

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA) Open House

June 20th, 2024



Scholarship Updates & Reminders

Funding Updates

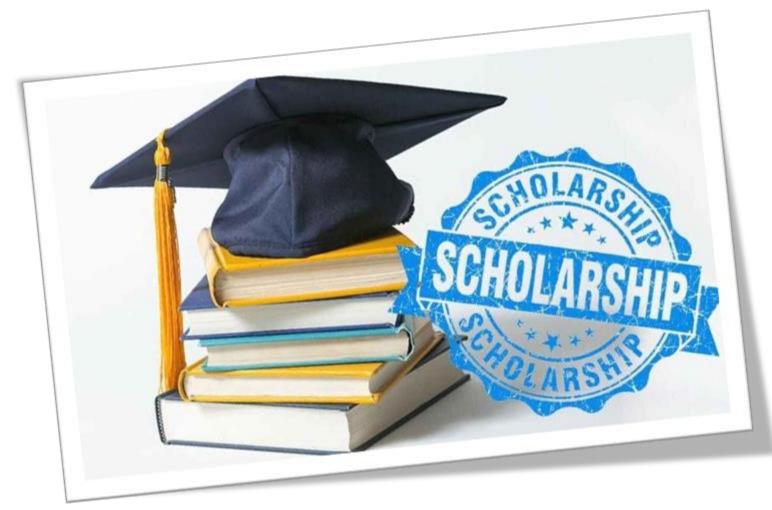
MyScholarShop: New Vendor Alert

Parent/Guardian Handbooks

Summer Resources

Please note: We do not have the Q&A option available; but you can submit questions in the post-webinar survey.





Scholarship Updates

Communication

DID YOU KNOW?



The FES-UA scholarship can be used in coordination with the VPK voucher. Children ages 3-5 who have been awarded FES-UA scholarship can use the funds for private school pre-K tuition, provider services, and more! To learn more, visit sufs.org

Posted on SUFS on 6/17/2024

Communication



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The deadline to submit 2023-24 reimbursement requests for the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) program is July 31, 2024.

This means you must submit requests for reimbursements of items or services purchased between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 with all necessary documents by July 31, 2024. As long as your student's account is "active," unused funds from a prior year will roll forward into the following school year's balance. Please see the note below for "inactive" accounts to learn more on how to keep your student's account active.

Resources:

Please use the following resources when managing your student's scholarship for the 2023-24 school year:

- **Reimbursement Requests:** For some helpful information about how to submit a reimbursement request, please <u>click here</u>.
- **Parent/Guardian Handbook:** To view the 2023-24 Parent/Guardian Handbook for the FES-UA program, please <u>click here</u>.

Subject:

Reimbursement Requests for 2023-24: Important Upcoming Dates

Sent: 05/17/24

FES-UA Student Application Checklist





Documents required for <u>all renewal</u> applications (FTC, FES-EO, FTCPEP and FES-UA)

A student Is considered a renewal if funded for the 2023-24 school year.

Proof of Florida residency (for primary parent/guardian only)

All documents must be current (within 2 months from the submission date, if a recurring bill/statement), valid, and match the primary parent's/guardian's full name and the current physical street address provided on the application.

Proof of Residence can be established with one document from Column A or two different documents from Column B.

Column A (upload <u>one</u> document)	Column B (upload <u>two different</u> docum
Utility bill (electric, gas, water)	Florida driver's license or state-issued ID*
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	Automobile insurance statement*
Homestead or Property tax statement/assessment	H
Permanent change of station (PCS) military orders	H
Homeless Verification or Certificate	
Migrant Address Verification Letter	Step Up New St
Property deed	For Students
*A secondary document is necessary. New for the 2024-25 school year: Proof of residency is no lo	Documents required for <u>all new</u>

The application checklist and renewals can be found using the link below.

Application Checklist

New Student Application Checklist

locuments required for <u>all new applications</u> (FTC, FES-EO, PEP and FES-UA)

Proof of Florida residency (for primary parent/guardian only)

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Utility bill (electric, gas, water)	Florida driver's license or state-issued ID*			
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	Automobile insurance statement*			
Homestead or Property tax statement/assessment	Health insurance statement*			
Permanent change of station (PCS) military orders	Homeowners or renters insurance policy*			
Homeless Verification or Certificate	Mortgage acceptance letter*			
Migrant Address Verification Letter	*A secondary document is necessary.			
Property deed				
New for the 2024-25 school year: Proof of residency is no longer required for secondary guardians.				

