

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options

(FTC/FES-E0)

November 14, 2024

Presented by Step Up For Students







Agenda

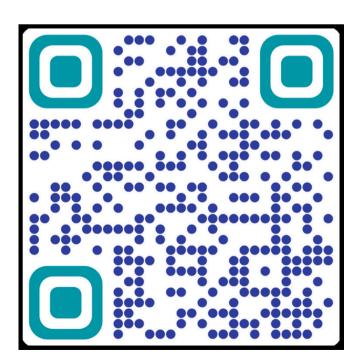
- Welcome
- Communications
- MyScholarShop: New Vendor Alert
 - **New EBF Form
- Purchasing Guide Hot Topics
- Questions & Answers
- Contact Information



Communications

Subject: Important updates for families impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

Date: 10/29/2024



Hurricane Updates



Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are receiving this message because you are in a county identified in consultation with the Florida Department of Education to have been impacted by Hurricane Helene and/or Milton.

We hope this message finds you safe amidst the challenges brought by these storms. Our hearts go out to our impacted families, schools, and providers.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding while we worked through the details of how to best support you during this difficult time.

In our commitment to ensuring those impacted can continue to access educational opportunities, we have created a dedicated landing page where you can find helpful information to navigate challenges you may be facing, including temporary or permanent change of address, damaged items, the need to change your student's enrollment, and more.

Please visit this page **HERE**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help.

Chat with a live agent at www.sufs.org.

Please <u>click here</u> to view our contact information.



ATTENTION PLEASE

December 6, 2024 is the last day to apply for the FTC/FES-EO

Scholarship!



December 13, 2024 is the last day to submit documentation required to process a FTC/FES-EO Scholarship application!





FTC/FES-EO Award Amounts



FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS PERSONALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Basic Scholarship Amounts for 2024-25

Note: The county is the one the student lives in according to their 2024-25 scholarship application.

District	Grades K-3	Grades 4-8	Grades 9-12
Alachua	\$8,147.00	\$7,518.00	\$7,401.00
Baker	\$8,722.00	\$8,076.00	\$7,955.00
Bay	\$8,255.00	\$7,626.00	\$7,509.00
Bradford	\$8,815.00	\$8,169.00	\$8,048.00
Brevard	\$8,202.00	\$7,573.00	\$7,456.00
Broward	\$8,310.00	\$7,665.00	\$7,545.00
Calhoun	\$9,062.00	\$8,416.00	\$8,295.00
Charlotte	\$8,693.00	\$8,064.00	\$7,947.00
Citrus	\$8,127.00	\$7,498.00	\$7,381.00
Clay	\$8,159.00	\$7,530.00	\$7,413.00
Collier	\$9,908.00	\$9,249.00	\$9,126.00
Columbia	\$8,378.00	\$7,732.00	\$7,611.00
Dade	\$8,467.00	\$7,824.00	\$7,705.00
De Soto	\$8,692.00	\$8,046.00	\$7,925.00
Dixie	\$8,799.00	\$8,153.00	\$8,032.00
Duval	\$8,246.00	\$7,612.00	\$7,493.00
Escambia	\$8,230.00	\$7,601.00	\$7,484.00
Flagler	\$8,067.00	\$7,438.00	\$7,321.00
Franklin	\$9,733.00	\$9,087.00	\$8,966.00
Gadsden	\$8,640.00	\$7,994.00	\$7,873.00
Gilchrist	\$9,034.00	\$8,388.00	\$8,267.00
Glades	\$9,326.00	\$8,680.00	\$8,559.00
Gulf	\$9,394.00	\$8,748.00	\$8,627.00
Hamilton	\$9,027.00	\$8,381.00	\$8,260.00
Hardee	\$8,433.00	\$7,787.00	\$7,666.00
Hendry	\$8,116.00	\$7,470.00	\$7,349.00
Hernando	\$8,112.00	\$7,483.00	\$7,366.00
Highlands	\$8,368.00	\$7,722.00	\$7,601.00
Hillsborough	\$8,251.00	\$7,615.00	\$7,496.00
Holmes	\$8,999.00	\$8,353.00	\$8,232.00
Indian River	\$8,495.00	\$7,866.00	\$7,749.00
Jackson	\$8,745.00	\$8,099.00	\$7,978.00
Jefferson	\$10,224.00	\$9,578.00	\$9,457.00
Lafayette	\$9,126.00	\$8,480.00	\$8,359.00

