



Scholarship Program Switch Guide

This document explains how families can request a change (“switch”) from one Florida K–12 scholarship program to another for the 2026–27 school year. It includes important dates, eligibility rules, and what actions you may need to take based on your student’s current scholarship.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **Can my student switch from one scholarship program to another?**
Yes. Students may switch scholarships, but eligibility rules and required steps vary depending on your student’s current scholarship and the scholarship you want to switch to.
- **Switch limit:**
Students may switch scholarship programs one time per school year, per Florida Department of Education policy.
- **Helpful tips:**
 - Additional guidance and FAQs are available on the Step Up For Students website.
 - Some scholarship switches require assistance from a Step Up For Students support representative and cannot be completed in EMA.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **February 1 – June 15, 2026 (Renewal Student Switch Window)**
 - Switch submissions during this time, your renewal student may be eligible to receive funding for all four quarters (Quarters 1–4) through the new scholarship program. This means up to 100% of your student’s scholarship could come from the new program.
- *PEP Scholarship Important Note:**
- Requests to switch to the Personalized Education Program (PEP) must be submitted by April 30, 2026.
 - After you request the switch, your student will be placed in a “Pending Review” status while renewal students are prioritized, as required by Florida law.
 - Scholarship availability for new PEP students is not guaranteed, but additional funding may become available later.
- **February 1 – July 15 (New Student Switch Window)**
 - Switch submissions during this time, your new student may be eligible to receive funding for all four quarters (Quarters 1–4) through the new scholarship program. This means up to 100% of your student’s scholarship could come from the new program.

- **October 2 – October 30, 2026 (Fall Switch Window)**
 - If you request a scholarship switch during this time, your student may be eligible to receive funding for Quarters 3 and 4 only through the new scholarship program. This means up to 50% of your student's scholarship may come from the new program.
- **Dates Falling Outside These Two Windows**

Families who express intent will receive an email reminder when the next switcher period begins.

- When to use the intent form:
 - From 7/16-10/1 for new students (and 6/16-10/1 for renewal students) Guardians are encouraged to not take any action in EMA unless they are enrolling in public school. If they are enrolling in public school, they should decline their scholarship and indicate that they intend to use it later/switch after 10/1. Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to switch their student's scholarship program beginning October 2, 2026, for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 funding eligibility.

If your student wants to switch their scholarship program for the 2026–27 school year, review the below options.

SWITCHING BY CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP TYPE

Private School Scholarship (FTC/FES-EO) Students

If your student will not continue the Private School Scholarship for the 2026–27 school year:

Switch to the Personalized Education Program (PEP)

- Do not take any action in EMA
- Call 877-735-7837 for assistance
- Deadline to request a switch to PEP: April 30, 2026

Switch to the Unique Abilities Scholarship (FES-UA)

- Log in to [EMA](#)
- Open your student's application
- Select "Decline Scholarship" for the 2026–27 Private School Scholarship
- Deadline to request to switch for 100% funding eligibility was 6/15 for renewal students and 7/15 for new students
- Parents/Guardians can request to switch to be eligible for 50% funding 10/2-10/30

Decline All Scholarships

- Log in to [EMA](#)
- Select "Decline Scholarship"

Unique Abilities Scholarship (FES-UA) Students

If your student will not continue the Unique Abilities Scholarship for the 2026–27 school year:

Switch to Private School Scholarship (FTC/FES-EO) or the Personalized Education Program (PEP)

- Log in to [EMA](#)
- Open your student's application
- Select "Decline Scholarship" for the 2026–27 FES-UA Scholarship
- Deadline to request to switch for 100% funding eligibility was 6/15 for renewal students and 7/15 for new students
- Parents/Guardians can request to switch to be eligible for 50% funding 10/2-10/30

Decline All Scholarships

- Log in to [EMA](#)
- Select "Decline Scholarship"

Personalized Education Program (PEP) Students

If your student will not continue PEP for the 2026–27 school year:

***Important Reminder:** *Declining or switching from PEP means you give up your current PEP application or scholarship. If you want to return to PEP later, funding and availability are not guaranteed.*

Switch to a Private School Scholarship (FTC/FES-EO)

- Do not take any action in [EMA](#)
- Call 8777357837 for assistance
- Deadline to request to switch for 100% funding eligibility was 6/15 for renewal students and 7/15 for new students
- Parents/Guardians can request to switch to be eligible for 50% funding 10/2-10/30

Switch to the Unique Abilities Scholarship (FES-UA)

- Log in to [EMA](#)
- Open your student's application
- Select "Decline Scholarship" for the 2026–27 PEP Scholarship
- Deadline to request to switch for 100% funding eligibility was 6/15 for renewal students and 7/15 for new students
- Parents/Guardians can request to switch to be eligible for 50% funding 10/2-10/30

Decline All Scholarships

- Log in to [EMA](#)
- Select "Decline Scholarship"

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Students may switch scholarships once per school year
- All switches must be completed during an official switch window
- Some switches require action in EMA, while others require a phone call to Step Up
- Switching from PEP has additional consequences families should carefully consider
- Switch requests are final

If you have questions or need help, contact Step Up For Students at 877-735-7837.