The New Application Season is Now Open School Year 24 - 25

Declining Scholarships Form



Decline From (English)

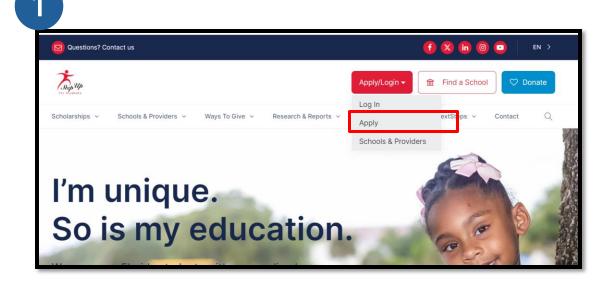


Decline From (Spanish)



Step Up for Students Website

FES-UA Application Resources



- 1. Visit stepupforstudents.org
- 2. Click on the red **"Apply/Login"** tab at the top of the page
- 3. Select "Apply" in the dropdown

4. Scroll down until you see the blue box titled, "Resources"5. Under the FES-UA section you will see

all the resources mentioned for Season

Open

FTC/FES-EO/PEP FES-UA Ne

Hope Transportation

Private School and PEP Scholarships Login

Families are now invited to renew or apply for a 2024-25 scholarship for the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) and the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship, including the Personalized Education Program (PEP).

Helpful Tips:

2

- If you already have an existing EMA account, please click the "Log in to EMA" button below and use that same account for the 2024-25 school year. Families will have one account where they will manage their students' scholarships, even if the children benefit from different scholarship programs.
- If you <u>do not</u> have an existing EMA account, please click the "Log in to EMA" button below and then click "Sign Up" to create your account.
- Before beginning your 2024-25 application, please view the "My Students" tab to ensure all of your students are linked to your EMA account. If a student is not listed, please click the "Add a Student" button to add them BEFORE beginning an application.
- Apply by scrolling down on your EMA dashboard and clicking the "Apply" button next to the

Resources

Scholarship Application Checklist Agreed-Upon Purchasing Guidelilnes Document Library

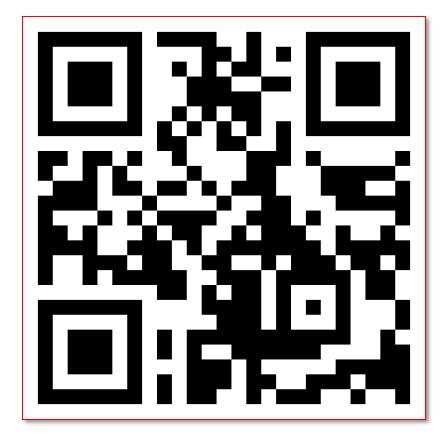
FTC/FES-EO/PEP

FTC/FES-EO Purchasing Guide Renewal Families: Application Process Video Renewal Families: Application Presentation New Families: Application Process Video New Families: Application Presentation Adding a Student in EMA: New and Renewal

FES-UA

FES-UA Purchasing Guide Renewal Families: Application Process Video Renewal Families: Application Presentation

