



Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options
(FTC/FES-EO)

August 8, 2024

Presented by Step Up For Students

**OPEN HOUSE
FTC/FES-EO**





FTC/FES-EO

Agenda

- Welcome to FTC/FES-EO Open House
- Overview of the Private School Scholarships
- Legislative Updates
- Communications
- MyScholarShop: New Vendor Alert
- Handbook Highlights
- EMA Updates: Approving/Denying Tuition & Fee Invoices
- Purchasing Guide Hot Topics
- Questions & Answers
- Resources



FTC/FES-EO



Step Up for Students Mission

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



FTC/FES-EO



Who is Step Up for Students?

Step Up For Students is a state-approved, nonprofit, Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) with a mission to help students find their place within Florida's public and private education system.

These programs include:

- The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO)
- The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC)
- Personalized Education Program (FTCPEP)
- The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA)
- The Transportation Stipend
- The New Worlds Scholarship Program



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Overview of the FTC/FES-EO

- Available to Florida residents, regardless of household income, who are eligible to attend a K-12 public school.*
- The scholarship will first pay for the cost of private school tuition and related fees.
- \$8,000 average award amount awarded for private school scholarships for the 2024-25 school year.
- Florida students who are not full-time public school students now have access to the Personalized Education Program (PEP) through the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.



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Overview of the FTC/FES-EO cont...

House Bill 1403 merged the Hope Scholarship Program with the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship programs. Families who would have previously benefited from the Hope Scholarship are encouraged to apply through the FTC/FES-EO programs.



FTC/FES-EO

Declining Scholarship Form



Decline Form (English)



Decline Form (Spanish)



Step Up for Students Website



FTC/FES-EO



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

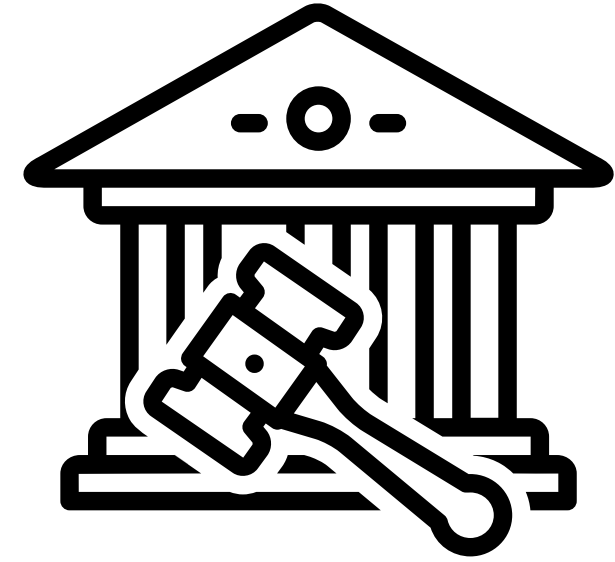
Note: The county is the one the student lives in according to their 2024-25 scholarship application.

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



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Review of Legislative Updates

Per new legislation, families can only apply for one scholarship at a time per student. If the student is denied the scholarship for which they first applied for, they may choose to apply for a different scholarship after being denied.

The Hope Scholarship merged with the Family Empowerment Scholarship and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship programs. Families will now apply through the FTC/FES-EO programs for the 2024-25 school year.



FTC/FES-EO



Communications

Subject: Phishing Attempt

Date: August 3, 2024



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are aware that someone is impersonating Step Up For Students by asking for donations as well as photos of your debit or credit cards. Please do not click on any links or open any attachments, forward all emails to concerns@sufs.org. Your privacy and security are our top priorities. Always be vigilant in reviewing any contact from Step Up For Students.

Best regards,

Step Up For Students



FTC/FES-EO

Communications

**Subject: Your student's 2024-2025
FTC scholarship payment**

Date: August 6, 2024

**Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program &
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Funds have recently been added to your student's Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) account for the 2024-25 school year.

Please do not be alarmed if your student's available balance displays as \$0.00. This is because your quarterly funds are reserved for your student's tuition and fees per your acceptance of your student's private school enrollment in EMA.

[Next Step \(new for the 2024-25 school year\):](#)



FTC/FES-EO

Communications

**Subject: Your student's 2024-2025
FES-EO scholarship payment**

Date: August 6, 2024

**Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program &
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Funds have recently been added to your student's Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) account for the 2024-25 school year.

