Step Up
for students

FES-UA Family Open House

September 21, 2023

Agenda

- Scholarship Updates & Reminders
- Purchasing Guide – instructional materials and specialized services
- Reimbursements in EMA
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

Scholarship Updates & Reminders

Funding Information and Resources

FES-UA Handbook

Purchasing Guide

Funding Has Arrived!

FES-UA families received funding in student ESAs.

- The received amount constitutes 25% of the yearly award.
- Step Up will receive funding from the Department of Education for the upcoming quarters on the following dates: November 1st, February 1st and April 1st
- Funds will be deposited into the student's accounts within two weeks of Step Up For Students' receipt of funds from the state.
- Renewal families will still access MyScholarShop and complete reimbursements in the Legacy system. Newly funded families (funded for the first time ever) will utilize EMA for MyScholarShop and reimbursements.

MyScholarShop

MyScholarShop New Vendors

Excalibur Solutions STEM Academy®	**Excalibur Solutions STEM Academy** offers STEM education opportunities that focus on the Technology and Engineering aspects of STEM. We teach computer programming, electronics, 3D design, and other concepts that develop 21st century skills and prepare students to pursue a STEM-related field in college or as a career. Our content is available as a subscription to a collection of self-paced, instructor-led video lessons grouped into projects that highlight specific concepts or technologies. We currently have over 550 lessons, and we strive to add on average two new projects (between 30 and 40 additional lessons) each month. With us, learning is authentic, project-based, and interdisciplinary. **Website: https://stem.excalibur-solutions.com/**	
MR. D MATH	**Mr. D Math** offers a complete solution as an adaptive learning management system with a personalized learning platform, individualization, differentiation, and personalization. Mr. D left the public school system to develop an online curriculum for all levels of high-school math, from pre-algebra to pre-calculus. His unique and effective approach allows students to understand math as a language, raising their test scores on standardized tests. **Website: https://mrdmath.com/**	
HOME SCIENCE TOOLS	**Home School Tools** hands-on science approach sparks curiosity, fuels wonder, and ignites inquiry for a memorable, highly engaged learning experience. Their products enable teachers in the home and classroom by simplifying prep time, adapting to multi-age and classroom groups, and making teaching easier, regardless of your science background. HST products and resources have been developed by teachers, scientists, engineers, and homeschoolers who together have decades of science education experience. Trusted and proven in the home and classroom alike. **Website: https://www.homesciencetools.com/**	

FES-UA
Purchasing Guide

Purchasing Guide

Florida state law now requires Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs), like Step Up For Students, to prepare a purchasing guide for parents/guardians of scholarship students and that the guide be updated at least annually.

Scan the QR code for a direct link to the new purchasing guide.

Purchasing Guide (continued)

The purchasing guide:

- ✓Creates clear and consistent guidelines across all SFOs.
- ✓Allows ongoing feedback from the families we serve.
- ✓Clarifies some of the categories in the former ”pre-approved” list
- ✓Gives more insight into how parents can and cannot use their child’s scholarship.

Highlights from the Purchasing Guide

Highlighted items in the purchasing guide:

- Gardening or horticultural lessons and supplies.
- Cooking classes and supplies.
- Programming/Digital production lessons.
- Ticketed events, including plays, musicals, or orchestra…

…and much, much more!!

Approved Usage Of Funds

- Instructional Materials
- Curriculum
- Specialized Services
- Tuition and Fees at an approved private school
- Standardized Testing Fees
- Contributions to Approved College Savings Programs
- Contracted Services provided by A Public School or School District
- Fees for Specialized Summer Education Programs
- Fees for Specialized After-School Education Programs
- Transition Services provided by Job Coaches
- Annual Educational Evaluation Fees
- Tuition and Fees for an approved VPK Program provider or an Approved School Readiness Provider
- Horse Therapy (PATH certified center)
- Music and Art Therapy

See page 11 in the Parent Handbook

Electives

Lessons, equipment, or consumables generally associated with elective or enrichment (non-core academic subjects), may be purchased, including:

- Music Lessons
- Art Lessons
- Cooking Supplies
- Animal Husbandry Lesson or Training Programs
- Mechanical Lessons or Training Programs
- Garden or Horticultural Lessons or Training Programs
- Enrichment Classes/Courses
- And many more…

See page 7 in the Purchasing Guide for the full list.