FES-UA Application Resources



Renewal Application Process FES-UA SY 24-25



New Application Process FES-UA SY 24-25



Largest Education Choice Scholarship Expansion in U.S. History

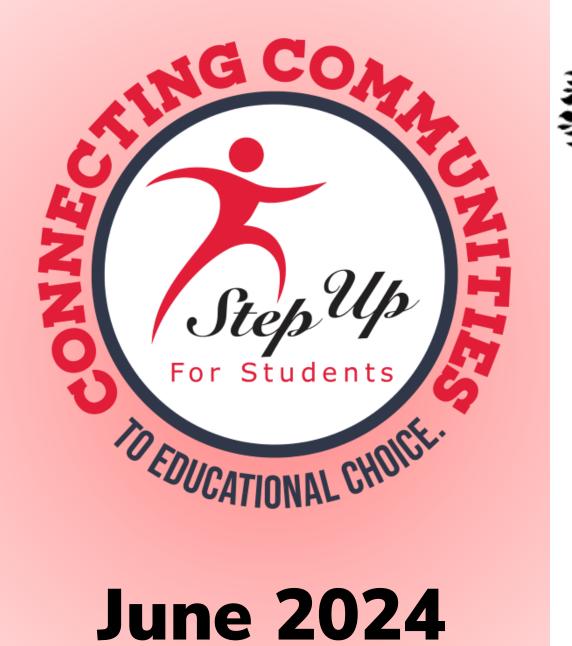
SCHOLARSHIP	2022- 23 FUNDED (PRE-HB 1)	2023-24 FUNDED	2024-25 AWARDED TO DATE
Florida Tax Credit Scholarships	97,008	129,530	123,298
Family Empowerment Scholarships – Educational Options	83,541	146,477	152,852
Family Empowerment Scholarship - Unique Abilities	68,564	91,057	93,405
Hope Scholarship	788	865	Merged with FTC/FES- EO Program
Personalized Education Program	N/A	19,514	41,208

NEW MyScholarShop VENDORS

MyScholarShop New Vendors

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Company Name	Description of Services	Website H++
Mightier MIGHTIER	Mightier blends digital gaming with off-screen activities to teach coping skills through play. It has 25+ games that teach your child how to regulate their emotions and use calming skills, while wearing a heart rate sensor.	https://www.mightier.com/
STEM Sims	Provides virtual laboratories and engineering design simulations for grades K-12. However, it's not just simulations. You'll receive lessons, methods, video walkthroughs and more. All designed to support a robust, minds-on STEM curriculum.	<u>https://stemsims.com/</u>
Classic Learning Test	Classic Learning Test (CLT) offers online and paper assessments for grades 3-12 that evaluate reading, grammar, and mathematics and provide a comprehensive measure of achievement and aptitude. CLT exams emphasize foundational critical thinking skills and are accessible to students from a variety of educational backgrounds.	<u>https://www.cltexam.com/</u>
Alpha Earl Apps	Alpha Earl Apps LLC has created a fun, educational playing card game - Make Your Words Count! MYWC cards help keep youth, adults and seniors engaged, enhance their vocabulary, learning skills, creates a social activity and more.	https://alphaearlapps.com/
Fantastic Games	Board games , card games and puzzles. We have everything you can play on a table with your family and friends.	https://www.fantasticgames.com/

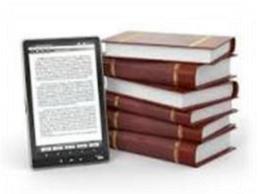


PRUSICAU SUC **Digital Materials,** Wi-Fi 8 **Internet Services**

Digital Materials

Approved Digital Materials/Items:

- CDs
- DVDs
- Digital documents
- E-books
- Audiobooks
- Subscription or membership access to eBooks or Audiobooks for the student



FES-UA Purchasing Guide Page 5

Educational Software & Subscriptions

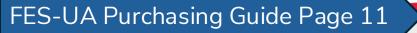
<u>Approved Educational Software &</u> <u>Subscriptions</u>

- Software Subscriptions
- Word Processing
- Microsoft Office
- Adobe, Video
- Music Editing Software
- LexisNexis
- QuickBooks
- Magazine subscription
- Newspaper subscription



Ineligible Educational Software & Subscriptions

- Video/TV/Online Streaming Services
- Musical Streaming Services
- In-Game Purchases or Credits
- Live Television
- Social Media (except LinkedIn Learning for Students)



