

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA)
Purchasing Guide 2023-24

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INTRODUCTION

Florida state law now requires Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs) to prepare agreed-upon purchasing guidelines (the “guidelines”) for authorized uses of scholarship funds and to update the guidelines at least annually.

These guidelines are intended to be general in nature and to assist student’s families to remain in compliance when requesting scholarship disbursements. They are not intended to provide detailed instructions or to prescribe any particular educational programs. Because each SFO is an independent non-profit organization they each have their own policies and procedures, so it is important that you refer to your SFO’s Parent Handbook and materials for detailed information about their scholarship administration processes.

PURCHASING POLICIES

As per Florida statute s. 1002.394, Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA) scholarship funds must be used to meet the educational needs of an eligible student. Using a student’s scholarship funds for other purposes may violate Florida statute. For example, purchasing a product with scholarship funds, returning that product, and then spending the returned funds on items that do not meet the educational needs of the scholarship student may be against the law. Please contact your Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) if you have questions about the eligibility of a financial transaction using scholarship funds prior to engaging in the transaction.

SFOs may require guardians to use an online platform for purchases provided their choice of curriculum or academic programs is not limited. SFOs may also reimburse guardians for their purchase of eligible products or services that meet their student’s educational needs. Please verify with your SFO that a purchase is eligible for reimbursement before making the purchase. If a guardian purchases a product identical to one offered by an SFO’s online platform for a lower price, the SFO is required by law to reimburse the guardian for the cost of the purchase.

Per Florida Statute s. 1000.21(5), “Parent” means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of the parent. For the purposes of the Purchasing Guide, the term “Guardian” will be used to include all eligible parents and guardians of eligible FES-UA students.

GENERAL PURCHASING PROVISIONS

Product Safety: For safety reasons, SFOs may review manufacturers’ recommended minimum age use when determining if an education product is appropriate for a student.

Monetary Benefit: A family may not receive a payment, refund, or rebate of scholarship funds from a provider of any services.

Duplicate Billing: Products or services paid for by another agency or source (e.g., health insurance, Healthcare Savings Accounts (HSAs), or a School Readiness program) may not be submitted for reimbursement.

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Out-of-State Service Providers: With the exception of credentialed providers whose services may be delivered virtually (e.g., tutors, licensed therapists), services must be delivered in Florida.

Purchase Location: Purchases made online through the direct buying platform using scholarship funds must be shipped to the Florida residential address associated with the student's scholarship account.

Prorating Payments for Multi-User Items: Other family members often use products purchased with scholarship funds. Consequently, funding for these multi-user items may be prorated to only cover the scholarship student's cost.

Cash Purchases: Cash payments to private sellers are not eligible for reimbursement.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSE CATEGORIES

FES-UA scholarship funds may be used to purchase the following educational products and services as outlined in s. 1002.394(4)(b), Florida Statutes.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Digital Devices

Digital devices that are able to electronically access other electronic devices, or networks may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Digital Periphery Devices

Digital periphery devices that are external devices connected to a digital device to expand its capabilities may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Assistive Technology Devices

Assistive technology devices that allow students to access instruction or instructional content may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Maintenance Agreements for Eligible Devices

Maintenance agreements for eligible devices purchased with FES-UA funds may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Maintenance agreements are service agreements with a device manufacturer or vendor to support regular service on that device.

Digital Materials

Digital material such as CDs, DVDs, and digital documents, including eBooks, and audiobooks may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Subscription or membership access to eBooks or Audiobooks for the student may be eligible.

Stand-Alone Online Class

Guardians may purchase online courses that are appropriate for their scholarship student. A stand-alone online class may permit live, interactive instruction. Courses offered by a registered private school or approved VIP or Online Course Provider are not eligible under this category.