District	Grades K-3	Grades 4-8	Grades 9-12
Lake	\$8,109.00	\$7,480.00	\$7,363.00
Lee	\$8,596.00	\$7,962.00	\$7,844.00
Leon	\$8,201.00	\$7,572.00	\$7,455.00
Levy	\$8,848.00	\$8,202.00	\$8,081.00
Liberty	\$9,200.00	\$8,554.00	\$8,433.00
Madison	\$8,684.00	\$8,038.00	\$7,917.00
Manatee	\$8,276.00	\$7,647.00	\$7,530.00
Marion	\$8,131.00	\$7,502.00	\$7,385.00
Martin	\$8,769.00	\$8,135.00	\$8,017.00
Monroe	\$11,983.00	\$11,330.00	\$11,209.00
Nassau	\$8,553.00	\$7,924.00	\$7,807.00
Okaloosa	\$8,294.00	\$7,665.00	\$7,548.00
Okeechobee	\$8,511.00	\$7,865.00	\$7,744.00
Orange	\$8,264.00	\$7,629.00	\$7,511.00
Osceola	\$8,164.00	\$7,535.00	\$7,418.00
Palm Beach	\$8,698.00	\$8,044.00	\$7,922.00
Pasco	\$8,157.00	\$7,528.00	\$7,411.00
Pinellas	\$8,440.00	\$7,809.00	\$7,691.00
Polk	\$8,164.00	\$7,535.00	\$7,418.00
Putnam	\$8,614.00	\$7,968.00	\$7,847.00
St. Johns	\$8,244.00	\$7,615.00	\$7,498.00
St. Lucie	\$8,278.00	\$7,649.00	\$7,532.00
Santa Rosa	\$8,138.00	\$7,509.00	\$7,392.00
Sarasota	\$8,936.00	\$8,297.00	\$8,178.00
Seminole	\$8,205.00	\$7,576.00	\$7,459.00
Sumter	\$8,761.00	\$8,132.00	\$8,015.00
Suwannee	\$8,399.00	\$7,753.00	\$7,632.00
Taylor	\$8,667.00	\$8,021.00	\$7,900.00
Union	\$8,885.00	\$8,239.00	\$8,118.00
Volusia	\$8,067.00	\$7,438.00	\$7,321.00
Wakulla	\$8,412.00	\$7,766.00	\$7,645.00
Walton	\$9,878.00	\$9,249.00	\$9,132.00
Washington	\$9,026.00	\$8,380.00	\$8,259.00



What is my ScholarSHOP?

Benefits of the MyScholarShop

- 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 request a reimbursement.



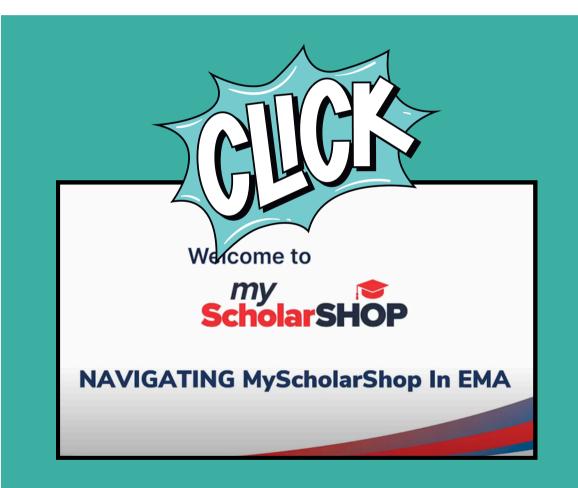
MyScholarShop New Vendor Alert



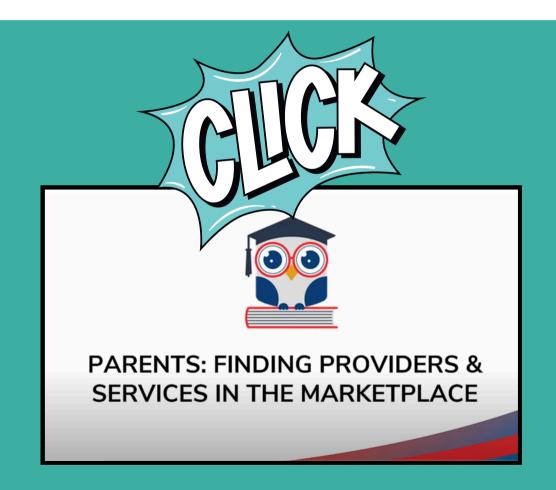
Company Name Description of Services		Website
Scholar Within	Scholar Within's reading program is designed to advance your child's reading and spelling skills. The program is brain-based, research-based, and results-proven. Each day is broken up into 4-6 short step-by-step activities for a total of 45-60 minutes.	https://scholarwithin.com/
KAPLAN	Throughout our history, Kaplan has been a pioneer in expanding educational access and transforming learning through new technologies. With more than one million students, and thousands of clients and university partners, Kaplan has the expertise, passion, and continuous innovation to help you achieve your educational and career goals.	https://www.kaplan.com/
Storytime Box	Get children's books and educational activities for kids ages 0-8+ delivered monthly! Build healthy reading habits with our teacher-curated box.	https://www.thestorytimebox.com/