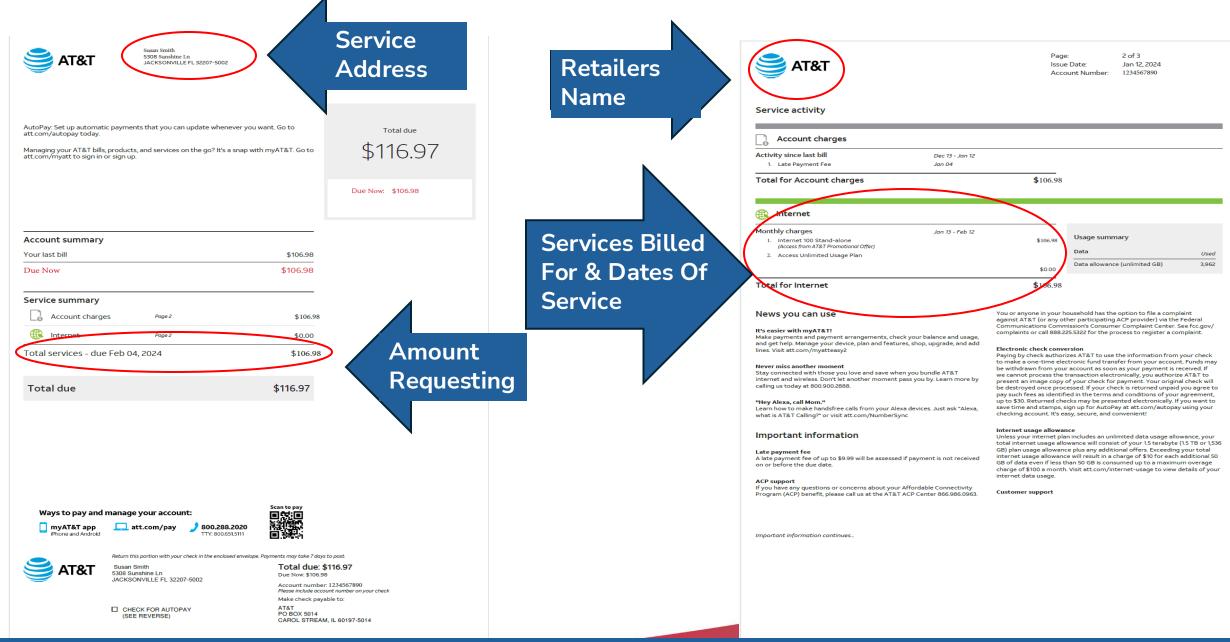
Wi-Fi & Internet Services

<u>Wi-Fi & Internet Services What's</u> <u>Covered?</u>

- In-home internet services at the Florida residential address associated with the student's scholarship application.
- Modem or router rental from the internet service provider and billed with a monthly internet service is also eligible.