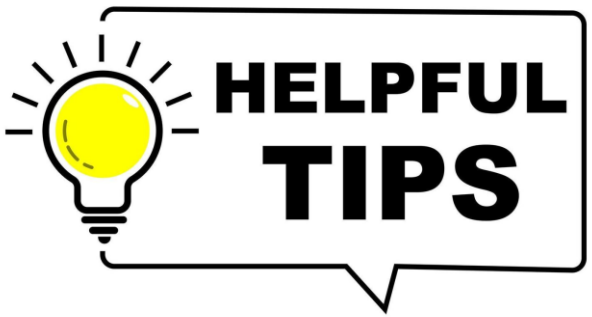
Electives Eligible Provider Requirement

Eligible providers for enrichment or elective subjects should have at least one of the following:

- A current Florida educator's certificate.
- At least 3 years of experience in the relevant subject area as demonstrated by employment records.
- Currently enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution as a student of the relevant subject area.
- A degree from a postsecondary educational institution in the relevant subject area.
- A certification or national accreditation in the relevant subject area.

See page 8 in the Purchasing Guide

Important Notes



- Many items and providers are already "Pre-Approved" and located in the 23-24 FES-UA purchasing guide.
- A Pre-Authorization process is provided to assist with reimbursements. The Pre-Authorization process may be used to determine the eligibility of a purchase prior to spending funds. In some categories, Pre-Authorization is required.
- Some Instructional Materials have restrictions (such as age restrictions), so familiarize yourself with these before submitting for reimbursement.
- There are also specific requirements for tutors and other providers to ensure a high-quality educational experience.
- MyScholarShop (MSS) is available for purchases and comes directly from your ESA account.

Purchasing Guide Cont...

Instructional Materials

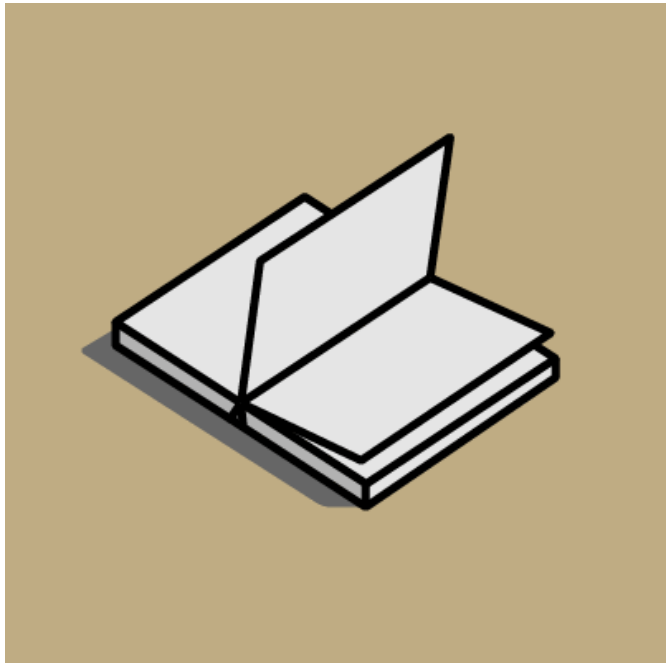
At Home Classroom Furnishing Update

- **ADDED** desks, chairs, storage, picnic tables, indoor projectors, projector screens.
- Moved televisions under this category
- Frequency of Purchase: These items are still only allowed every 2 years.
- **Please note:** Multiples of any item under "At Home Classroom Furnishing" are not permitted

See page 8 in the Purchasing Guide

Books

- Books are neither capped in annual spending nor subject to frequency of purchase. Two copies of a book are permitted in the event that the second copy is used as a parent or companion reader. However, requests for more than two copies of the same book will be denied.
- Books with content that may pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.



Digital Devices

Frequency of Purchase:
2 years per device type

- This category was previously known as “Device-Digital.”
- **ADDED** web-centric laptops (such as Chromebooks and Surfaces).
- **ADDED** Game consoles must now be purchased with an educational game.
- **REMOVED** smartphones and smartwatches
- UPDATED Game consoles purchased with educational software
- What else is covered: desktop computer, laptop computer, tablet, e-Reader

Training and Maintenance for Digital Devices

- Scholarship funds may be used to train parents/guardians or students on how to use digital devices, digital peripheral devices, or assistive technology devices.
- Maintenance agreements for eligible devices purchased with FES-UA funds are eligible. Maintenance agreements are defined as service agreements with a device manufacturer or vendor to support regular service on that device.

- **Please note:** Maintenance agreements **do not** include warranties, extended warranties, or service contracts.

Specialized Services

Pre-Approved Specialized Services

These are the **ONLY** pre-approved specialized services for the 23-24 fiscal year:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services
- Occupational Therapist services
- Physical Therapist services
- Listening and Spoken Language Specialist services
- Psychotherapy or counseling by a Florida licensed Psychologist, Mental Health Counselor, or Clinical Social Worker
- Music Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Horse therapy
  (must be a PATH certified center)

PLEASE NOTE:

If a specialized service is not listed here, you should complete a pre-authorization request to see if the service can be authorized to be paid or reimbursed with FES-UA funds for your child.