MyScholarShop Resources



Navigating MyScholarShop in EMA

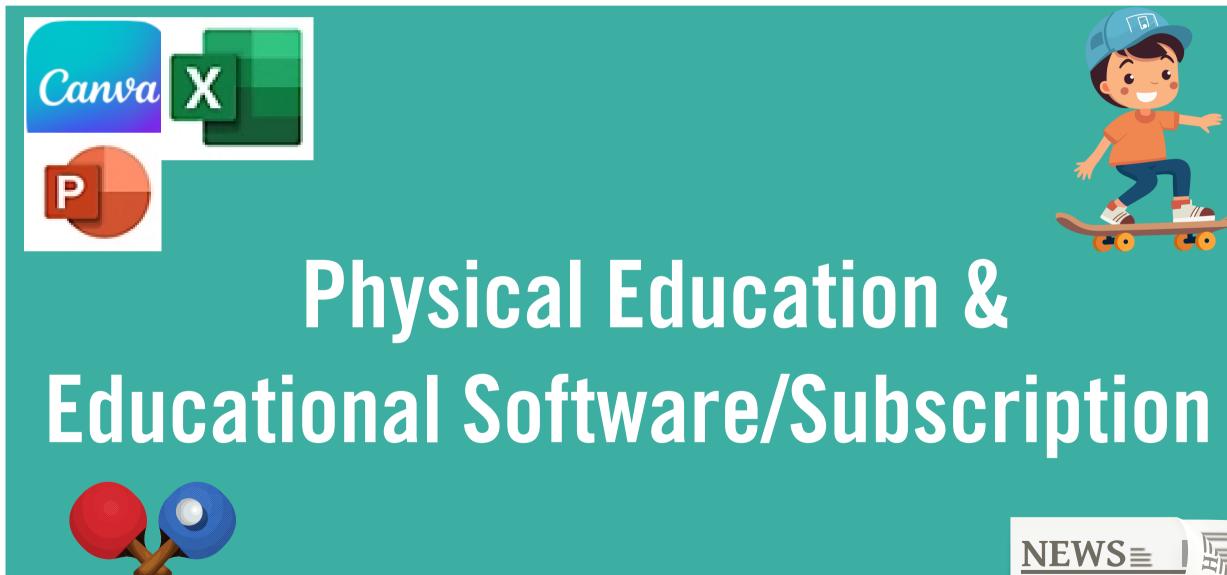


Parents: Finding Services and Providers in the Marketplace





Purchasing Guide
Hot Topics



FTC/FES-EO Purchasing Guide pgs. 7 & 11-13



Examples Of Approved Physical Education Activities



Ping Pong Table



Air Hockey



Foosball Table
/Table Sports



Basketball Shooting Game



Stand Up Paddleboard



Surfboard



Kayak & Canoe



Boogieboard & Skim Board



Skateboard



Individual Exercise Trampoline



Sports Equipment (Balls, Goals, Racquets, Etc.)



Gym/Fitness Memberships or Class Passes (for Student Only)



On Demand Fitness Classes



Swing Set

Adaptive exercise equipment is eligible with Pre-Authorization





Ineligible Physical Education Items

- Motorized equipment (treadmills or walking pads are eligible)
- Trampolines (individual exercise trampolines are eligible)
- Motorized Boats
- Motorized scooters or ride-ons (including golf carts)
- In-Ground or Above Ground Swimming Pools
- Single-admission leisure events (including equipment rental)
- Activities occurring outside of the state of Florida that are not Pre-Authorization
- Pool Tables
- Sports Uniforms

FTC/FES-EO Handbook pgs. 11-12



<u>Important Items To Note</u>

- Frequency of Purchase: Once every two (2) years; however, equipment may be eligible for replacement sooner with preauthorization
- Adaptive exercise equipment is eligible with pre-authorization.
- A pre-authorization is required for P.E. activities occurring outside of the State of Florida.



Adobe

intuit quickbooks

Step Up For Students

Examples Of Approved Educational Software & Subscription

FTC/FES-EO Handbook pg. 7





Video Editing Software



Music Editing Software



Newspaper subscription



Excel



Power Point



Word



Canva



Microsoft

Grammarly

Microsoft Office

Adobe

QuickBooks



Word Processing



Magazine Subscription



Step Up For Students

FTC/FES-EO Handbook pg. 7



Important Items To Note

- Items are eligible for single-use/student pricing only. If an Educational Benefit Form is not submitted, reimbursements for multiuser access subscriptions will be prorated to only cover the student's cost.
- Educational Subscription Kits curated and mailed to the home by a kit company are eligible for reimbursement.
- Subscriptions must be age and size-appropriate.