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Physical Education

Physical Education expenses including sports lessons, fees, and equipment may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Prohibited Items may include but not be limited to:

- Motorized equipment (treadmills or walking pads are eligible)
- Trampolines (individual exercise trampolines are eligible)
- Vehicles, including but not limited to two-, three-, and four-wheeled vehicles
- Motorized Boats
- Motorized scooters or ride-ons (including golf carts)
- In-Ground or Above Ground Swimming Pools
- Single-admission leisure events (including equipment rental)
- Activities occurring outside of the state of Florida that are not Pre-Authorization
- Pool Tables

Books

Textbooks, workbooks, and other books may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Books with content that may pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.

Musical Instruments & Equipment

Musical instruments, and certain equipment may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Maintenance, tuning, insurance or service agreements and repair of instruments may be eligible.

Electives

Lessons, equipment, or consumables generally associated with elective or enrichment may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

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

- A valid or expired Florida educator's certificate.
- 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.

These reimbursements requests must be accompanied by educational benefit documentation.

Field Trips

Field trip admission for the student only may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Family admissions reimbursements will be prorated to cover only the student's cost. A student's ticket price must be age appropriate. Tickets or admission must be purchased directly from the venue/vendor. Secondary market or resale tickets are not reimbursable.

These reimbursements requests must be accompanied by educational benefit documentation.

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At Home Classroom Furnishings

Classroom furnishing may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

School Supplies

School supplies may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Lab Fees and Materials

Science, math and computer lab fees and equipment and lab safety equipment may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Lab equipment that may pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.

Learning Manipulatives/Creative Play Items

Items utilized for tactile learning, academic practice, or creative play may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Games or puzzles with content that may pose a threat to the student or others or that promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.

Educational Software/Subscriptions

Educational software and subscriptions for single use/student pricing only may be eligible FES-UA expenses. Reimbursements for multi-user access subscriptions will be prorated to only cover the student's cost. Eligible expenses may include but not be limited to:

- Software Subscriptions (Word Processing, Microsoft Office, Adobe, Video or Music Editing Software, LexisNexis, QuickBooks)
- Magazine Subscriptions
- Newspaper subscriptions

Prohibited Expenses may include but are not limited to:

- Video/TV/Online Streaming Services
- Musical Streaming Services
- In-Game Purchases or Credits
- Live Television
- Social Media (except LinkedIn Learning for Students)

CURRICULUM

“Curriculum” as defined by s. 1002.394(2), Florida Statutes is a complete course of study for a particular content area or grade level, including any required supplemental materials and associated online instruction.

For the purposes of this section, a complete course of study may include postsecondary programs aimed at career readiness or trade certification.

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Curricula must be publicly available for SFOs to determine eligibility. Curricula that poses a safety threat to the student or others will not be approved.

At Home Classroom Furnishings

Classroom furnishing may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

School Supplies

School supplies may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Specialized services provided by the approved providers listed below or a Florida hospital may be eligible FES-UA expenses. These services may include, but are not limited to:

- Applied behavior analysis services as provided in ss. 627.6686 and 641.31098 Florida Statutes.
- Services provided by speech-language pathologists as defined in s. 468.1125(8), Florida Statutes.
- Occupational therapy as defined in s. 468.203, Florida Statutes.
- Services provided by physical therapists as defined in s. 486.021(8), Florida Statutes.
- Services provided by listening and spoken language specialists and an appropriate acoustical environment for a child who has a hearing impairment, including deafness, and who has received an implant or assistive hearing device.

Services may be delivered outside Florida if credentialed. Online delivery is eligible.

For the purposes of this section, an approved provider is licensed by the [Florida Department of Health](#) to perform the service, approved as a provider by the [Agency for Persons with Disabilities](#), or approved as a [Specialized Instructional Services \(SIS\) Provider by the Office of Early Learning](#). An approved provider must provide services in the specialized area in which they are approved.

