



FTC/FES-EO Family Open House

March 14th, 2024



Agenda

Scholarship Updates & Reminders

Funding Updates

MyScholarShop: New Vendor Alert

Parent/Guardian Handbooks

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



hello
Spring!



Scholarship Updates

Scholarships for Florida Schoolchildren



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our records indicate your child was awarded a Step Up Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year – but also that your child is not using the scholarship.

We are conducting this survey to better understand why some parents/guardians chose not to use the scholarship.

The survey should take less than 5 minutes. **All answers will remain confidential, and none of your personal information will be shared when we publish the results.**

Participation in this survey is strictly optional. There will be no negative consequences of any kind if you decline to complete the survey.

**Subject: FTC/FES-EO Families - Awarded
Never Enrolled Survey**

Sent: 3.04.24

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



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that a quarterly distribution will soon be made to the scholarship account of the student(s) named below.

For the 2023-24 school year, scholarship funds for students will first be deposited into the student's individual scholarship accounts. After a student's account has been funded, *the school must initiate the invoicing process in EMA* to generate payments from the student's account to their enrolled school.

PLEASE NOTE: These funds have not yet arrived in accounts and will be available in student accounts within the coming weeks. Families will receive an email notifying them once funds have been deposited.

DO NOT BE ALARMED if your student's available balance displays as \$0.00 after your funds arrive. 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.

**Subject: IMPORTANT NOTICE about your student's upcoming scholarship payment
Sent: 3.06.24**


Legislative Updates

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO), Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC), and Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA):

- Allow active-duty military members who have permanent change of station orders to Florida to apply for scholarships before they have a Florida address.
- Prohibit families from applying for multiple scholarships for the same student at the same time.
- Require, for **RENEWAL** FES-EO and FES-UA students, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) to release funds to scholarship-funding organizations (SFOs) no later than Aug. 1, Nov. 1, Feb. 1, and April 1.
- Require, for **NEW** FES-EO and FES-UA students, the FLDOE to release funds to SFOs no later than Sept. 1, Nov. 1, Feb. 1, and April 1.
- Require SFOs to release payments for full-time tuition and fees within 7 business days after approval by the parent and the private school
- Require SFOs to publish a purchasing handbook by Aug. 1, 2024, and by July 1 in all following years. The handbook must include a list of prohibited items and services, and items or services that require pre-authorization or additional documentation. The handbook must be published on the SFOs' websites and provided to the Commissioner of Education.

Legislative Updates

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA):

- Increasing the program cap for the 2024-25 school year to 72,615 students. Categorical exemptions, for students to be considered outside of the program cap, remain.
 - Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, the cap on available scholarships will annually increase by 5% (up from 3%) of the state's exceptional student education enrollment, minus gifted students. The cap will increase by an additional 1% following any year in which 95% of available scholarships are funded.
 - Allow parents to use scholarship funds to pay tuition and fees for a prekindergarten program offered by an eligible private school.
 - Allow a student to be 3 or 4 years old during the year in which the student applies, not *before* they apply
 - Engage UCF's Center for Students with Unique Abilities to create purchasing guidelines for the FES-UA program with assistance from Florida's SFOs and input from parents of participating students.
- 

Legislative Updates

Personalized Education Program (PEP), Transportation, Hope, and New Worlds Scholarships:

Personalized Education Program (PEP)

- Allow PEP students to use scholarship funds to pay for full-time tuition at private schools that address regular and direct contact with teachers through the student learning plans.

Transportation Scholarship

- Repeal the current Transportation Scholarship for public school students.
- Create a new Transportation Stipend, which will award \$750 per eligible household for K-8 students to supplement transportation costs to a Florida, non-virtual public school that is different than their assigned school.
- Prioritize students who received a Transportation Scholarship in the 23-24 school year to receive transportation stipends for the 24-25 school year.

Hope Scholarship

- Merge the Hope Scholarship Program with the FES-EO and FTC scholarship programs.
- Direct the eligible financial contributions to the FTC scholarship program.
- Allow students with bullying incidents documented by their public schools to qualify for FES-EO or FTC scholarships.

New Worlds Scholarship Accounts

- Expand eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Program to Voluntary Prekindergarten students with substantial deficiencies in early literacy and/or math skills, based on their most recent progress monitoring results.
- Increase scholarships from \$500 to \$1200 per student.
- Parents/guardians will use Step Up For Students direct-pay platforms to use their ESA funds beginning in the '24-25 school year.