Step Up For Students



Approved Educational
Software & Subscriptions
Requiring an Educational
Benefit Form

- Family or Multi-User software subscriptions
- Social Media (except LinkedIn Learning for Students)
- In-Game Purchases or Credits

Streaming Services:

- Video Streaming
- TV Streaming
- Online Streaming Services
- Live television
- Musical Streaming Services





New & Improved Educational **Benefit Form**



Educational Benefit Form

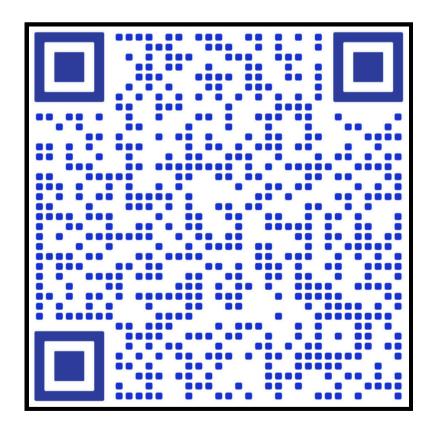
tudent Name:	
tudent ID:	
tem for which r	eimbursement is requested (the item you purchased or plan to purchase):
Vhat is the Edu	cational Benefit of this item?
	rship program funds are used only for authorized purposes as described in ss. 1002.395(6), F.S., as applicable, and serve the listed student's educational
arent Name:	

Please see the Parent Handbooks for FES-UA or FES-EO/FTC/PEP.



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



Educational Benefit Form

Student Name: Johnny Doe

Student ID: 1234567890

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

Music Lessons

Form

Benefit

Educational

of

Sample

What is the Educational Benefit of this item?

Music Lessons allow the student to be an all around & Successful individual. It helps develop motor skills such as hand-eye coordination. Playing the bass allows the student to learn discipline, organizational skills, perserance & patience. Thease music lessons also help the student with dyslexia by improving his reading skills as well as improving social skills when he is learning with his class music lessons also help calm his tics/

Tourette's Syndrome.

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:

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.





2024-2025
Purchasing Guide



PURCHASING GUIDE

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options
Personalized Education Program





What's New in the 2024-2025 FTC/FES-EO Purchasing Guide?



NEW 2024-25 FTC/FES-EO/PEP PURCHASING GUIDELINES

As of August 1, 2024, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC), Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) and Personalized Education Program (PEP) Purchasing Guide is updated for the 2024-25 school year. Here's a breakdown of what is new or changed in the guide

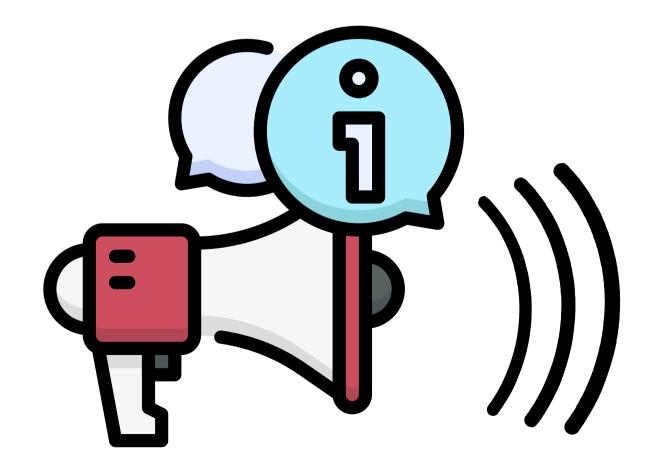
What's new for you?

New items or services for purchase by our scholarship families	New items or services that require Pre-Authorization	New items or services requiring an Educational Benefit Form*
Behavioral and/or educational applications Dance lessons Dance supplies (including footwear) Digital or video-based sport instruction Nintendo Wii © equipment or similar movement-based platforms Specialized or sport-specific footwear Two or three wheeled bicycles Printer ink Wax filament	Multiple of a single At-Home Classroom Furnishings item that exceeds \$50 Multiple of a single elective item that exceeds \$50	Video/TV/online streaming services Musical streaming services In-game purchases or credits Live television Family or Multi-User software subscriptions

*The **Educational Benefit Form** was created to help guardians demonstrate the educational benefit of an item, product or service that supports their student's learning and education. Click here to access the form.