Share Your Feedback With Us!

As you are utilizing the Purchasing Guide, we have created a feedback form and survey for parents/guardians.

We encourage you to utilize this form to provide feedback and suggestions for the Purchasing Guide.

Step Up will review these suggestions periodically and implement improvements when appropriate. Please scan the QR code to provide feedback.

Reimbursements in EMA

Newly funded students only

HELP! Where Do I Submit my Reimbursements?

Renewal FES-UA Students

Submit reimbursements in

LEGACY PARENT PORTAL

↑

Renewal FES-UA students (received funding in 2022-23)

DO NOT submit reimbursements for any of these students in the new EMA system! Reimbursements for these students will transition to EMA later in the fall of 2023.

If a reimbursement for a renewal FES-UA student is submitted in EMA before this transition, it will be denied and may cause overall delays in the processing of the student's reimbursement.

New FES-UA Students

Submit reimbursements in

EMA Education Market Assistant

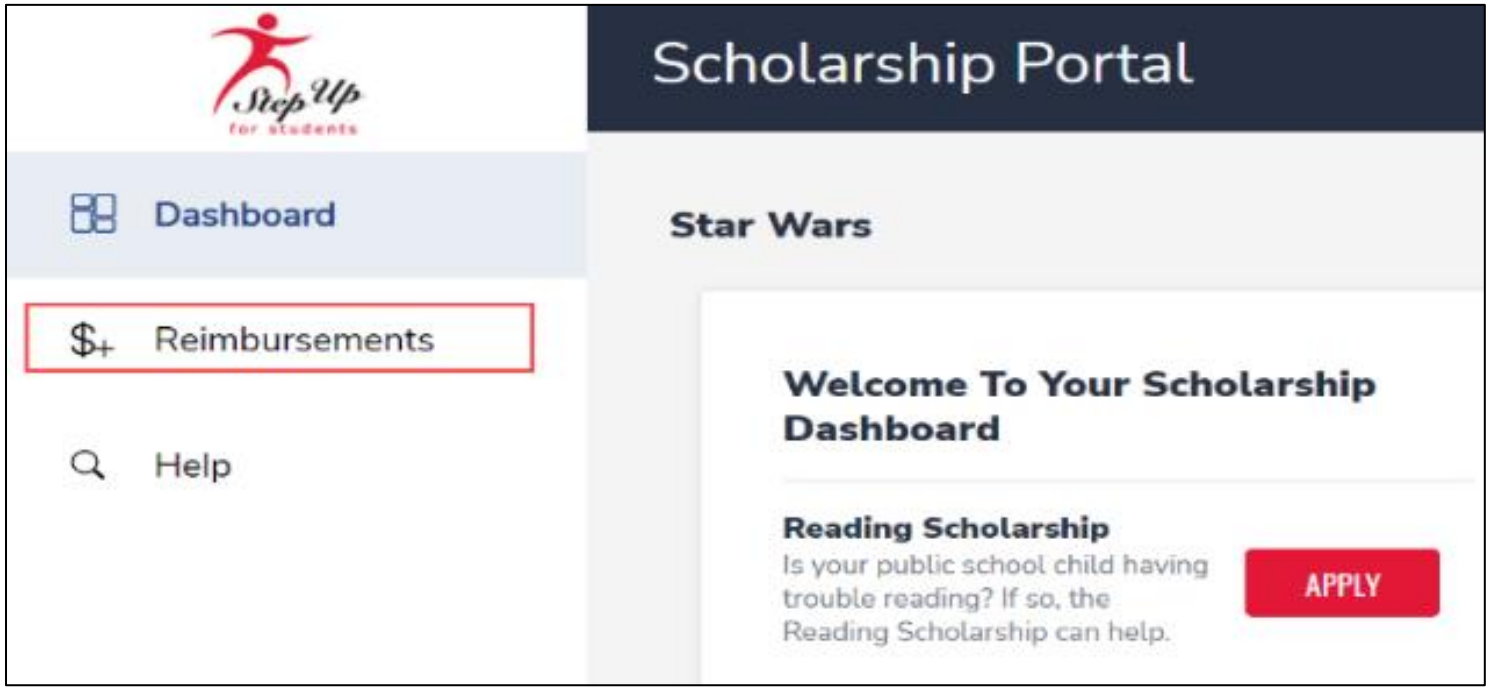
New FES-UA students, including those who remained on the waitlist (did not receive funding in 2022-23)*