Please do not be alarmed if your student's available balance displays as \$0.00. This is because your quarterly funds are reserved for your student's tuition and fees per your acceptance of your student's private school enrollment in EMA.

Next Step (new for the 2024-25 school year):

Your student's school will initiate your student's quarterly payment by approving an invoice within their EMA account.



FTC/FES-EO

Communications

**Subject: FTC/FES-EO Purchasing
Guide Update**

Date: August 3, 2024



Dear Parent/Guardian,

The 2024-25 Purchasing Guide for the following programs is now available.

- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC)
- Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO)
- Personalized Education Program (PEP)

[View the 2024-25 Purchasing Guide](#)



For a helpful one-pager highlighting some of the changes within the new guide, please [click here](#).

As a reminder, the FTC/FES-EO/PEP programs are education savings accounts (ESAs), giving families even more flexibility in how to use their student's scholarships.



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MyScholarShop Vendor Alert

Company Name	Description of Services	Website
TalkBox. Mom	With this program, you learn a foreign language as a family the same way you learned your first: talking as life happens! The program offers learning guides to put up and use, native speaker audio practice. You may use your phone or tablet to practice.	TALKBOX.MOM
Craftsman Crate & Raising Real Men	Receive monthly boxes that contain what you need to learn a real skill and produce real projects – it's a curriculum for becoming an artisan! Every month you'll get to try a new hobby. It's fun, it's satisfying, it's authentic.	
Pix Brix	Pix Brix are a multi-award-winning pixel puzzle brick that utilizes a unique patented connection system. This simple 1-piece slide + stack system allows the user to create 2D pixel art and 3D builds by connecting vertically, horizontally, and even diagonally. Pix Brix are a certified <u>STEM/STEAM</u> open ended building toy that fosters play, creativity, and imagination.	



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MyScholarShop Vendor Alert

Company Name	Description of Services	Website
Apologia	Apologia's Christian homeschool curriculum is developed in a way that puts your child first, creating content that is exciting, challenging, and rewarding to motivate students to want to learn more about the world around them.	
Master Books	Master Books publishes Christian homeschool curriculum that will grow students' faith in their Creator and His Word in a way that will have a lasting and eternal impact. They serve grades Pre-K through 12th grade.	
Denison Algebra	Denison Algebra is a curriculum company built for homeschool families to provide quality, digital instruction in middle and high school math, particularly algebra. As homeschoolers ourselves, we understand the issues - from ill-fitting curriculum options to the onset of shaky confidence - that often come up when students hit higher level math. So, we set out to address the problem with clear, easy-to-understand courses designed for confidence-building retention and brain-friendly mastery.	



FTC/FES-EO

MyScholarShop Vendor Alert

Company Name	Description of Services	Website
Epic! Creations, Inc.	Epic is the leading digital reading platform—built on a collection of 40,000+ popular, high-quality books from 250+ of the world’s best publishers—that safely fuels curiosity and reading confidence for kids 12 and under.	



FTC/FES-EO

Handbook Highlights



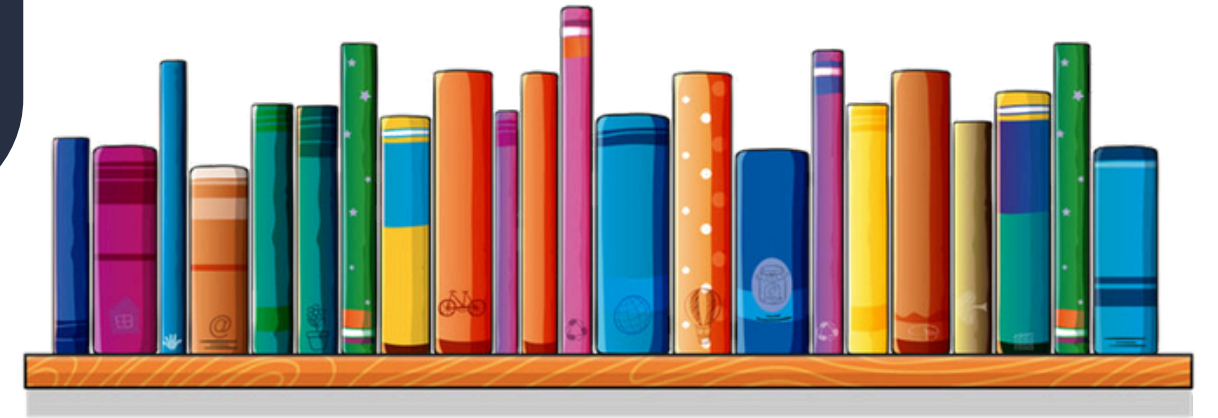
Overview:

The FTC/FES-EO parent handbook serves as a guide on how to utilize your scholarship funds.