Reimbursement Resources



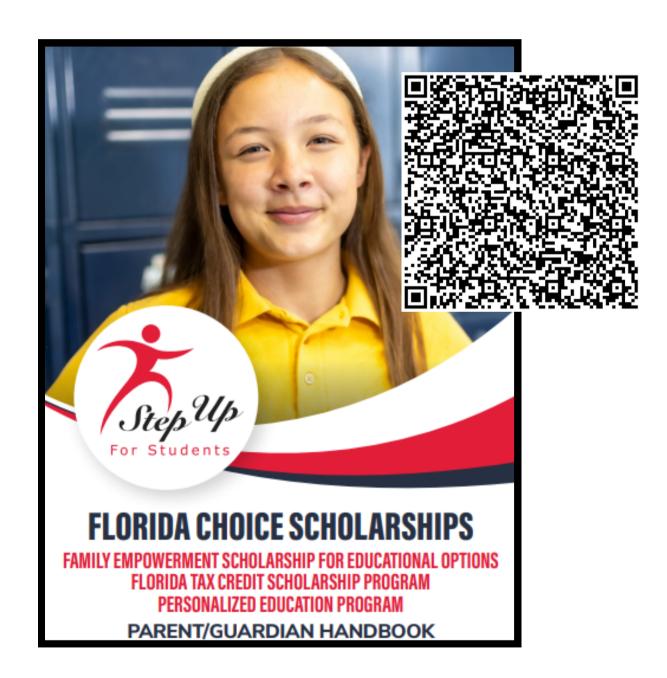
What is an ESA?



Families: Submitting Reimbursements in EMA

<u>Understanding Pre-Authorizations for Scholarship</u> <u>Families</u>





FTC/FES-EO Handbook Highlights

The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) parent handbook is a useful resource for understanding how to make the most of your scholarship funds.

In the following slides, we will guide you on where to locate answers to some of the most common questions we receive regarding the FTC and FES-EO scholarships.





Eligibility Requirements:

The FTC, FES-EO, and PEP scholarships are available to students who are:

- Florida residents or dependent children of active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces who have received Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders to Florida or renewing students whose home record or state of legal residence is Florida and have received PCS orders outside of Florida, and
- Eligible to enroll in grades K 12 in a Florida public school,
- Received a scholarship under the Hope Scholarship Program in the 2023-24 school year.
- A student entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the school year of their scholarship application.

Misrepresenting any information provided to Step Up For Students in a scholarship application could result in the revocation of the student's scholarship and may be punishable as a crime.





Funding Priorities

Award Prioritization

Scholarship applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Scholarships will be awarded in this order of priority:

- 1. Renewal students (those who received and utilized FTC, FES-EO, PEP or Hope Scholarship funding during the 2023-24 school year).
- 2. Students whose families have a household income up to 185% of Federal Poverty Level by household size, or students who are in foster or out-of-home care.
- 3. Students whose families have a household income between 186% and 400% of Federal Poverty Level by household size.
- 4. Students whose families have a household income greater than 400% of Federal Poverty Level by household size, or students whose families do not provide income information to be considered for application priority.

Persons in family/household	Priority 1 ≤ 185%	Priority 2 186%-400%
1	\$27,861	\$60,240
2	\$37,814	\$81,760
3	\$47,767	\$103,280
4	\$57,720	\$124,800
5	\$67,673	\$146,320
6	\$77,626	\$167,840
7	\$87,579	\$189,360
8	\$97,532	\$210,880
9	\$107,485	\$232,400
10	\$117,438	\$253,920

Each additional member +\$9.953 Each additional member +\$21,520

Based on guidelines published by the Department of Health & Human Services in National Registry on January 2024





Statute: 1003.24

FTC/EO Parent Handbook p. 33

Parents/guardians must adhere to the attendance policy set forth by their child's school, as outlined in the school's attendance policy. Step Up for Students does not establish or have influence over the attendance policies of participating eligible private schools. It is the responsibility of private schools to comply with the compulsory attendance regulations established by the Department of Education.



FTC/EO Parent Handbook p. 16

Scholarship Funding Schedule

Scholarship funds are deposited into the student's scholarship account four times a year.

A Scholarship Funding Organization must verify a student's eligibility to participate in the program at least 30 days before receiving funding from the state.

Once the Florida Department of Education receives a verified list of eligible students from Step Up, the department will send scholarship funds quarterly on the following dates:



2024-2025 Florida Tax Credit (FTC) & Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-E0)