Legislative Updates

General Awareness

- Religious virtual providers can now apply with the state to become an approved virtual instruction program provider
- Private schools can use certain facilities without specific zoning or land use requirements, **provided they meet health, safety, and welfare laws.**
 - **A private school may use facilities on property owned or leased by** a library, community service organization, museum, performing arts venue, theatre, cinema, or church facility under s. 170.201, which is or was actively used as such within 5 years of any executed agreement with a private school to use the facilities; any facility or land owned by a Florida College System institution or university; any similar public institutional facilities; and any facility recently used to house a school or child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, under any such facility's preexisting zoning and land use designations without rezoning or obtaining a special exception or a land use change, and without complying with any mitigation requirements or conditions. The facility must be located on property used solely for purposes described in this paragraph, and must meet applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including firesafety and building safety.
 - **A private school may use facilities on property purchased from** a library, community service organization, museum, performing arts venue, theatre, cinema, or church facility under s. 170.201, which is actively or was actively used as such within 5 years of any executed agreement with a private school to purchase the facilities; any facility or land owned by a Florida College System institution or university; any similar public institutional facilities; and any facility recently used to house a school or child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, under any such facility's preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change, and without complying with any mitigation requirements or conditions. The facility must be located on property used solely for purposes described in this paragraph, and must meet applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including firesafety, and building safety.

Proof of Florida Residency

Column A (upload <u>one</u> document)	Column B (upload <u>two different</u> documents)
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 <u>renters</u> insurance policy*
Homeless Verification or Certificate	Mortgage acceptance letter*
Migrant Address Verification Letter	*A secondary document is necessary
Property deed	

For the 2024-25 school year, families will be required to upload one document from Column A OR two different documents from Column B in the list below.

All documents must be current (less than two months old), valid and match the primary parent's/guardian's full name and the current physical street address provided on the application.



COMING SOON




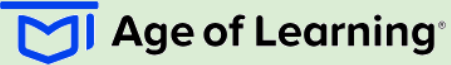

Note: If you will also be applying for a new student, the 2024-25 application checklist is not yet available; however, you may reference our 2023-24 application checklist [here](#).