FES-UA Purchasing Guide Page 6



Wi-Fi & Internet Services: Sample Receipt



529 College Savings Plans in EMA



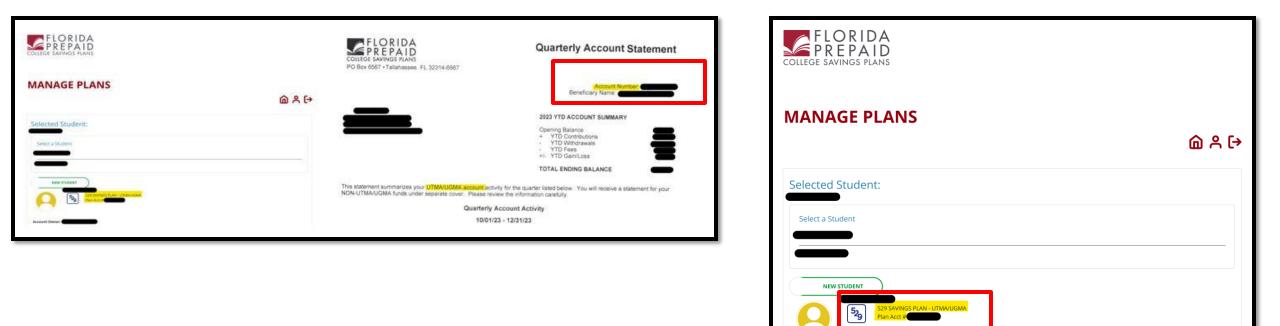
for students

Important Notice



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

Locating Your 10-digit 529 Savings Plan Account



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

529 College Savings Plans In EMA

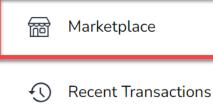




\$+ Reimbursements

😚 My Students

Q

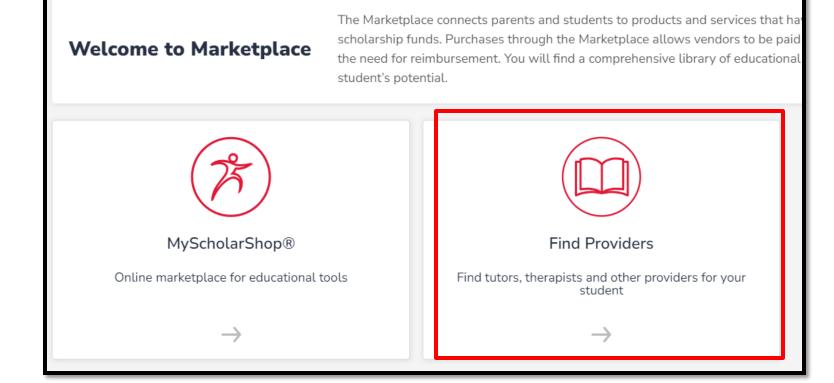


Help

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

First, sign into your EMA account and select Marketplace.

529 College Savings Plans In EMA



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

529 College Savings: Finding Providers

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

cholarship Portal	6" 8
MARKETPLACE > FIND PROVIDERS	1
Find a Provider	SELECT STUDENT FES-UA V
To filter down your results, select a service category, service type, or class type, then click search. You are also able to search to filter down your results, select a service category, service type, or class type, then click search. You are also able to search to filter down your results, select a service category, service type, or class type, then click search. You are also able to search to filter down your results, select a service category, service type, or class type, then click search. You are also able to search to filter down your results, select a service category, service type, or class type, then click search. You are also able to search to filter down your results. Florida 529 College Savings Plan Service Type Class Type 	by business name, email, website, description, and location (address, city, zip).
Florida 529 Savings Plan Florida 529 College Savings Plan A flexible, affordable, tax-free way to save for college.	
From 1 to 1 of 1	8 ~



MARKETPLACE > FIND PROVIDERS > PROVIDER DETAILS	
Select A Location To View Services	
1 Select a location	~

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

Contributing to the 529 College Savings Plan

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

Election Market Resistant	Scholarship Portal			6" 8
B Dashboard	MARKETPLACE > FIND PROVIDERS > PROVIDER DETAILS			
\$+ Reimbursements	Florida 529 Savings Plan			
약 My Students	A flexible, affordable, tax-free way to save for college. Select A Location To View Services			
Marketplace	Florida 529 Savings Plan, Florida 529 Savings Plan, PO BOX 6567, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32314			~
 Recent Transactions Help 	LOCATION DETAILS Florida 529 Savings Plan - TALLAHASSEE PO BOX 6567 TALLAHASSEE, FL 32314 (800) 552-4723	HOURS OF OPERATION Sun: Closed Mon: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Tue: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Wed: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Thur: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Fri: 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Sat: Closed	
	Services Offered FLORIDA 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN UTMA/UGMA Plan Specify your contribution amount.		1 Rate \$500.00	Quantity 1
			Continue Shopping GO TO CART	ADD TO CART

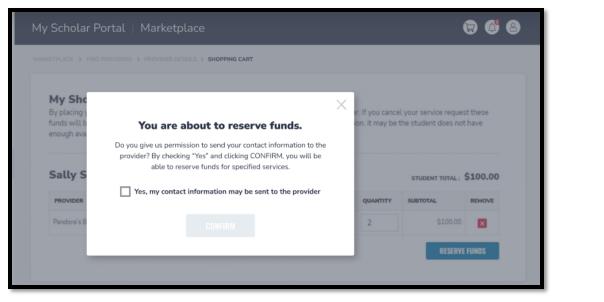
Contributing to the 529 College Savings Plan

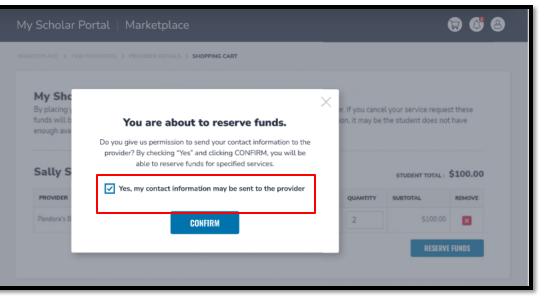
Double-check the amount you want to contribute to the 529 plan. Once correct, enter your 529 account number in the notes column. Once you have confirmed everything, click reserve funds.