Enrollment - Funding - Payment Schedule

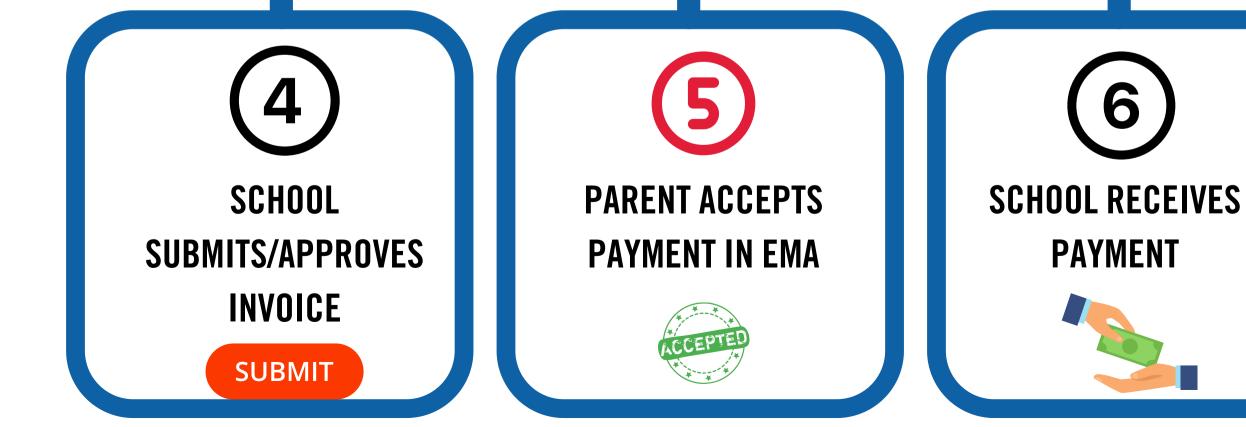
Students need to be enrolled in EMA by the dates listed below to be eligible for scholarship funding. Invoices will be generated as students are funded. Payment will be initiated within 5-7 business days of school and parent/guardian approval. Once initiated, funds may take up to 3-5 business days to arrive in the school account.

Deadline for Completed EMA Enrollment*	Quarterly Funds come to SUFS from DOE	Payment Processing & Parent Approval	Payments to Schools
June 30, 2024 July 26, 2024 August 30, 2024	August 1, 2024 September 1, 2024 TBD		Per Statute:
September 15, 2024	November 1, 2024	It takes up to two weeks to fund student accounts once funds are received from the DOE. Invoices will be generated in EMA as students are funded for schools and	
December 15, 2024	February 1, 2025	parents/guardians to approve in EMA.	parent/guardian approval.
February 15, 2025	April 1, 2025		

For students enrolled full-time in an eligible private school, Step Up will make quarterly payments for tuition and fees within seven (7) business days after the school and parent have approved the payment. Step Up may sometimes provide supplemental funding to students who were not funded on the above schedule. Step Up will communicate this with those in this situation via email.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO ENROLLMENT WITH STEP UP?















Q: Can you please provide the process for submitting a reimbursement?

A: Reimbursement requests are year-specific. Requests for reimbursements using scholarship funds from the 2024-25 school year may be submitted at any time after the purchase is made, as long as the items or services were purchased between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.



Submitting Reimbursements in EMA







Q: What are the reimbursement options for after-school care?

A: The Step Up For Students program offers financial support that can significantly enhance a student's educational journey. However, it is crucial to recognize the limitations on how these funds can be used. Specifically, funds cannot be utilized for after-school care services. This restriction ensures that the program's resources are dedicated solely to educational enrichment and skill development activities that directly contribute to a student's academic and personal growth. On the other hand, families can use these funds for academic tutoring or athletic programs, as both are considered eligible expenses according to the program's guidelines.

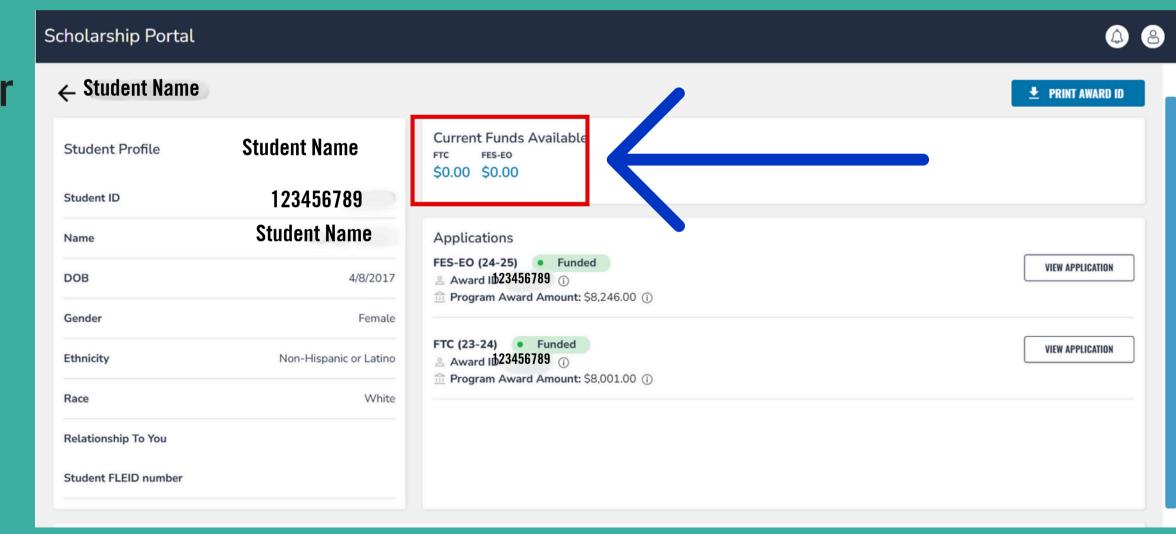


Q: How can we determine if there are any remaining scholarship funds for tutoring or supplies?