NEW
MyScholarShop
VENDORS



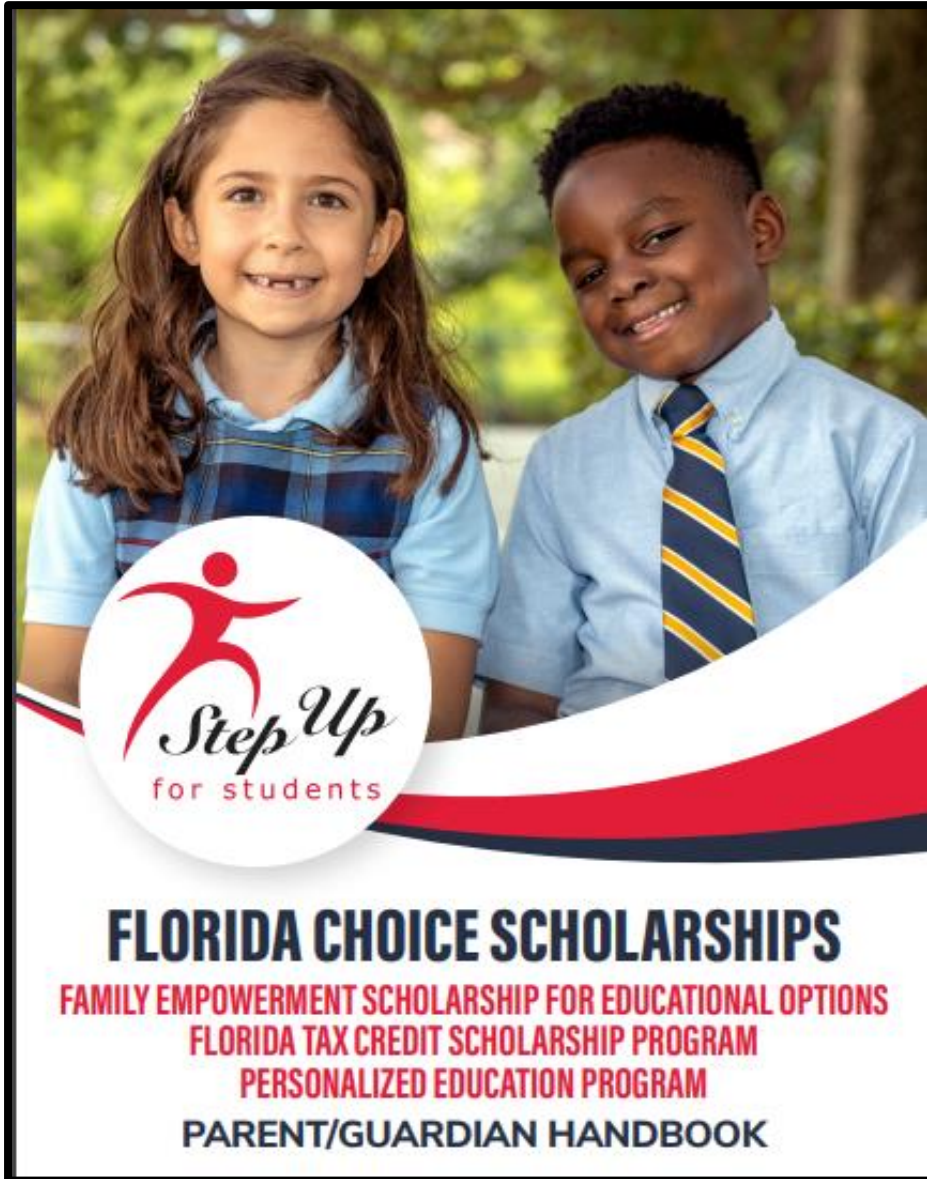
MyScholarShop New Vendors



 CURIOSITY BOX SUBSCRIPTION FOR THINKERS	The Curiosity Box is the world's first subscription for thinkers. Premium science toys, experiments, and collectibles designed for curious adults & delivered to your door 4 times per year.	<u>Curiosity Box</u>
	Sign up for a Baketivity subscription and you'll receive monthly boxes bursting with new recipes, activity booklets, and your favorite easy-peasy baking kits, delivered right to your door.	<u>Baketivity</u>
	Each Cooper Kit has a new mission, storyline and theme. It's an immersive family adventure that's fascinating for both kids and adults! The kit's story-based adventure unfolds through five fun projects; building, STEM, creativity, games and shipping box engineering. Each kit is a rich diversity of projects, resources, and treasures!	<u>Cooper & Kid</u>
	As a leading education technology provider, we blend education best practices, innovative technology, and insightful creativity that results in engaging, effective educational experiences that bring learning to life. Our flagship product, ABCmouse <i>Early Learning Academy</i> , is one of the most comprehensive digital early learning resources for children ages 2-8.	<u>Age of Learning</u>
	Fun-Schooling is using kids' natural talents and passions to ignite a love for learning. Then, no more nagging and prodding is needed, and homeschooling becomes fun! Many thousands of families have Flipped to Fun-Schooling and aren't looking back. We have over 50 different Core Journals based on a myriad of interests. These journals organize the learning of all the core subjects revolving around their passions.	<u>Fun-Schooling</u>

Click on the links in the last column to reach each company's homepage.





FTC/FES-EO Parent/Guardian Handbook

FTC/FES-EO Parent/Guardian Handbook



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

Over the next few slides, we will show you where to find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we get about the FTC/FES-EO scholarship.



At what age can we apply for a student to receive the FTC/EO scholarship?

Age Requirements

- A student entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the applying school year.
- A student entering first grade must be 6 years old on or before September 1 of the applying school year.





Can I receive multiple scholarships simultaneously?

Multiple Scholarships

A student may utilize only one scholarship.

Families who are awarded more than one scholarship must indicate to Step Up the scholarship that they intend to utilize for the school year and decline the scholarship that they will not utilize. To decline the FTC/FES-EO scholarship, please complete [this](#) survey.

Failing to decline a scholarship may result in delayed funding.



Refer to p. 4 of the Parent Handbook



What information is required from families during the renewal process?

Information Required for Renewal

Once a student qualifies for a scholarship, as long as the student is a resident of the state of Florida and eligible to enroll in a Florida public school, the student remains eligible for the scholarship until he or she returns to public school, graduates from High School or turns 21, whichever occurs first, regardless of income.



Refer to p. 5 of the Parent Handbook

Information Required for Renewal

Documents required for all renewal applications

- Proof of Florida Residency (and spouse/partner, if applicable)
- Social Security Number
 - For yourself
 - For your student
- Birth certificate for a student entering K and 1st grade





We are currently a family on the FES-EO scholarship and would like to apply for the FES-UA as our child received a diagnosis this year. What are the requirements to qualify for the FES-UA scholarship?

Switching a New Scholarship

Who Is Eligible?

Students from age 3 through grade 12 or age 22, whichever comes first, who have a specific diagnosis.