All (renewal and new) FES-EO or FTC students*

All (renewal and new) New Worlds students

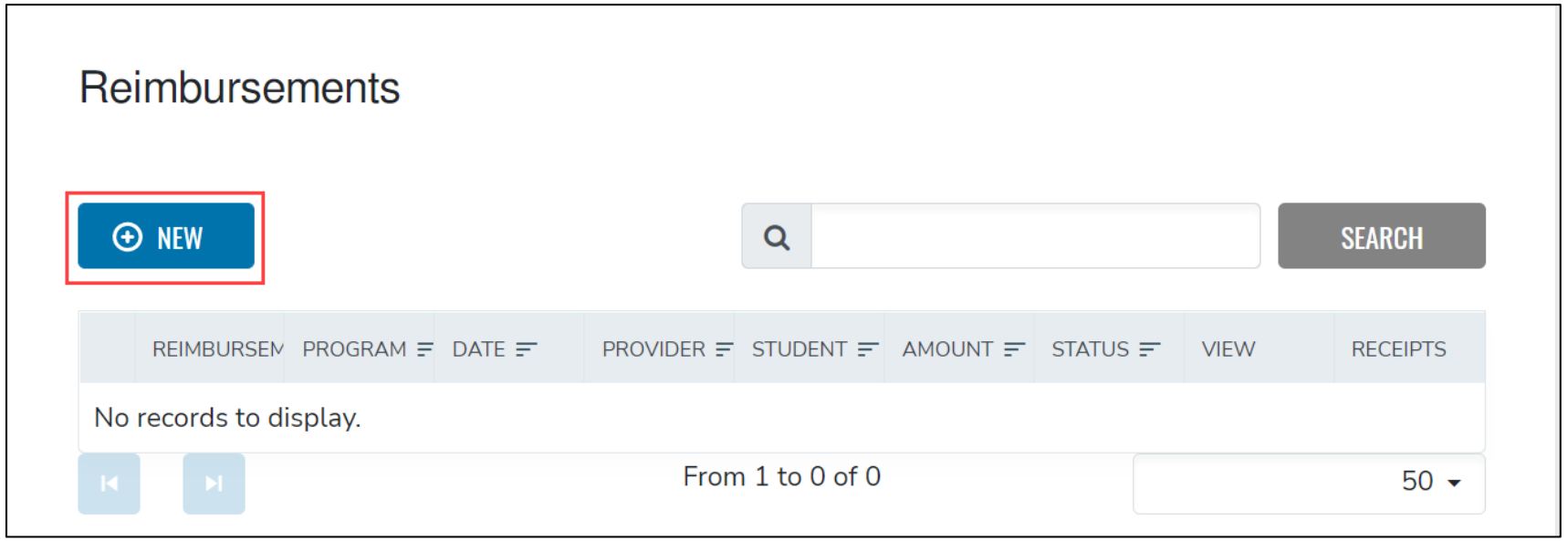
*DO NOT submit reimbursements for any of these students in the legacy Parent Portal system!

Reimbursements in EMA



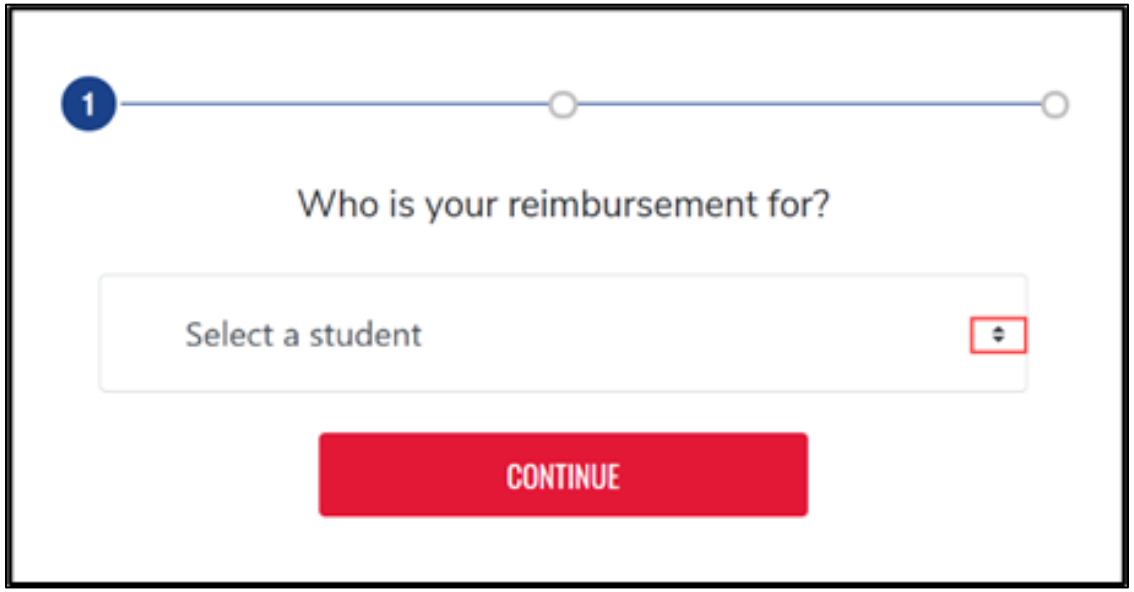
Once you are signed into EMA, click Reimbursements on the left panel of the Dashboard