Here are links to help verify specialized service provider credentials:

- [Agency for Persons with Disabilities \(APD\)](#)
- [Florida Department of Health](#)
- [Specialized Instructional Services \(SIS\) / Early Learning Coalition](#)
- [Behavioral Analyst Certification Board \(BACB\)](#)

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and Fees at an Eligible Private School

Tuition and fees at an eligible private school may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Not all private schools are eligible to participate. Schools must meet state eligibility criteria and elect to participate in the FES-UA program with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). A list of schools

Refer to your SFO's Parent Handbook for detailed information about their scholarship policies and procedures.

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eligible to serve scholarship students can be found on the FLDOE's online Florida Private Schools Directory. The agreed upon amount of tuition and fees for each student is a contractual agreement between the guardian and their eligible private school. We recommend guardians communicate with their preferred private school about what is required before enrolling their student. For students utilizing the private school option for these scholarships, the SFO is obligated to commit funds on behalf of the student for tuition and fees for which the parent is responsible for payment at the private school before using scholarship funds for additional uses.

Eligible Private School fees may include but not be limited to:

- Application Fees
- Registration Fees
- Uniform Fees
- Book Fees
- Technology Fees
- Test Fees
- Graduation Fees

Prohibited Fees may include but not be limited to:

- Fundraising Fees/Donation Fees/Volunteer Waiver Fees
- Annual Funds
- Giving Funds
- Therapies or services as fees (Credentialed Services including tutoring and therapies should be billed in their categories)
- Costs associated with scholarship management
- Optional Fees

Tuition and Fees for Home Education Programs

Tuition and fees for programs, courses, or classes offered to home education students may be eligible FES-UA expenses. These services must be part of the student's sequential instruction per the definition of a home education program.

A "home education program" means the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss. 1002.41, 1003.01(13), and 1003.21(1), Florida Statutes.

To visit the Department of Education's website for additional information about home education programs, click this link: [Home Education Programs](#).

The following considerations apply when determining whether a program is an eligible home education program tuition & fee expense. Eligible programs must:

- Be a program selected by the parent as a part of their home education student's parent-directed instruction. Private schools, virtual schools, and public or charter schools are not considered home education instructional programs;

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- Provide courses and/or activities for home education students that enhance or enrich the student's learning opportunities;
- Have publicly available/reviewable program descriptions of courses and/or activities;
- Have a published tuition and fee schedule;
- Be operated in a physical location (cannot be in online); **and**
- Be a business organization (tuition and fees may not be payable to an individual, except for regional program directors or designated liaisons of national home educational communities).

All other live instruction, whether in-person or via remote access online, must meet the requirements for part-time tutoring services to be reimbursed by FES-UA funds.

Tuition and Fees at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution

Tuition and fees required for enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution, or a program offered by an eligible postsecondary institution, may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Eligible postsecondary institutions include:

- A Florida College System institution
- A state university
- A school district technical center
- A school district adult general education center
- An independent college or university that is eligible to participate in the William L Boyd, IV Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program under s. 1009.89, Florida Statutes
- An accredited independent postsecondary educational institution, as defined in s. 1005.02, which is licensed to operate in the state of Florida

Tuition and fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

Tuition and Fees for an Approved Preapprenticeship Program

Tuition and fees for an organized course of instruction designed to prepare a person 16 years of age or older to become an apprentice in a course approved by and registered with the department and sponsored by a registered apprenticeship program under s. 446.042, Florida Statutes.

Tuition and fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

Tuition and Fees for a Private Tutoring Program

Tuition and fees required for enrollment in an eligible Private Tutoring Program, authorized under s. 1002.43, Florida Statutes may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Requirements for approved Private Full-Time Tutors include:

- The tutor must hold a current, valid Florida teaching certificate for the subject or grade level in which they will tutor
- For grades K-3, full-time tutoring is considered 720 hours per school year

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- For grades 4-12, full-time tutoring is considered 900 hours (equivalent to 180 teaching days)
- A tutor seeking to provide services must certify compliance with relevant statutes, including attendance requirements, prior to the receipt of education savings account funds (ESA), and then annually thereafter.