- ✓ Anaphylaxis
- ✓ Autism spectrum disorder
- ✓ Being a high-risk child
- ✓ Cerebral Palsy
- ✓ Down syndrome
- ✓ Emotional or a behavioral disability
- ✓ Hearing impairment, including deafness
- ✓ Hospital or homebound
- ✓ Identification as dual sensory impaired
- ✓ Intellectual disability
- ✓ Language impairment
- ✓ Muscular dystrophy
- ✓ Orthopedic impairment
- ✓ Other health impairment
- ✓ Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- ✓ Prader-Willi syndrome
- ✓ Rare diseases
- ✓ Specific learning disability
- ✓ Speech impairment
- ✓ Spina bifida
- ✓ Traumatic brain injury
- ✓ Visual impairment, including blindness
- ✓ Williams syndrome

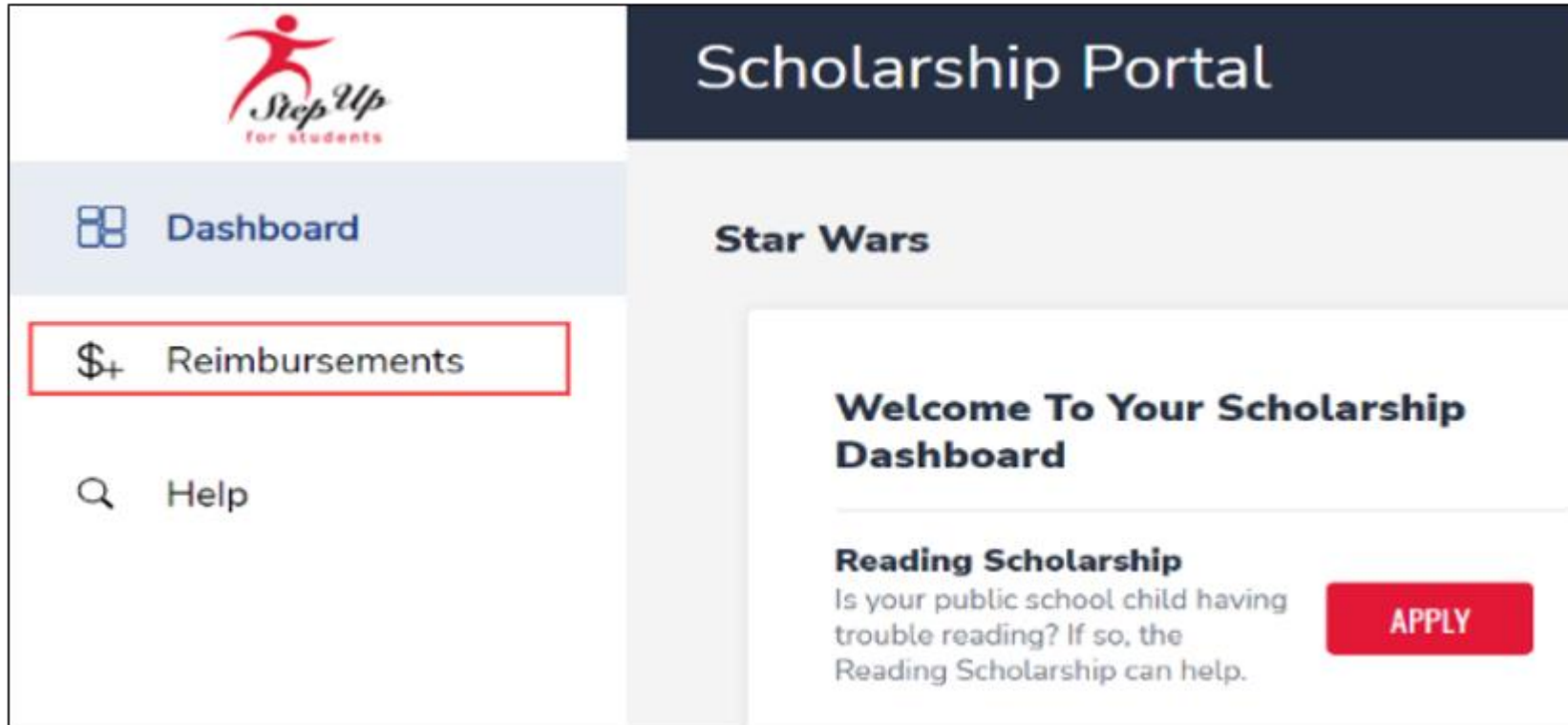


FES-UA Handbook



Where do FTC/EO families submit reimbursements for their students?