Over the next few slides, we will cover some of the most frequently asked questions we get about the FTC/FES-EO scholarship.



FTC/FES-EO



What do the Private School scholarships cover?

- Tuition and fees at an Eligible private school
- Eligible postsecondary institutions
- Approved pre-apprenticeship programs
- Fees for part-time tutoring or Choice Navigator services
- Approved online or virtual providers

- Private-pay student for Florida Virtual Schools
- Instructional materials
- Curriculum
- Standardized testing fees
- Contracted services provided by a public school or school district



FTC/FES-EO

Eligible Private School Fees



- Book fees
- Technology fees
- Test fees
- Athletics and club fees
- Graduation fees
- Application fees (payable in the Fiscal Year preceding the academic year)
- Registration fees (payable in the Fiscal Year preceding the academic year)
- Uniform fees (basic uniform pieces purchased from a school-required vendor; shoes and accessories are not eligible)



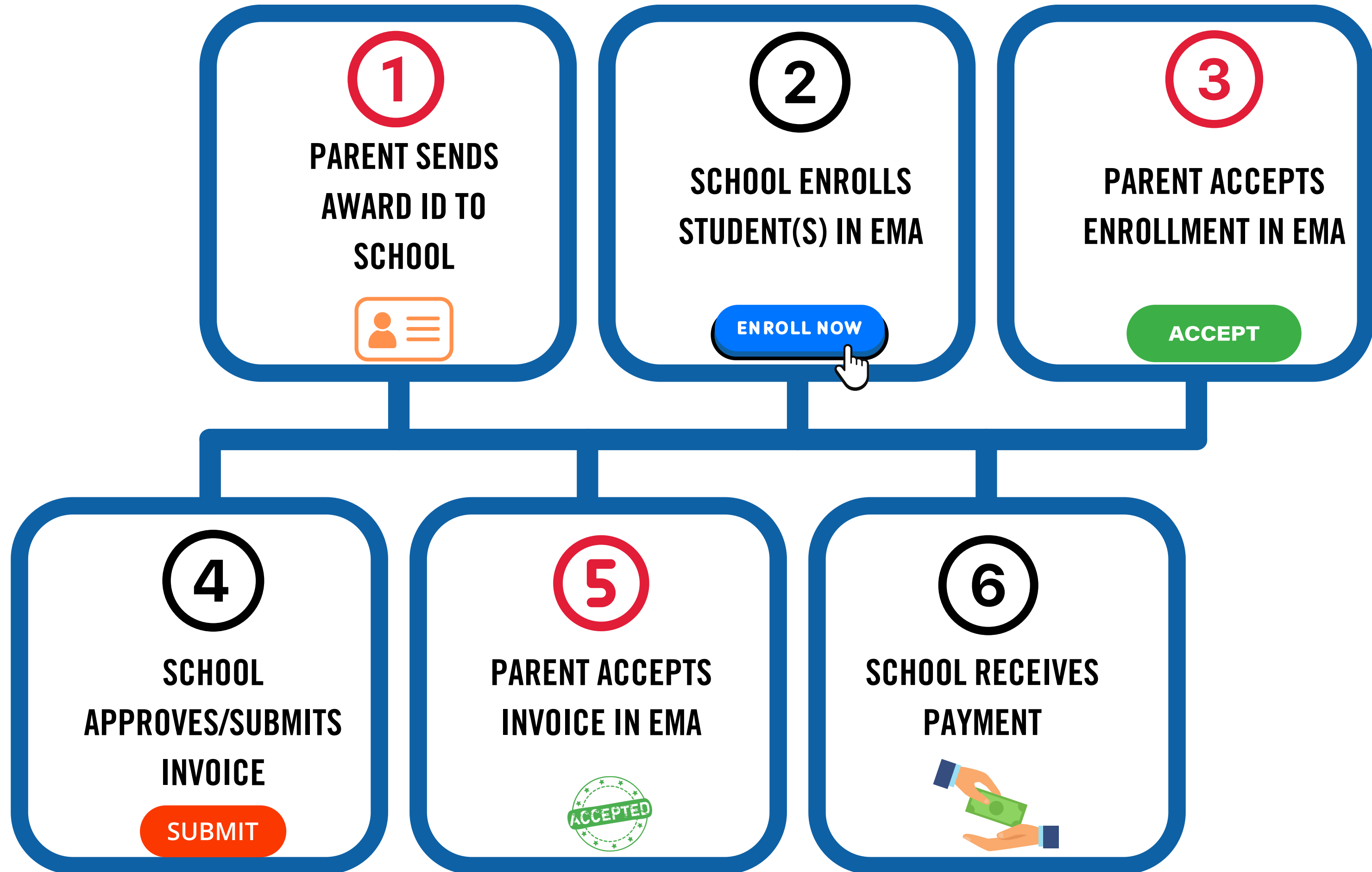
Enrollment and Invoicing

**Parents/Guardians
Enrollment,
Approving Tuition &
Fees in EMA**



**Guardians: Approving/Denying Tuition & Fees in EMA for
Scholarship Students Enrolled In An Eligible Private School**

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO ENROLLMENT WITH STEP UP?





Tuition and Fee Invoicing

Log in to your EMA
account.



Username [Forgot Username?](#)

Password [Forgot Password?](#)

 [Show](#)

Keep me signed in

LOG IN

Don't have an account? [Sign Up](#)

SUFS Team Member? [Sign In](#)



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

New tuition and fee invoice alerts will be displayed in your notifications, and an email will be sent detailing the actions taken.

A screenshot of the Scholarship Portal dashboard. The top navigation bar includes the EMA logo, the title "Scholarship Portal", and user profile and notification icons. The notification icon has a red badge with the number "2". A red box highlights the notification area, which contains two alerts: "New Tuition & Fee Invoice: Please see Dashboard to approve or deny. 21h ago" and "New Tuition & Fee Invoice: Please see Dashboard to approve or deny. 28 days ago". A blue hand icon with a double-headed arrow points to the notification icon. The main dashboard content includes a "Tuition & Fee Invoices" section with a "NEW" badge, a table of invoices, an "Action Items" section, and a "My Recent Applications" section. The table of invoices has columns for School Year, Student Name, School Name, Date, Amount, and Status. The "Action Items" section lists tasks like "Update 'On Hold' FES-UA Application". The "My Recent Applications" section lists applications with their status (ON HOLD, SUBMITTED, COMPLETE).