A full-time private tutor may provide tutoring for up to 25 students if the following facility requirements are satisfied:

Private tutoring may be provided for up to 25 students in any commercial building with a valid certificate of occupancy, library, community service, museum, performing arts, theatre, cinema, or church facility; in any facility or on any land owned by a Florida College System institution or university; in any similar public institution facility; and in any facility recently used to house a school or child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 within the preexisting zoning and land use designations of the facility without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change so long as the provision of such tutoring meets all applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including those pertaining to fire safety and building safety.

Tuition and fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

Tuition and Fees for Part-Time Tutoring Services or Fees for Choice Navigator Services

Tuition and Fees for part-time tutoring, or fees for Choice Navigator services may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Part-time tutoring includes tuition and fees for services provided by a person who:

- Holds a valid Florida educator's certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, F.S.;
- Holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s. 1012.57, F.S.;
- Has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the subject area in which instruction is given;
- Is certified by a nationally or internationally recognized research-based training program as approved by the department; or
- Has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), F.S. by one of the following ways:
 - For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed, achievement of a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination specified in state board rule;
 - For a subject for which a Florida subject area examination has not been developed, achievement of a passing score on a standardized examination specified in state board rule, including, but not limited to, passing scores on both the oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages;
 - For a subject for which a Florida subject area examination has not been developed or a standardized examination has not been specified in state board rule, completion of the subject area specialization requirements specified in state board rule and verification of the attainment of the essential subject matter competencies by the district school

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- superintendent of the employing school district or chief administrative officer of the employing state-supported or private school;
- For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree, completion of the subject area specialization requirements specified in state board rule and achievement of a passing score on the Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination that is directly related to the subject specified in state board rule;
 - Documentation of successful completion of a United States Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center program;
 - Documentation of a passing score on the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT); or
 - For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed, documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution that the Department of Education has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher in the certificate subject area as identified by state board rule.

Tuition and fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

A “Choice Navigator” means an individual who meets the credentialing requirements of a Part-Time Tutor (above) and who provides consultations, at a mutually agreed upon location, on the selection of, application for, and enrollment in educational options addressing the academic needs of a student; curriculum selection; and advice on career and postsecondary education opportunities. A Choice Navigator may not oversee or exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of a student.

Fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

Tuition and Fees at an Approved Online or Virtual Provider

Tuition and fees required for enrollment at an eligible or approved online or virtual provider are be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Approved Online or Virtual Providers include:

- An approved private online provider under s. 1002.45(2)(a), F.S.
- A program offered by the Florida Virtual School in which the eligible student is enrolled as a private paying student. (Note: If a student is enrolled in FLVS as a public-school student the student will be considered a public-school student and will be ineligible for FES-UA)
- An approved online course offered pursuant to ss. 1003.499 or 1004.0961, F.S.
- A private virtual school that meets the requirements of s. 1002.421, F.S.

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) has approval authority for these funding categories. The FLDOE may publish or maintain a list of approved online or virtual providers pursuant to the above statutory authority.

FLDOE Approved Online Course Providers:

- Accelerate Education (Grades K-5 through 2025-26)
- EdisonLearning (Grades 6-12 through 2025-26)

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- Edmentum/Apex Learning (Grades 9-12 through 2025-26)
- eDynamic Learning ULC (Grades 6-12 through 2024-25)
- Founders Education LLC (Grades 9-12 through 2025-26)
- Grade Results, Inc. (Grades K-12 through 2023-24)
- My Virtual Academy (Grades 9-12 through 2025-26)
- National Highway Safety Administration (Grades 9-12 through 2024-25)