FTC/FES-EO Reimbursements




Once you are signed into EMA, click Reimbursements on the left panel of the Dashboard

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/6MSa1goqACM?si=y8WzOOVAgPVX37i6>



Can you provide more guidance around tutoring reimbursements please? My reimbursement was placed “On Hold”.

Tutoring Reimbursement Requirements



MILLER TUTORING
September 29, 2023

Bill To		Payment To Tutor	
Parent/Guardian	Susan Doe (mother)	Tutor	Thompson Miller
Student	Johnny Doe (student) 12345 Hodges Rd Jacksonville, FL 32114	Address	1553 Cedar Bay Rd Jacksonville, FL 32218
Phone	904-524-3004	Phone	904-327-6446
Payment Due	September 29, 2023	Email	Thompsonma31@gmail.com
Amount Due	\$600.00	License #	1251543
		Expiration Date	06/30/2024

Qty.	Item#	Description	Unit Price	Line Total
1	TUT	Tutoring – Reading Comprehension / Strategies Location – Student's home private tutoring session Tutoring sessions 09/25/2023 – 09/29/2023	\$600.00	\$600.00
1	PMT	Check #145	(\$600.00)	\$0.00
Estimated Final Balance Due				\$0.00

Tutoring Invoice Requirements:

Student's full name, date(s) of service (including the month, day, and year), hourly rate and quantity of hours, type of service rendered, provider's full name, business address and license number, and amount due.

Refer to the p.16-18 of the Parent Handbook

Tutoring Reimbursement Requirements



Huntington Learning Center
6300 N Wickham Rd. Ste. 125
Melbourne, FL 32940
(321) 757-0379

Huntington
LEARNING CENTER

Invoice

07/05/2023

Invoice for
Susan Smith

Description	Qty(hrs.)	Unit price	Total price
Tuition - by the hour	16	\$89.00	\$1,424.00

Notes:
Taught by:
David Perry
Doctorate in Education Administration
Columbia University, 1986

Subtotal **\$1,424.00**

\$1,424.00

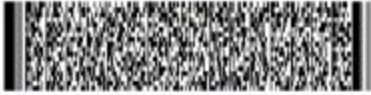
Missing Information:

Based on the sample provided here, this invoice for tutoring services would be placed “On Hold.” It only has the tutor’s name and not the tutor’s credentials. It also is missing the dates of service.

Tutoring Reimbursement Requirements

**Florida Teacher Certification Examinations
SCORE REPORT**

Social Security Number: 123456789 Score Report Date: October 24, 2012



This barcode contains unique examinee information (including Pass/Fail status). Any attempt to manipulate this barcode and/or the contents of the score report will result in distortion of the barcode and/or mismatch of data.

Passing the Subject Area Examination, the Professional Education Test, and the multiple-choice subtests of the General Knowledge Test requires a scale score of 200 or higher on each. Passing the General Knowledge Essay requires a score of 6 or higher.


Current Test Administration Results

Test	Status	Date
Elementary Education K-6	Pass	October 18, 2012
Exceptional Student Education K-12	Pass	October 16, 2012

Cumulative Results* as of October 24, 2012

Test	Status	Date
Elementary Education K-6	Pass	October 18, 2012
Exceptional Student Education K-12	Pass	October 16, 2012
Professional Education (PED)	Pass	September 28, 2012
GK Subtest 4: Mathematics	Pass	December 30, 2011
GK Subtest 3: Reading	Pass	August 5, 2011
GK Subtest 2: English Language Skills (ELS)	Pass	August 5, 2011
GK Subtest 1: Essay	Pass	August 5, 2011

*Includes all Subject Area Examinations passed, your status on the Professional Education Test, and your status on each section of the General Knowledge Test and/or CLAST, as of the score reporting date. Note that for the purposes of certification, General Knowledge and CLAST are interchangeable; equivalent subtests from either test may be used in combination across the 2 tests to satisfy the basic skills requirement. If applicable, your status on each section of German or Speech test, as of the score reporting date, is also provided.



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[Logon](#) | [Contact Us](#)

License Details

Press "Search Results" to return to the Search Results list.
Press "New Search Criteria" to do another search of this type.
Press "New Search" to start a new search.