A: Please follow these steps:

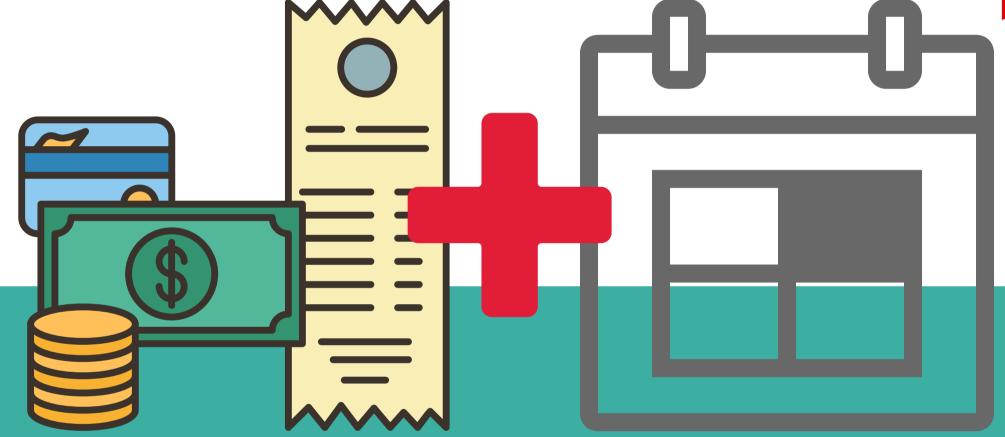
- 1. Log into EMA
- 2. Locate your student on the dashboard
- 3. Click on "View Student" or "View All"

Available funds will be displayed in blue









Q: How are the quarterly payments distributed?

A: The overall scholarship amount is split into four equal parts. For example, if a student receives a scholarship of \$8,000.00, each quarterly disbursement will be \$2,000.00.







Q: What is the process for receiving funds if my child begins public school and later transfers to a private school?

A: Initially, students need to apply for the scholarship and ensure that their child is officially withdrawn from the public school system. Once the scholarship is awarded, the award ID number must be submitted to the private school for enrollment. To complete the enrollment process, parental approval is necessary via their EMA account.



Scholarship Change Request



How can you change a student's scholarship program or decline their award?

Please contact our Customer Engagement Center at: 877-735-7837

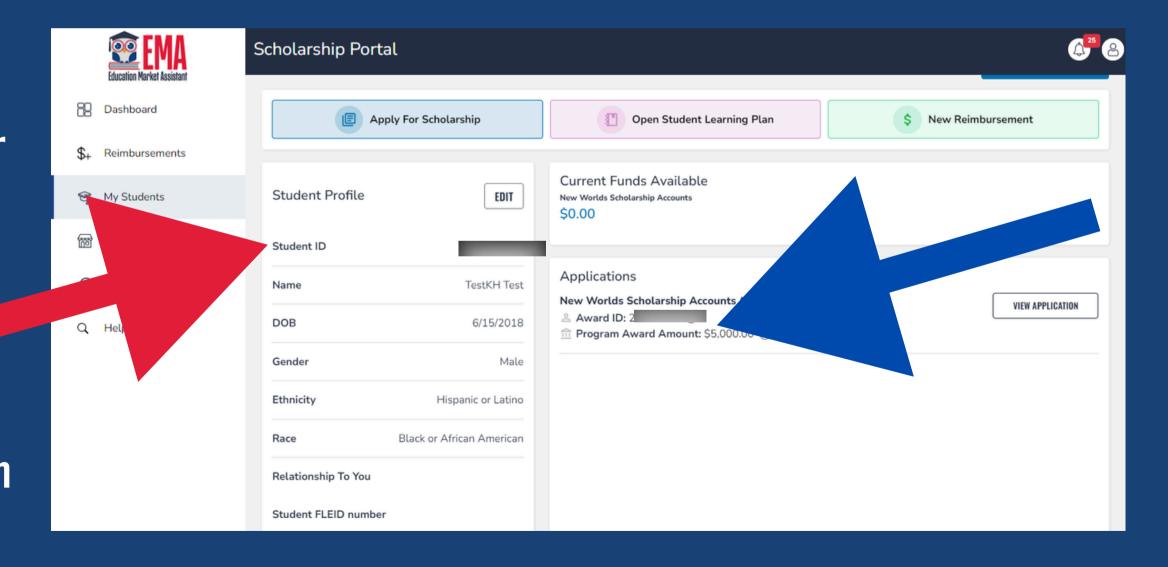
Required Information That you will need to provide on the call

- Guardian's Name
- Guardian's e-mail address
- Student's Name and Student ID
- Reason for Change
- Preferred Scholarship Changes



Award ID vs Student ID

Student ID: Provide this number when speaking with the Engagement Center to change your student's scholarship program or declining your current scholarship.