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

EMA Education Market Resistant	Scholarship Portal						e 6
B Dashboard	MARKETPLACE > FIND PROVIDERS > P	PROVIDER DETAILS > SHOPPING CART					
Reimbursements			or your requested service provider. If you enough available funds.	u cancel your service requ	uest, these funds will be availabl	le again within 3 business days. If	you are unable to
司 Marketplace	Important!						
③ Recent Transactions		le your Account Number in the "N	Notes" field for your UTMA/UGMA Plan	service type/s.			
Q. Help	Name and						Student Total \$1.00
	PROVIDER	SERVICE TYPE	LOCATION	PRICE	QUANTITY SUBTOTAL	NOTES	REMOVE
	Florida 529 Savings Plan	UTMA/UGMA Plan	Florida 529 Savings Plan	\$1.00	1	\$1.00 Enter Accourt	it #

Reserving Funds





After adding the 529/Pre-Paid plan 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.

Important Notice

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 529 College Savings account. Any requests received after the 14th day of each month will not be sent to Florida Prepaid for verification until the next month.





Can we use the FES-UA funds for homeschooled kids in 2024-25? If yes, how?

<u>Answer</u>

Yes, you may use FES-UA funds to support a Home Education Program in the 2024-2025 school year. Please remember that if you are conducting a Home Education Program that you may be required to notify your local school district of your intent to homeschool.



If I have left over money and have put it in a 529 through SUFS, what happens the following year if I return to public school?

Leftover Funds in 529 Plan

<u>Answer</u>

Money correctly contributed to a 529 account through SUFS will stay there for use in college even if you return to public school the next school year.



Will renewal families from the 22-23 school year still use the Legacy system next year?

Legacy System & Reimbursements

<u>Answer</u>

Renewal families from the 2022-23 school year will still use the Legacy system for reimbursements and direct pay activity for the start of the 2024-25 school year. 2022-23 renewal families will be moved to EMA later in the 2024-25 school year.



I gave my child's award ID to an eligible private school for the 2024-25 school year, but I am considering homeschooling. What is the process to withdraw from the school?

Declining School Enrollment

<u>Answer</u>

Notify the school right away if you do not plan to attend. The school will withdraw your child from EMA. If the school needs assistance with this, they can contact SUFS for help.



What ways can FES-UA funds be used if not enrolled in a private school?

Ways to Use FES-UA Funds

<u>Answer</u>

To see all the ways, you may use FES-UA funds (whether in a private school or not), review the Purchasing Guide as it has a very expansive list of services and items you may purchase. This Guide can be found on our website.

Please note, the Purchasing Guide will be updated at the beginning of July. Be on the lookout for the new Guide.



What is the difference between funded and awarded?

Funded vs Awarded

<u>Answer</u>

Awarded means that your student has been found eligible for an FES-UA scholarship and will be presented to the Department of Education for funding. Funded means that the DOE has granted funding for your student and the funding has been applied to their Educational Savings Account.



Can I use FES-UA funds to pay for the VPK hours after VPK hours end?

FES-UA Funds & VPK Hours



<u>Answer</u>

FES-UA funds can be used to cover tuition and fees for part-time or full-time enrollment at an eligible preschool. This could be just the VPK hours or the "wrap" hours.



Can I purchase a homeschool curriculum with FES-UA funds?

Purchasing Homeschool Curriculum

<u>Answer</u>

Yes, please refer to the purchasing guide for further details on approved curricula.



FES-UA Purchasing Guide



What is the deadline to submit reimbursement requests for the 2023-24 school year?

Deadline to Submit Reimbursements

<u>Answer</u>

The deadline to submit reimbursement requests for purchases made between 7/1/23 - 6/30/24 is 7/31/24.





Avoiding the Summer Slide

Did you know kids can lose some academic skills and knowledge over the summer if they don't use them?

summer learning opportunities

Summer Regression, or the Summer Slide, is the loss of academic skills over the summer.

Studies show that reading six books over the summer can help prevent the Summer Slide.

Find ways to keep your child's mind active during the summer months.