FLDOE Approved Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) Providers

- Accel Schools East (Grades K-12 through 2023-24)
- Connections Education of Florida, LLC (Grades K-12 through 2024-25)
- Graduation Alliance (Grades 9-12 through 2023-24)
- Imagine Learning (Grades K-12 through 2024-25)
- K12 Florida (Grades K-12 through 2024-25)
- Mater Virtual Academy (Grades K-12 through 2023-24)
- OptimaEd, LLC (Grades K-9 through 2023-24)
- Somerset Virtual Academy (Grades K-12 through 2023-24)

Tuition and Fees as a Private-Pay Student for Florida Virtual School

Tuition and fees required for enrollment as a private-pay student at Florida Virtual School (FLVS) may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Students utilizing Florida Virtual School (FLVS) must be enrolled as private-pay students. FLVS will submit reimbursement requests to your SFO, which must be approved by the guardian prior to payment being released. If a student is enrolled in FLVS and funded as a public-school student, the student may lose eligibility and funding for FES-UA.

Tuition and fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

STANDARDIZED TESTING FEES

Fees associated with standardized testing or examinations may be covered by FES-UA funds.

Approved standardized testing or assessments include:

- Nationally standardized, norm-referenced assessments
- Advanced Placement (AP) examinations
- Industry certification examinations
- Assessments related to postsecondary education.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO APPROVED COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to s. 1009.98, F.S. or the Florida College Savings Program pursuant to s. 1009.981, F.S. for the benefit of the eligible student, may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program

The following plans are eligible for contributions:

- 1-Year University Plan

Refer to your SFO's Parent Handbook for detailed information about their scholarship policies and procedures.

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- 4-Year University Plan
- 2-Year College Plan
- 4-Year College Plan
- 2+2 Florida Plan
- Dormitory Plan

The following restrictions on FES-UA funded contributions apply:

- Contributions may be made only on behalf of the eligible scholarship student.
- The account owner cannot change the beneficiary of an account that contains scholarship funds.
- Any privately contributed funds in the account will be used to pay plan benefits before the scholarship funds.
- If a Prepaid College account is closed the money will go back to the open scholarship account along with any interest accumulated, or to the State of Florida if the scholarship account has been or is being closed.
- If a student's scholarship account closes for any reason money in the student's Florida Prepaid account contributed through the scholarship will be returned to the State of Florida

Florida College Savings Program

The following restrictions on FES-UA funded contributions apply.

- The account type must be an UTMA or UGMA.
- The account owner cannot change the beneficiary of an account that contains scholarship funds.
- The privately contributed funds in the account (if any) will be used to pay plan benefits before the scholarship funds.
- If a Florida 529 College Savings account is closed, the money will go back to the open scholarship account along with any interest accumulated, or to the State of Florida if the scholarship account has been or is being closed.
- If a student's scholarship account closes for any reason, any money in the student's 529 College Savings account contributed through the scholarship will be returned to the State of Florida.
- If a student has an existing Florida 529 College Savings plan, scholarship funds will be managed in a separate account from private funds that are invested.

Please note: Although 529 funds may be used to pay for private school expenses, FES-UA funds may not be used at a private school that is not an FES-UA eligible private school.

CONTRACTED SERVICES PROVIDED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contracted services provided by a public district or charter school, or school district may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

A scholarship recipient may take courses, participate in programming (including after school, extracurricular, supplemental, or summer school programs) or receive services from a public school (including charter schools and the Florida Virtual School), if the student contracts for classes/services on a private pay basis.

The guardian can pay for services and request reimbursement, or the school district can choose to be paid directly as a provider.

Refer to your SFO's Parent Handbook for detailed information about their scholarship policies and procedures.

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There is no requirement for public district or charter schools, or school districts, to contract for services with a scholarship participant or to set up an account for payment as a provider. Participation is optional for the public schools and/or districts.

A student who receives contracted services under this paragraph is not considered enrolled in a public school for scholarship eligibility purposes. However, if the district reports the student for any FTE funding or other state funding, the student will be ineligible for the FES-UA.