Award ID:
Give this number to an eligible private school of your choice for enrollment. This number changes yearly.





We would appreciate your input on the parent handbook. Please click <u>here</u> to provide your feedback.



FTC/FES-EO/PEP Parent/Guardian Handbook Feedback 2024-25

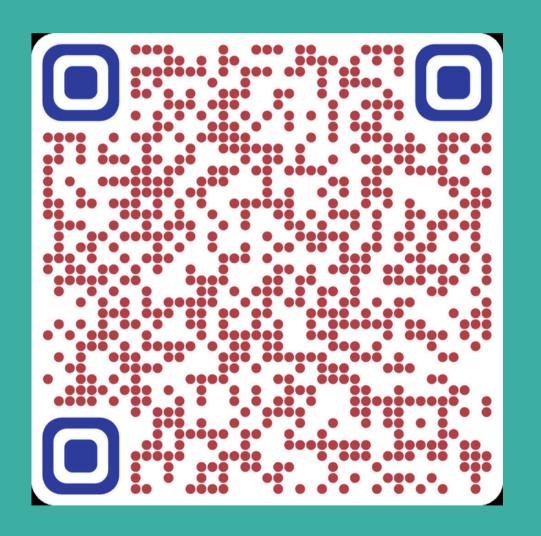
Parent/Guardian First Name *	
Parent/Guardian Last Name *	
Parent/Guardian Email *	
Please provide the email address as	sociated with your EMA account.
Student ID * If you have multiple students on an F needed.	FTC/FES-EO/PEP Scholarship, only one Student ID is
Did your family utilize the FTC/FES-1 (2023-24 school year or earlier)	EO/PEP Scholarship for the previous school year? *
Select	•
How helpful did you find the FTC/FE 1= Not helpful at all 5= Very helpful	S-EO/PEP Parent/Guardian Handbook? *
Select	•
How easy was it to find the informat	tion you were looking for? *
1 = Not easy at all 5 = Very easy	
Select	•



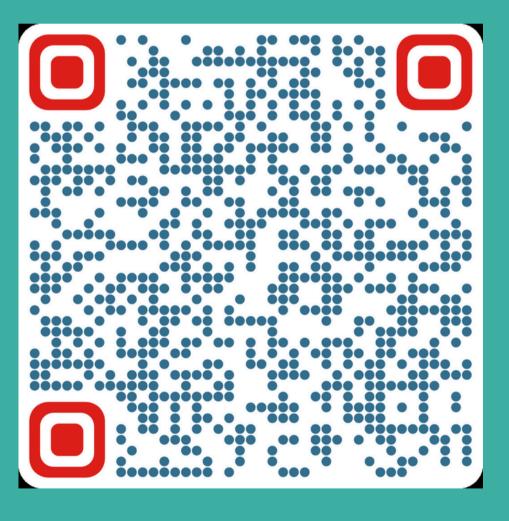
Previous FTC/E0 Open Houses



August Open House



September Open House

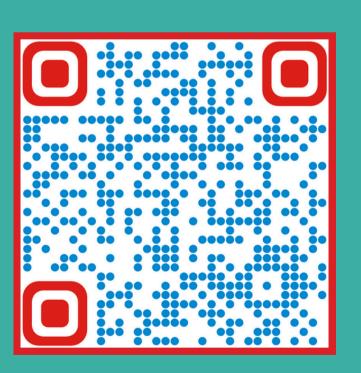


October Open House



Looking Ahead: Here are the registration links for the upcoming FTC/EO, FES-UA, PEP, NWSA & Transportation Stipend Open Houses







New World Open House
January 08, 2024



FTC/FES-E0 Open House
January 09, 2024



FES-UA Open House
January 16, 2024



PEP Open House January 23, 2024

<u>Transportation Open House</u>

January 15, 2024



Step Up For Students empowers families to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children.



Step Up For Students

@stepup4students · 10.3K subscribers · 72 videos

Step Up For Students empowers parents to pursue and engage in the most appropriate lea...more

stepupforstudents.org







Need resources to learn more about your scholarship? Subscribe to our YouTube Channel today!





Contact Us

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



Chat with us <u>sufs.org</u>



877-735-7837



Thank you for attending!

To honor your family time during the holiday season, all December Open Houses will be pre-recorded.

We hope this allows you to access the information at your convenience.

We will see you in January 2025!

Registration Link