Reimbursements in EMA



From the Reimbursements screen, select NEW

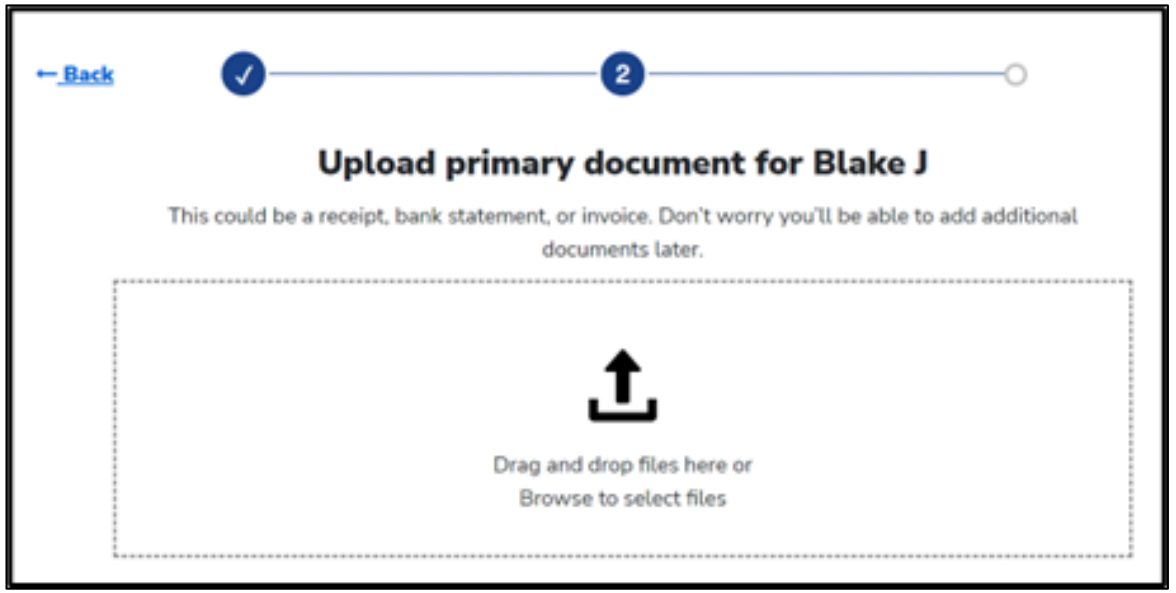
Reimbursements in EMA



From the dropdown menu, select a student, and then select CONTINUE.

Reimbursements in EMA

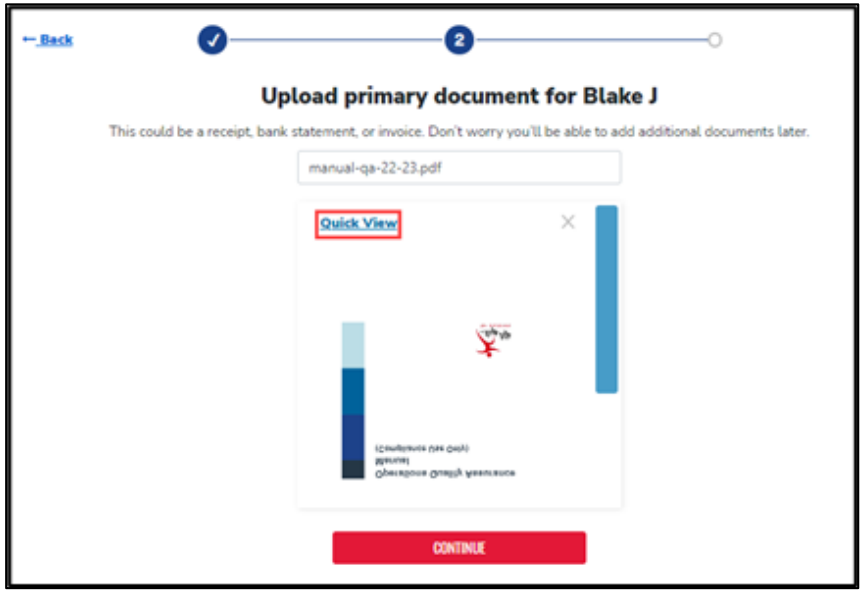
Drag-and-drop a file onto the ⬆ icon to upload the primary document or receipt for the student selected



Note:

- You will have the opportunity to upload additional documents later in the process.
- The file must be a png, jpg, jpeg or PDF.