SCHOOL YEAR	STUDENT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	STATUS
2023-2024	[REDACTED]	Smith Elementary			
2023-2024	[REDACTED]	Smith Elementary	10/15/2023	\$1,000	✓



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

The dashboard now displays the 'Tuition and Fee Invoices' section.

In this section, you can either accept (blue checkmark) or decline (red x) an invoice by selecting the corresponding button.

The screenshot shows the Scholarship Portal dashboard. The left sidebar contains navigation options: Dashboard, Reimbursements, My Students, Marketplace, Recent Transactions, and Help. The main content area is titled "Scholarship Portal" and "Dashboard". A section titled "Tuition & Fee Invoices" with a "NEW" badge is highlighted. Below this, a table lists invoices for approval. The table has columns for School Year, Student Name, School Name, Request Date, Invoice Amount, Accept, and Decline. Two invoices are shown, both for the 2023-2024 school year at Smith Elementary, with a request date of 10/15/2023 and an invoice amount of \$1,000. Each invoice has a blue checkmark in the "Accept" column and a red "X" in the "Decline" column. Below the table, there are sections for "Action Items" and "My Recent Applications".

SCHOOL YEAR	STUDENT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	REQUEST DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	ACCEPT	DECLINE
2023-2024	[REDACTED]	Smith Elementary	10/15/2023	\$1,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2023-2024	[REDACTED]	Smith Elementary	10/15/2023	\$1,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

If you decide to reject an invoice, simply click on the red 'X' button.

A pop-up box will appear to confirm whether you would like to deny the invoice and select a reason.

A screenshot of the Scholarship Portal interface. The page title is "Scholarship Portal" and the user is logged in as "EMA Education Market Assistant". The main content area is titled "Dashboard" and shows "Tuition & Fee Invoices" with a "NEW" badge. Below this, there is a table of invoices with columns for "SCHOOL YEAR", "INVOICE AMOUNT", "ACCEPT", and "DECLINE". Two invoices are listed, both for \$1,000, with blue checkmarks in the "ACCEPT" column and red 'X' marks in the "DECLINE" column. A pop-up dialog box is overlaid on the screen, asking "Are you sure you want to deny the invoice?" and providing a dropdown menu to "Select A Reason". The dialog also includes "CANCEL" and "DENY INVOICE" buttons. The background interface is dimmed to show the pop-up clearly.



