scholarship, or vice-versa, do not decline your scholarship and call us at 1-877-735-7837 to request this switch!







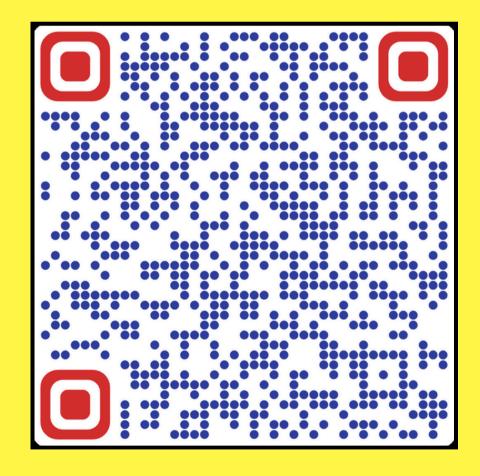




December Open House

January Open House

Past PEP Open Houses



February Open House





New World Open House May 14, 2025



Private School Open

<u>House</u> **April 10, 2025**





Looking Ahead: Here are the registration links for the upcoming Open Houses

Unique Abilities Open

House **April 17, 2025**



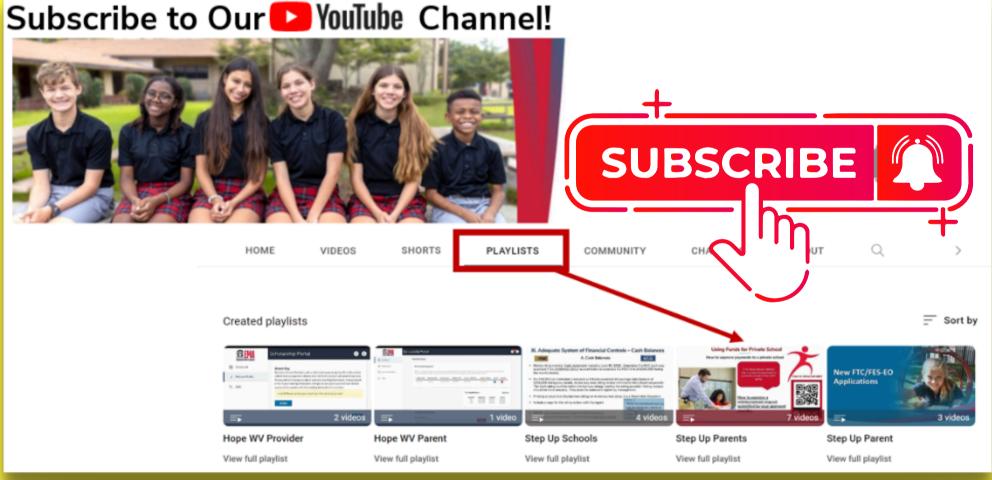
PEP Open House April 24, 2025

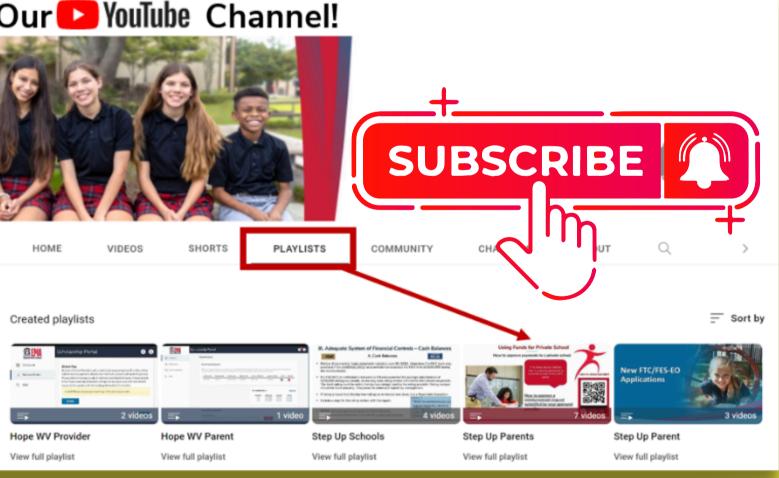


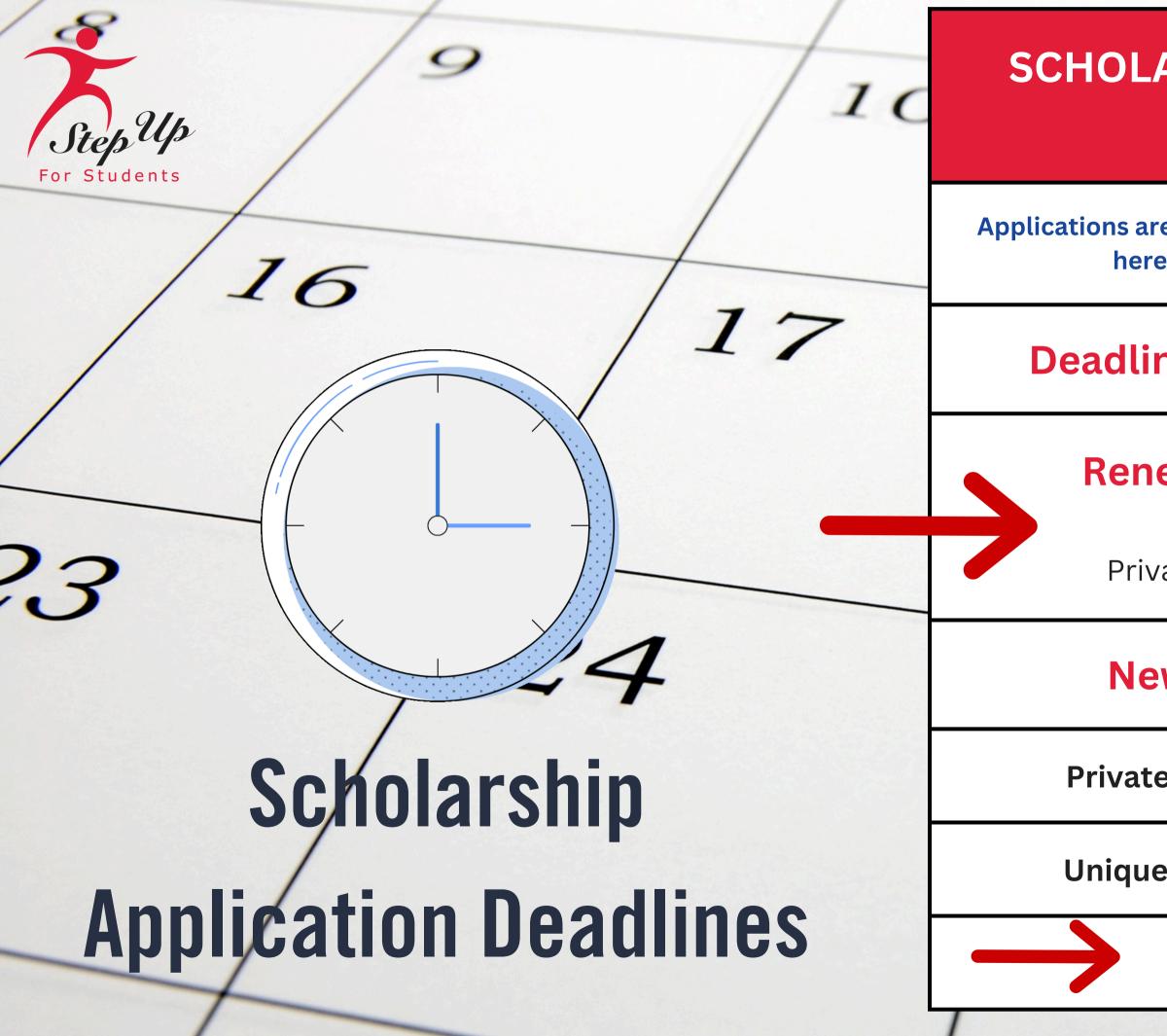
Are you looking for additional helpful videos? Scan the QR code or click the link below...



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: <u>sufs.org</u>

877-735-7837



Thank you for attending! Upcoming webinar: April 24th, 2025 Registration Link