Summer Slide Prevention Tips

Ways to prevent Summer Slide

- Read every day, or be read to, and choose books that interest you.
- Practice math skills by playing games, doing crafts, or using math functions in daily activities.
- Find something interesting to investigate, such as a new recipe, a science experiment, or a learning adventure.
- Visit the library and participate in its fun activities, such as read-aloud or book reading challenges.



Summer Slide Prevention Resources

No time to travel? No problem – bring the world to your fingertips. Virtually visit the Smithsonian Zoo and spy on black-footed ferrets, elephants, lions, and naked molerats. Listen to a podcast explaining the connection between cell phones and rocks! See Dorothy's shoes. Count Carl Lewis' gold medals. The activities are endless and free!

Resources to Investigate

Libraries and Archives in the United States – Explore libraries of all kinds all over the US. National Park Service – Learn and explore America's story through The National Parks. Smithsonian Institute – Explore the world's largest museum investigating digital resources, learning online, and touring virtually.



Summer Slide Prevention Resources

Resources - Reading and Math (free)

<u>Khan Academy Kids</u> - Inspire a lifetime of learning and discovery with our free, fun educational program for children ages two to eight. <u>Khan Academy Kids Summer Camp</u> - Fun summer learning program for kids ages 2-8. <u>Khan Academy Kids Printables</u> - Fun educational off-screen family activities.

Resources – Reading (free)

<u>Khan Academy Kids Circle Time</u> - YouTube videos with interactive stories and lessons. <u>Khan Academy Recommended Reading List</u> – Lists of books kids will not want to put down.

<u>ALSC Summer Reading List 2024</u> - Four Summer Reading lists for birth-preschool and grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Contains book titles and other digital media options to keep children engaged in reading and exploring throughout the summer. Each list is available here to download for free.

<u>Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge</u> – A program with activities that allows kids to track their reading hours.

<u>18 Best Places to Download Free Audiobooks</u> – Get thousands of audiobooks – totally free, full-length downloads.





Summer Slide Prevention Resources

<u>Resources – Math</u>

<u>5 Math Games to Inspire Young Minds</u> - Educators from Education Development Center's (EDC) Games for Young Mathematicians pick five favorites.

Young Mathematicians Games – Engage kids in math while playing these fun games.

Math Games – Play math games with just a deck of cards.

Other Resources

<u>Tip Sheet from NCASE</u> – National Center On Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) presents tips on how to engage your child in fun, meaningful learning activities throughout the summer.

<u>Camp Book It!</u> – Pizza Hut is giving away free pizza for reading over the summer.

<u>10 At-Home Activities</u> – Hands-on learning activities for your child.



Summer is here, get outside to jump and cheer!



March Open House



May Open House

April Open House

DID YOU MISS AN FES-UA OPEN HOUSE?

NOT TO WORRY, WE HAVE THE RECORDINGS HERE FOR YOUR REVIEW.



FTC/FES-EO Open House August 8th, 2024



FES-UA Open House June 20th, 2024



PEP Open House June 27th, 2024

LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL OPEN HOUSES FOR FTC-FES-EO OR PEP? NOT TO WORRY, WE HAVE THE LINKS HERE FOR YOU JUST SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE.

Our Voul	ube Chann	el!	SUBSCR	RIBE
HOME VIDEOS	SHORTS	ISTS COMMUNITY	CHANNELS ABO	ut Q >
	Notice Acatabase Victorian Control and Contro	<section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><form><section-header><form></form></section-header></form></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>	<complex-block></complex-block>	
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Updated FES-UA Handbook Links

FES-UA Parent Handbook English



FES-UA Parent Handbook Spanish



BECA FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PARA ESTUDIANTES CON NECESIDADES ESPECIALES MANUAL PARA PADRE/GUARDIÁN

FES-UA Parent Purchasing Guide

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) Purchasing Guide 2023-24				
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Effective March 2024 Step Up For Students 1				



Congratulations to the Class of 2024 from all of us at Step Up For Students!



If you or someone you know would like to join our Alumni Network, scan this QR code to Join



Thank You For Attending **Our Webinar Please Join Us** Our

<u>Upcoming Webinar</u> August 15th, 2024

Have an avesome Summer!

Contact Us

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST