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

Click on the arrow in the 'Select A Reason' box to see a dropdown of reasons to choose from.

The screenshot shows the Scholarship Portal interface. A modal dialog box is open, titled "Are you sure you want to deny the invoice?". The dialog contains the following text: "Please select a reason before submitting. Your invoice will be sent back to the school for processing." Below this is a "Select A Reason" section with a dropdown menu labeled "Select Reason". A red hand icon with a pointing finger is positioned over the dropdown arrow. At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "DENY INVOICE".

The background interface includes a sidebar with navigation options: Dashboard, Reimbursements, My Students, Marketplace, Recent Transactions, and Help. The main content area is titled "Scholarship Portal" and "Dashboard". It displays a section for "Tuition & Fee Invoices" with a "NEW" badge. Below this is a table with columns for "SCHOOL YEAR", "INVOICE AMOUNT", "ACCEPT", and "DECLINE". The table shows two rows of invoices, each with a \$1,000 amount and checkboxes for "ACCEPT" and "DECLINE".



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

1. Choose one of the two reasons listed.

2. Click on 'Deny Invoice'.

A screenshot of the Scholarship Portal interface. The page title is "Scholarship Portal" and the user is logged in as "EMA Education Market Assistant". The main content area is titled "Dashboard" and shows "Tuition & Fee Invoices" with a "NEW" badge. A modal dialog box is open, asking "Are you sure you want to deny the invoice?". The dialog contains a message: "Please select a reason before submitting. Your invoice will be sent back to the school for processing." Below this is a "Select A Reason" dropdown menu with two options: "Incorrect Amount" and "Child Is No Longer Enrolled". A red circle with the number "1" is placed over the "Child Is No Longer Enrolled" option. At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "DENY INVOICE". A red circle with the number "2" is placed over the "DENY INVOICE" button. In the background, a table of invoices is visible with columns for "INVOICE AMOUNT", "ACCEPT", and "DECLINE". The table shows two rows, both with an amount of "\$1,000" and "ACCEPT" checked. The "DECLINE" column has a red "X" icon. The background is dimmed to highlight the dialog box.



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

What happens when a guardian rejects an invoice?

Please note that schools cannot edit or remove invoices once they are populated. If the amount is incorrect, the school may need to request that the invoice be removed. They also may need to Withdraw and Re-enroll your child.

If the student is no longer enrolled but an invoice generates, most likely those dollars are still owed to the school due to dates of attendance.



Tuition and Fee Invoicing

If you wish to accept the invoice, please click on the blue check mark.

A pop-up box will appear to confirm whether you wish to approve the invoice. If you do, click on the 'Approve Invoice' button.

A screenshot of the Scholarship Portal dashboard. The page title is "Scholarship Portal" and the user is logged in as "EMA Education Market Assistant". The dashboard shows a "Tuition & Fee Invoices" section with a "NEW" badge. Below this, there is a table of invoices with columns for "SCHOOL YEAR", "INVOICE AMOUNT", "ACCEPT", and "DECLINE". Two invoices are listed, both for \$1,000, with blue checkmarks in the "ACCEPT" column. A white pop-up box is overlaid on the table, asking "Are you sure you want to approve the invoice?" and stating "Once approved, SUFS will be automatically invoiced." The pop-up has two buttons: "CANCEL" and "APPROVE INVOICE". A red hand icon is pointing to the "APPROVE INVOICE" button. The background shows a sidebar with navigation options like "Dashboard", "Reimbursements", "My Students", "Marketplace", "Recent Transactions", and "Help".



Tuition and Fee Invoicing



Please note:

Tuition and fee invoices will be generated at different times depending on the enrollment date and type of scholarship.



FTC/FES-EO

What is the Purchasing Guide?

- It serves as a helpful reference for families navigating the scholarship process.
- Updated at least annually.
- It is not intended to provide detailed instructions or to prescribe any educational program.
- Please refer to Step Up For Student's FTC/FESEO Parent Handbook for more detailed information.



FTC/FES-EO

Purchasing Guide

Hot Topics

School supplies are eligible for purchase with any funds remaining after paying tuition and fees. Eligible purchases include but are not limited to:



- Bookbags (backpack, tote bag, messenger bag)
- Calculator
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers
- Lunchbox
- Math tools (abacus/compass/protractor/ruler)
- Notebook/folder/binder
- Paper
- Planner/organizer
- Printer ink
- Tape/paperclips/stapler
- Wax filament
- Writing utensils



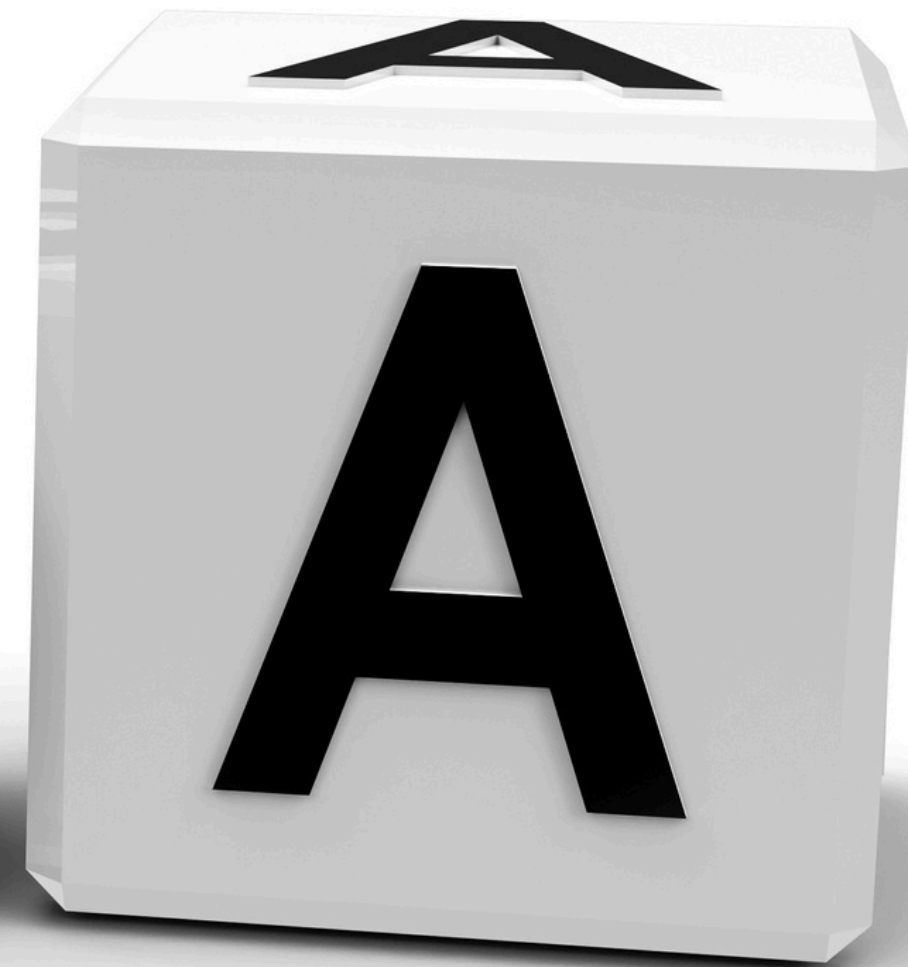
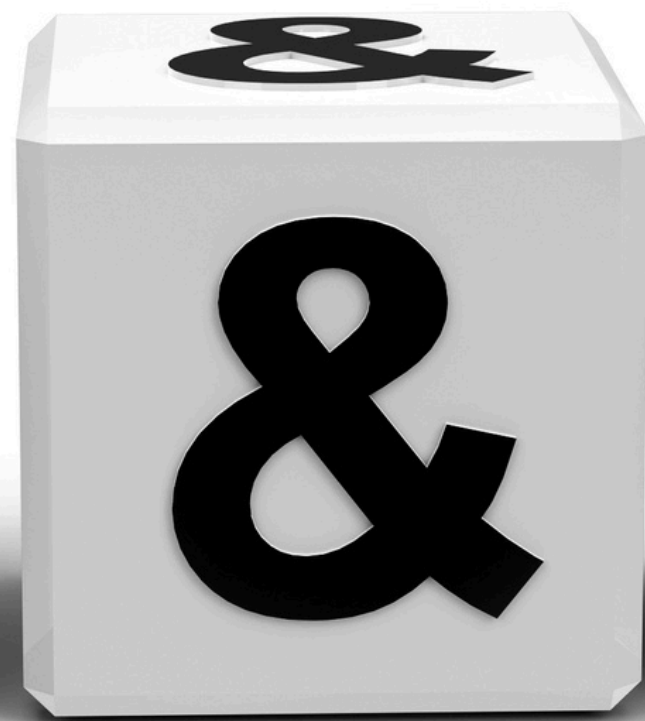
FTC/FES-EO

2024-2025

Purchasing Guide

The cover of the purchasing guide features a photograph of a smiling young man with glasses and a green jacket in a classroom setting. A circular logo with the "Step Up For Students" branding is overlaid on the bottom left of the photo. Below the photo, the text reads "2024-25 PURCHASING GUIDE" in large, bold letters, followed by "Florida Tax Credit Scholarship", "Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options", and "Personalized Education Program" in smaller text.

2024-25
PURCHASING GUIDE
Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options
Personalized Education Program





FTC/FES-EO

Q: Can I apply for more than one scholarship at a time for my child?

A: No. Law changes prohibit applying for more than one private school or parent-directed scholarship at a time for your student. You can apply for a new scholarship once you've been denied or have declined an awarded scholarship.

Q: What will happen to the awarded scholarship if I have difficulty enrolling my child into a suitable private school?

A: A FTC/EO student must be enrolled in an eligible private school to receive scholarship funding. A FTC/EO student who remains unenrolled in an eligible private school will not receive funding.

Q: How can I access extra funds in the scholarship for tutoring, services, and supplies?

A: The first step to using remaining scholarship funds is to review eligible items and services listed as eligible expenses in the FTC/FES-EO Purchasing Guide. Please note that some items will require parents to submit a pre-authorization and/or educational benefit form. Items and services can be found on the EMA Marketplace and MyScholarShop platform.



FTC/FES-EO

Previous FTC/EO Open Houses



April Open House



May Open House

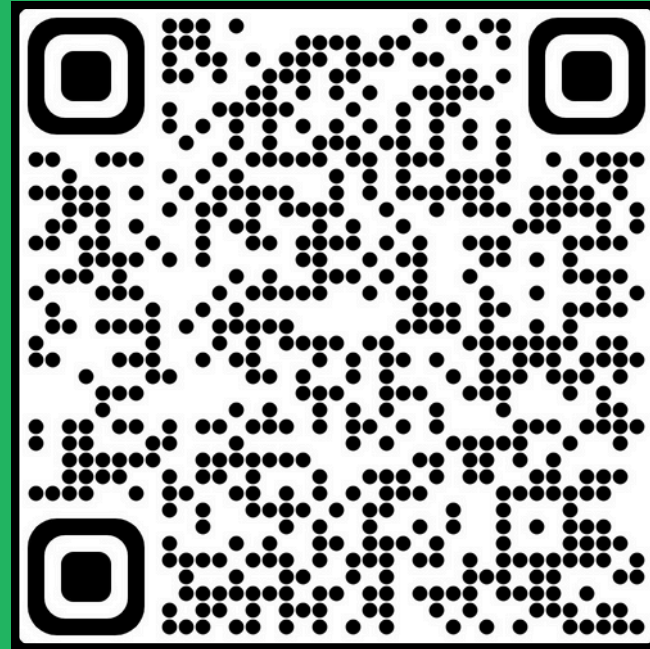


June Open House



FTC/FES-EO

**Looking Ahead: Here
are the registration
links for the upcoming
FTC/EO, FES-UA and
PEP Open Houses**



FTC/FES-EO Open House
September 12, 2024



FES-UA Open House
August 15, 2024



PEP Open House
August, 22, 2024



FTC/FES-EO

Resources



[Purchasing Guide: Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, Family Empowerment Scholarship For Educational Options](#)



*[What's New in the FTC/EO Purchasing Guide 2024-2025?](#)



[Submitting Reimbursements in EMA](#)



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



[Guardians Approving and Denying Tuition and Fee Invoices in EMA](#)



FTC/FES-EO

Contact Us

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



chat with us at [sufs.org](https://www.sufs.org)



877-735-7837



PO Box 54429, Jacksonville, FL 32245



FTC/FES-EO

Thank you for attending!

Upcoming webinar: September 12th, 2024

Registration Link