



2025-26 Florida Tax Credit and Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options Enrollment

Enrollment • Funding • Payment Schedule

Students need to be enrolled (including parent/guardian approval) 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 five to seven business days of school and parent/guardian approval. Once initiated, funds may take up to three to five business days to arrive in the school account.

Deadline for Completed EMA Enrollment*	Quarterly Funds come to Step Up from FLDOE	Payment Processing & Parent Approval	Payments to Schools
June 15, 2025 (Renewal**) July 15, 2025 (New & Renewal)	August 1, 2025 (Renewal) September 1, 2025 (New & Renewal)	It takes up to two weeks to fund student accounts once funds are received from the FLDOE. Invoices will be generated in EMA as students are funded for schools and parents/ guardians to approve in EMA.	Per Statute: Payment of tuition and fees invoices for full-time enrollment will be initiated within seven business days of school and parent/guardian approval.
September 30, 2025***	November 1, 2025		
December 15, 2025	February 1, 2026		
February 15, 2026****	April 1, 2026		

* Completed enrollments require school submission and parent/guardian approval. Step Up will communicate promptly if enrollment deadlines change.

** Students that did not renew their scholarship by 4/30/2025 will be presented as "New" students with funding that follows the timeline in the table.

*** Students must be enrolled by 9/30/25 to be presented to the FLDOE for 100% scholarship funding.

**** Only students previously eligible on the 1/15/26 file can be included in subsequent funding files.

PLEASE NOTE

Quarterly Dates

- Q1: July-August-September
- Q2: October-November-December
- Q3: January-February-March
- Q4: April-May-June

10 Day Rule

If a student attends their school for at least 10 days during a quarterly payment period, their school will receive the full distribution for that quarter. If a student transfers to a different participating school in the same quarter, the first school the student attended for 10 days or more during that quarter will receive the full quarter payment.



Enrollment/Funding

Students must be enrolled by 1/15/26 to be presented to the FLDOE for 50% scholarship funding. The last enrollment date for a first-time enrolled student to be eligible for funding is 1/15/26. Transfer students (previously enrolled and funded at a different private school) can be enrolled as late as 2/15/26.

Application Deadline

The last day to submit a scholarship application for the 2025-26 school year will be November 15, 2025. This process also requires parents and guardians to confirm the scholarship is being accepted or declined by December 15, 2025. The following students are excluded from the standard application deadline and can apply for a scholarship at any time during the school year:

- Dependents of active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces
- Students in foster care or out-of-home care
- Students who experience bullying or harassment incidents at their public school

For FES-UA and PEP students

- The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) and Personalized Education Program (PEP) do NOT require school enrollment for a child to be funded. FTC/FES-EO students are required to be enrolled in EMA.
- EMA enrollment functionality is for full-time enrollment only. If your school serves FES-UA homeschool and/or PEP students on a part-time basis, billing for these students must be done through the EMA Marketplace. Parents can also pay out-of-pocket and seek reimbursement.
- PEP scholarship students may pay for PEP Hybrid eligible private school programs directly through the EMA Marketplace for participating schools. PEP scholarship students may not utilize the school enrollment function in EMA.
- **Eligibility deadlines for FES-UA and PEP differ from FTC/FES-EO and can be found in the family handbook.**

Note

These dates are determined based on current information and could be subject to change. Additional supplemental deadlines and funding dates may also be added by the FLDOE. Any date additions or changes will be communicated by Step Up in a timely manner.