License Number: _____ *Current Date: 01/17/2024 03:15 PM*

Name: _____

License Type: 5 Year Renewable Professional

License Status: Certified

Expiry Date: 06/30/2024

Effective Rank Date: 07/01/2014

District Affiliation

Licensee's Role: Individual

Related Party Role: District

Related Party Name	License Type	Address
DUVAL	District	JACKSONVILLE , FL DUVAL 32207

Subject Area(s)	Rank	Status	Effective Date	Expiration Date
Prekindergarten/Primary Education	5 Year Renewable Professional	Issued	11/30/2018	06/30/2024
Autism Spectrum Disorders	5 Year Renewable Professional	Issued	07/01/2014	06/30/2024
English for Speakers of Other Languages	5 Year Renewable Professional	Issued	07/01/2014	06/30/2024
Exceptional Student Education	5 Year Renewable Professional	Issued	07/01/2014	06/30/2024

[Search Results](#)
[New Search Criteria](#)
[New Search](#)
[Print](#)

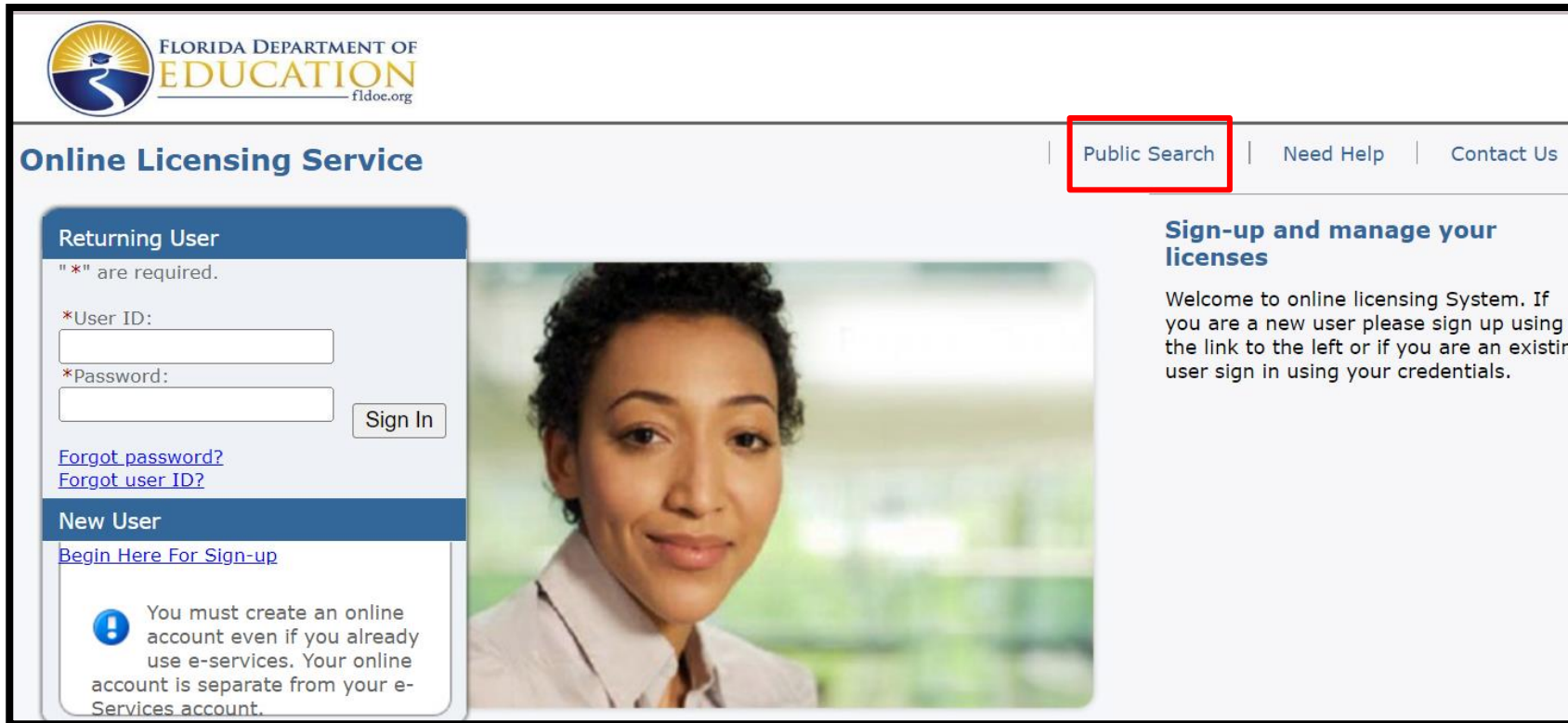
Part-Time Tutoring Instructor Credentials:

A College Degree in the subject area, Florida Department of Education license number, or Florida Teacher Certification Exam Score

Full-Time Tutoring Instructor Credentials:

A valid and active Florida Department of Education license

Steps for Locating Instructor's Credentials



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
fldoe.org

Online Licensing Service

Public Search | Need Help | Contact Us

Returning User
"*" are required.