Reimbursements in EMA

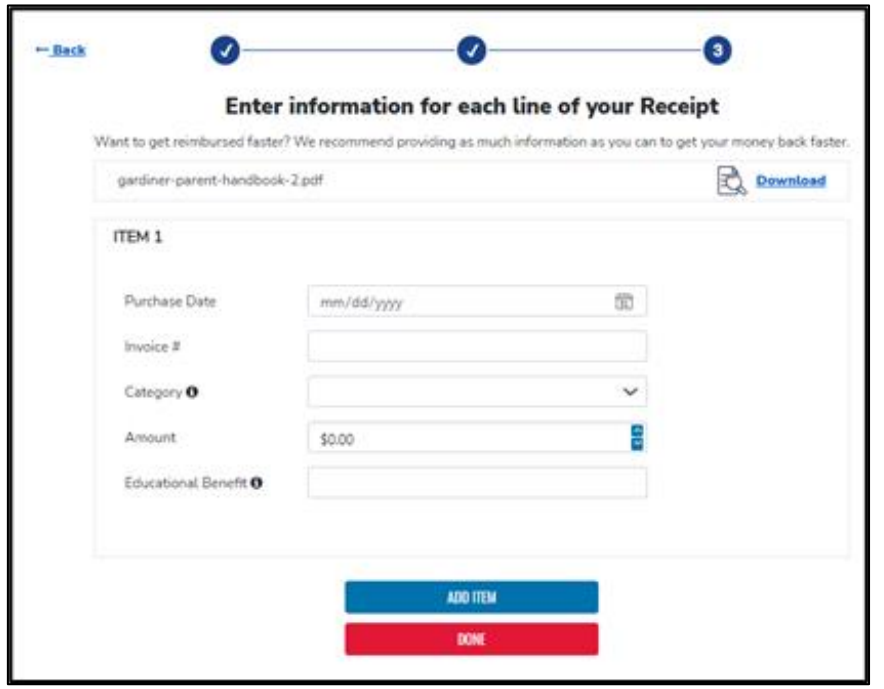


Select **Quick View** to review the document or receipt, as necessary, and then select **CONTINUE**.

Select **CONTINUE** again.

Reimbursements in EMA

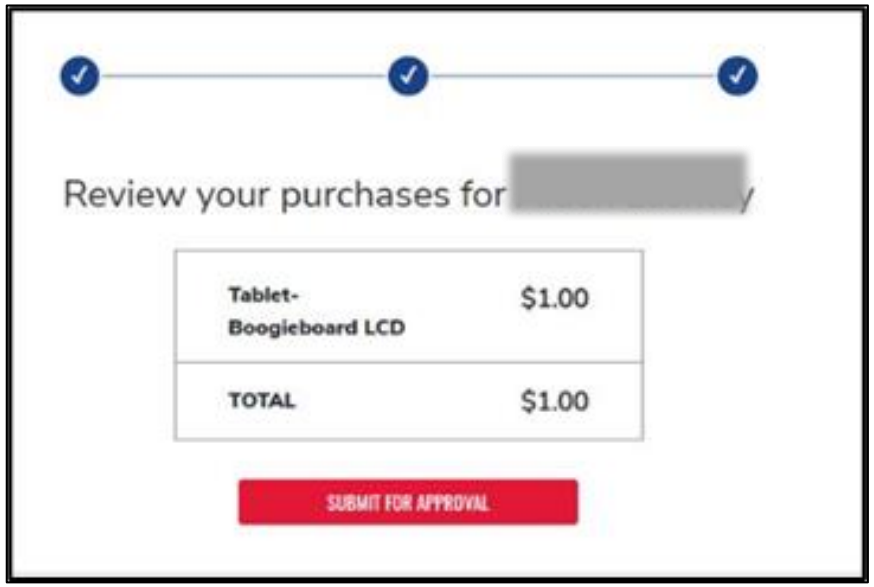
Complete the **required fields** for each item. To add another item to the reimbursement request select **ADD ITEM**. When all items are added and fields are complete, select **DONE**.



Note:

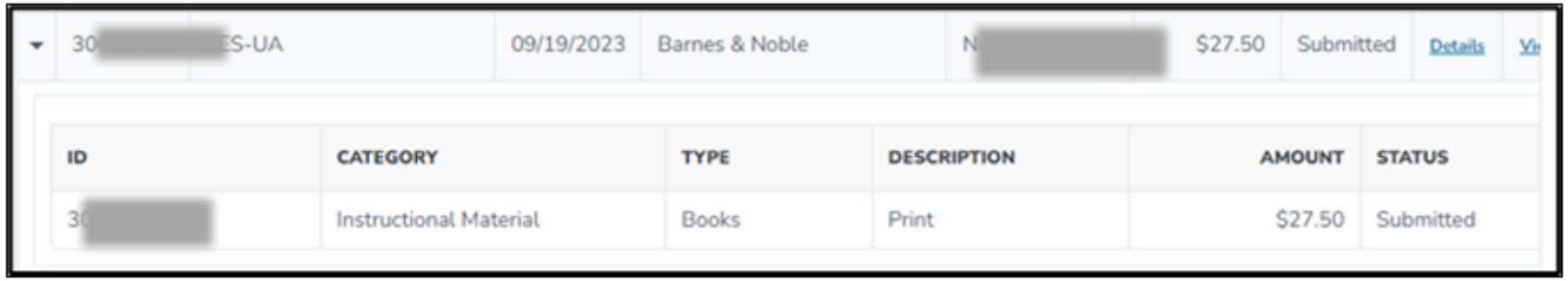
- Select **Download** to review the primary document or receipt uploaded to the reimbursement.
- Select **Back** to go back and make any edits necessary.

Reimbursements in EMA



The review screen displays. Select **SUBMIT FOR APPROVAL** to complete the reimbursement request.

Reimbursements in EMA



▾	30[redacted]ES-UA		09/19/2023	Barnes & Noble	N[redacted]	$27.50	Submitted	Details Vi

ID	CATEGORY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATUS
3[redacted]	Instructional Material	Books	Print	$27.50	Submitted

To check the status of a submitted reimbursement, simply click **REIMBURSEMENTS** again and you will be able to see that status of each reimbursement you have submitted.

RESOURCES

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)

WWW.CHADD.ORG

CHADD

We believe in improving the lives of people affected by ADHD.

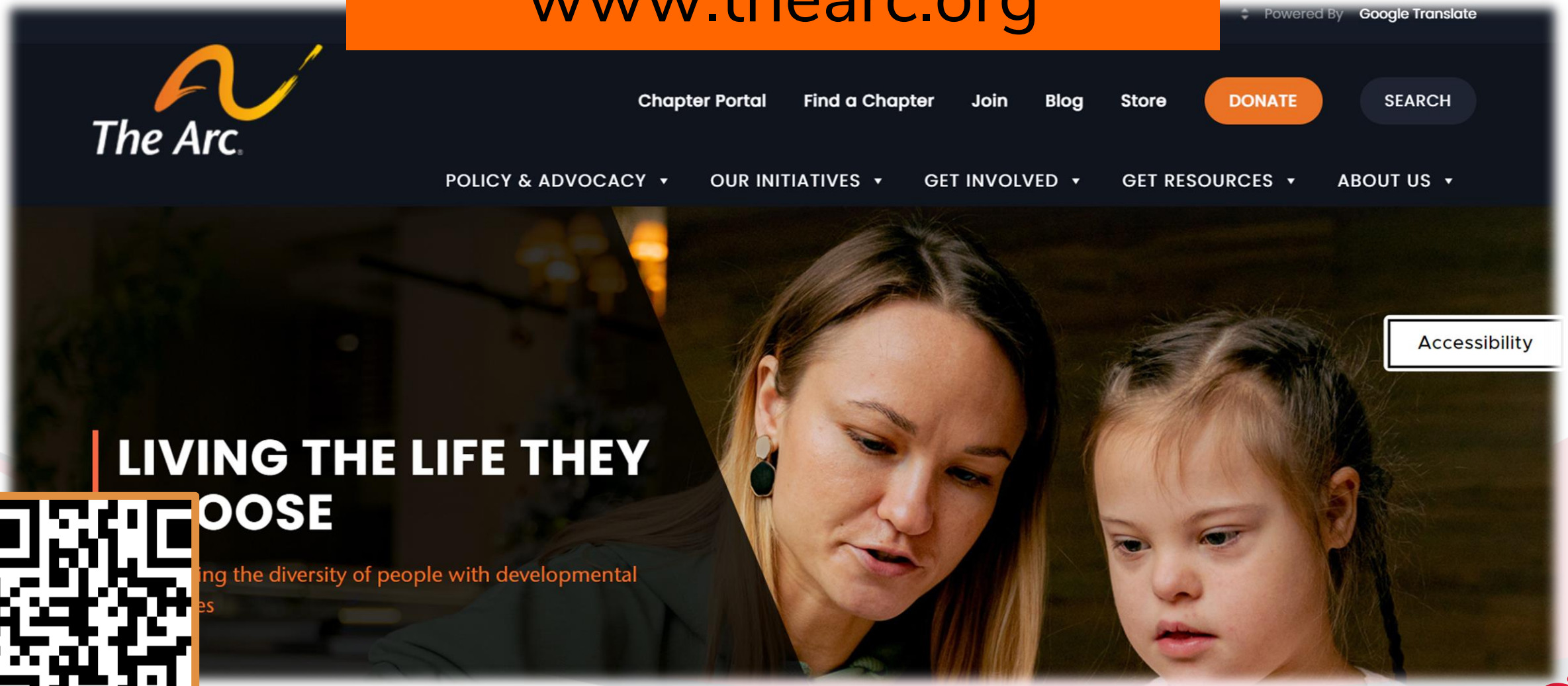
In working towards our mission, the behavior of the CHADD staff and volunteer leadership is determined by the following core values:

- Integrity
- Respectful, open communication
- Quality of our work product and productivity in our work effort, to assure sustained customer satisfaction
- Flexibility and teamwork
- A demonstrated commitment to diversity in all its forms
- Dedicated to fulfilling CHADD's mission with passion and enthusiasm

Parenting a Child with ADHD

The Arc
For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

www.thearc.org



Q&A

Q. You Had Questions?

A. We've Got Answers!

Registration Questions and Answers

- **Are siblings of an FES-UA student automatically eligible as well? What scholarship options are available for siblings of students with FES-UA Scholarship?**
  - No, siblings will not automatically qualify because the other child is a recipient of the FES-UA Scholarship. With the passing of HB1, all students that are eligible for K-12 Florida public school, regardless of income, are eligible to receive the FTC (Florida Tax Credit) Scholarship or the FES-EO (Florida Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options) Scholarship.

- **Will the scholarship be considered as income for tax purposes?**
  - No, the Florida scholarships are not considered income.

- **If my child remains in public school, can I still use my FES-UA scholarship to pay for his speech therapy, occupational therapy, or tutoring?**
  - A child that is enrolled full-time in a public or charter school cannot use the FES-UA scholarship.

Registration Questions and Answers

- **My daughter has been awarded FTC/FES-EO and FES-UA. When all of the funds in the FES-UA scholarship have been used up, can I then start using the FTC/FES-EO or vice versa?**
  - Families may apply for multiple scholarships **BUT** can only use the funds from one scholarship in a school year.
- **How do I decline the FES-EO scholarship if my child was awarded an FES-UA scholarship?**
  - To decline a scholarship, the parent/guardian should scan the QR code or go to this link to notify SUFS that they would like to decline a scholarship: https://tinyurl.com/d7433ubr

- **How long will my child be waitlisted? Can I apply for reimbursement for expenses while they are waitlisted?**
  - There is no definitive amount of time which a child may be waitlisted. You may not apply for reimbursements while the child is waitlisted. If they are removed from the waitlist and funded, you may then request reimbursement for any pre-approved item or expense made on or after July 1, 2023.

Registration Questions and Answers

- **If money is left over from my FES-UA child's scholarship, can I use these funds for a sibling's tuition?**
  - No, you may not apply funds from one child's scholarship to a sibling's tuition. You may use it for other expenses for the student that has the FES-UA scholarship such as therapies, digital devices, extracurricular lessons and many other options.

- **We received a voucher for VPK Preschool, is there a way to discontinue that and use the FES-UA Scholarship?**
  - If your preschooler has been awarded an FES-UA scholarship, do not provide a VPK voucher to your child's school. If you have already done so, please advise the school that you would like to have that voucher withdrawn. You may also contact your Early Learning Coalition for more assistance.

- **Does my FES-UA student have to attend a participating private school to be funded?**
  - No, an FES-UA student may also homeschool and still be funded; however, tuition and fees can only be reimbursed at an eligible participating private school.

Missed A Previous FES-UA Open House?

Topics covered in July

- Purchasing Guide
- Student Learning Plan
- Resources:
  - Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities
  - The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council

Topics covered in August

- 23-24 Reimbursements
- Reimbursement Cards
- Resources:
  - Family Network of Disabilities

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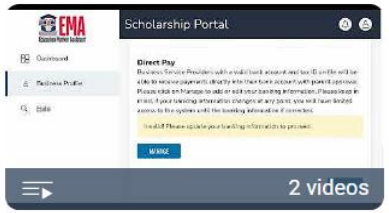

Hope WV Provider

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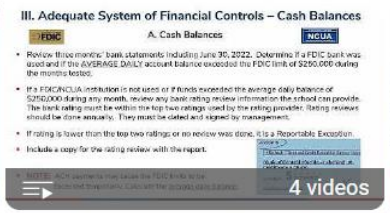

Step Up Schools

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Step Up Parents

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Step Up Parent

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Contact Us

Call: 877-735-7837

Email: FES-UA@sufs.org

Chat: www.stepupforstudents.org

Monday – Friday 8 AM – 6:30 PM ET

Frequently Asked Questions & EMA Support

Help Us Serve You Better...
PLEASE COMPLETE
OUR SURVEY!

Thank you for attending our webinar

Upcoming Webinar

October 19th

See you next time!