*User ID:

*Password:

Sign In

[Forgot password?](#)
[Forgot user ID?](#)

New User
[Begin Here For Sign-up](#)

 You must create an online account even if you already use e-services. Your online account is separate from your e-Services account.

Sign-up and manage your licenses

Welcome to online licensing System. If you are a new user please sign up using the link to the left or if you are an existing user sign in using your credentials.

Step 1:

Navigate to
<https://flcertify.fldoe.org/datamart/mainMenu.do>

Click on “Public Search”

Steps for Locating Instructor's Credentials

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
fdoe.org

Logon | Contact Us

License Verification

Click on the type of search below to enter search criteria.
Press "Previous" to return to the previous screen.

[Search by Educator's Name](#)

[Search by Educator's Name within a Specific License Type](#)

[Search by License Number](#)

[Search by City](#)

[Search by County](#)

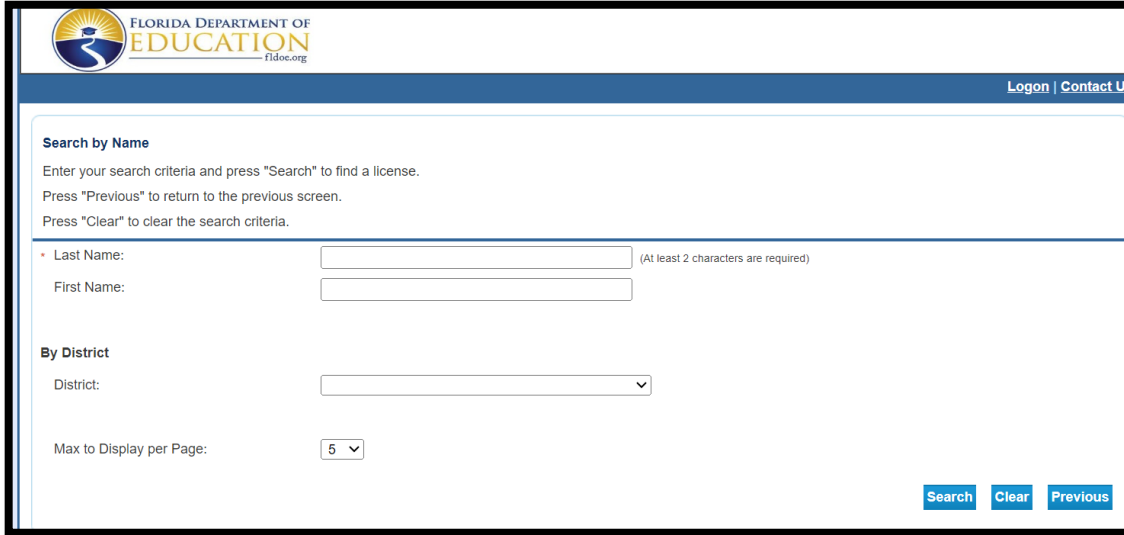
Previous

Step II:

There are two options you may use to search for the instructor's credentials.

1. Educator's Name
2. License Number

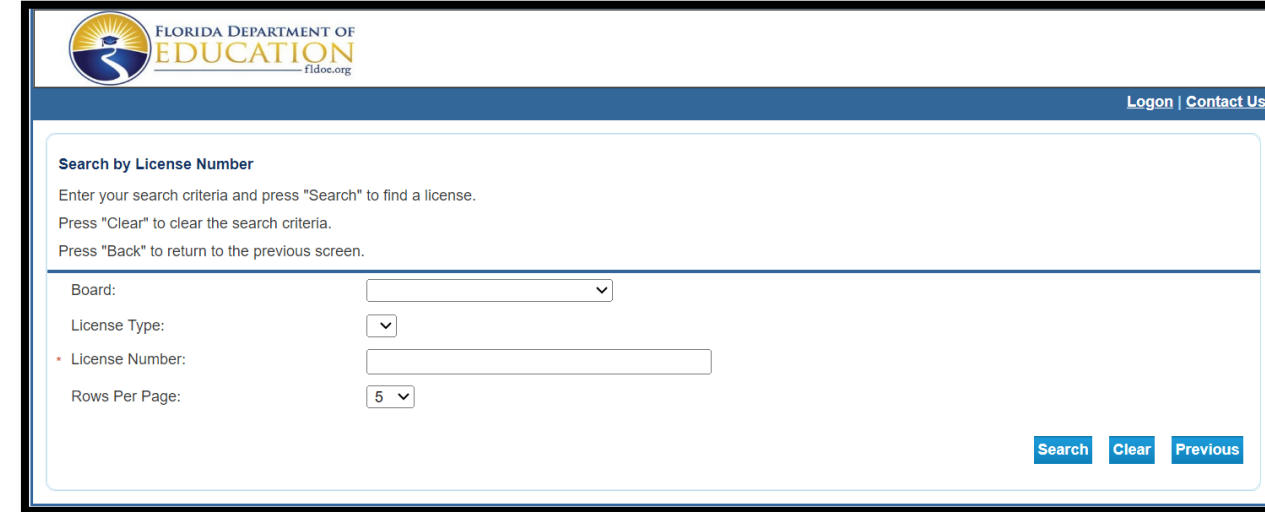
Steps for Locating Instructor's Credentials



The screenshot shows the Florida Department of Education website interface. At the top left is the logo with the text "FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" and "fldoe.org". To the right of the logo are links for "Logon" and "Contact Us". The main content area is titled "Search by Name". Below the title, there is instructional text: "Enter your search criteria and press 'Search' to find a license. Press 'Previous' to return to the previous screen. Press 'Clear' to clear the search criteria." The form includes two input fields for "Last Name:" and "First Name:", with a note "(At least 2 characters are required)" next to the last name field. Below these is a "By District" section with a "District:" dropdown menu. At the bottom left, there is a "Max to Display per Page:" dropdown menu set to "5". At the bottom right, there are three buttons: "Search", "Clear", and "Previous".

Step III by Name:

Enter the instructor's last name and first name; the district field is optional. Then press "search."



The screenshot shows the Florida Department of Education website interface. At the top left is the logo with the text "FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" and "fldoe.org". To the right of the logo are links for "Logon" and "Contact Us". The main content area is titled "Search by License Number". Below the title, there is instructional text: "Enter your search criteria and press 'Search' to find a license. Press 'Clear' to clear the search criteria. Press 'Back' to return to the previous screen." The form includes a "Board:" dropdown menu, a "License Type:" dropdown menu, a "License Number:" input field, and a "Rows Per Page:" dropdown menu set to "5". At the bottom right, there are three buttons: "Search", "Clear", and "Previous".

Step III by License Number:

Enter the instructor's license number. The other fields are optional. Then press "search."

Reimbursement Best Practices



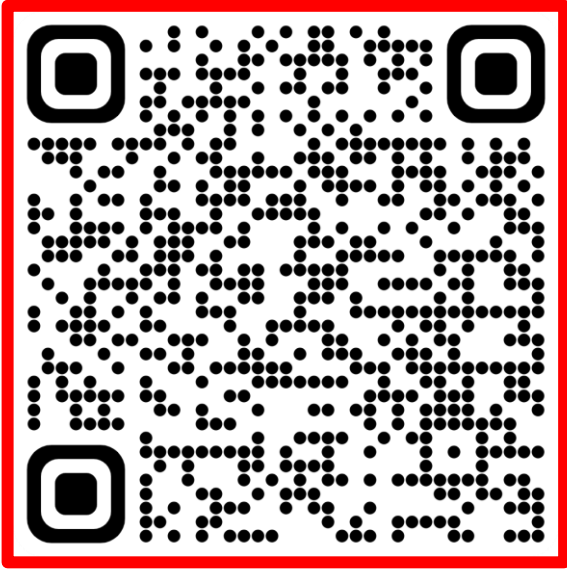
Need help identifying the proper documentation needed when submitting a reimbursement?

We have some help for you. Use the link or the QR code to access our newest resource, “Reimbursement Best Practices for Families”.

[Reimbursement Best Practices for Families](#)



Finding Information and Resources



FTC/EO Parent Handbook



Purchasing Guide



January Open House



February Open House

DID YOU MISS AN FTC/FES-EO OPEN HOUSE?
NOT TO WORRY, WE HAVE THE RECORDINGS HERE FOR YOUR REVIEW.

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2 videos

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1 video

Hope WV Parent

[View full playlist](#)

4 videos

Step Up Schools

[View full playlist](#)

7 videos

Step Up Parents

[View full playlist](#)

3 videos

Step Up Parent

[View full playlist](#)

Contact Us

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET



Call: 877-735-7837



**Chat:
www.stepupforstudents.org**



**Thank you for
attending our
webinar**

Upcoming Webinar
April 11, 2024

See you next time!