FEES FOR SPECIALIZED SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Fees for specialized summer education programs (or other programs during standard school breaks) meeting eligibility criteria may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

The term “specialized” means a program developed specifically for students with special or unique needs or a program that can meet the student’s needs.

Educational camps may be permitted with Pre-Authorization and documentation of the educational benefit from a physician or licensed therapist.

Published fees must be provided to the SFO prior to receipt of any FES-UA funding. Proof of attendance is required.

FEES FOR SPECIALIZED AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Fees for after-school education programs meeting eligibility criteria may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Please see definition of “specialized” above.

Published fees must be provided to any SFO prior to receipt of FES-UA funding. Proof of attendance is required.

TRANSITION SERVICES PROVIDED BY JOB COACHES

Students ages 14 through 22 may submit reimbursements for transition services by job coaches. Job coaches must meet one of the following criteria:

- Hired by the private school as a job coach.
- Hired by the school district as a job coach.
- The criteria/training of the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities for job coaches.
- The criteria/training of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities.
- Have an Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ARCE) certification.
- Have an Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) certification.
- Have an Institution for Community Inclusion certification.
- Employment Specialist Vendor for Vocational Rehabilitation.

Types of Transition Services that may be provided by the job coach:

- Conducting career and interest assessments
- Self-determination/Self-advocacy training
- Employability/Soft skill education

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- Job development
- Job training
- Interview skill development and support, assistance with preparation and post interview, resume development
- Onsite job coaching
- Follow-along support to maintain employment
- Monitoring and re-training for changes on the job site
- Benefits planning and financial literacy services (ex. working with the student to understand the impact of work on SSI benefits and income)
- Advocacy services (ex. working on benefit issues, Social Security, facilitating transportation services)
- Career Exploration
- Career Counseling
- Inclusive programs with multiple services where job training or coaching is a defined, regular component of the program.

Scholarship participants should explore all available State resources including Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and financial aid. Vocational Rehabilitation helps high school youth with disabilities establish a foundation for a seamless transition to individualized training, education, and employment. For more information on VR's Transition Program visit the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION FEES

Fees for annual evaluations of the educational progress of a home education student as required under s. 1002.41(1)(f), F.S. may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Eligible evaluation methods include:

- Evaluation of a student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student by a teacher holding a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.
- Administration of any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.
- Administration of a state student assessment test by a certified teacher at a location and under testing conditions approved by the school district.

TUITION AND FEES FOR AN APPROVED VPK PROGRAM PROVIDER OR AN APPROVED SCHOOL READINESS PROVIDER

Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program providers approved pursuant to s. 1002.55, F.S. and school readiness providers approved pursuant to s. 1002.88, F.S. may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

Families are encouraged to contact their local Early Learning Coalition for information about eligible VPK or School Readiness Providers.

This category includes tuition and fees for the educational needs of the student and may cover a full-day program.

Refer to your SFO's Parent Handbook for detailed information about their scholarship policies and procedures.

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA)
Purchasing Guide 2023-24

Eligible Fees may include but not be limited to:

- Application Fees
- Registration Fees
- Uniform Fees
- Book Fees
- Technology Fees
- Graduation Fees

Prohibited Fees may include but not be limited to:

- Fundraising Fees/Donation Fees/Volunteer Waiver Fees
- Giving Funds
- Therapies or services as fees (Credentialed Services including tutoring and therapies should be billed in their categories)
- Costs associated with scholarship management
- Optional Fees
- Nursery or Daycare Fees

Approved VPK and School Readiness services may not be billed under an Eligible Private School.

Tuition and fee schedules must be published and made publicly available.

HORSE THERAPY

Horse therapy fees may be eligible FES-UA expenses. This category includes fees for services provided at a center that is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. To find a PATH certified center in Florida, [click here](#).

The PATH certification must be issued to the center. Those working at a center are not required to be individually PATH certified.

MUSIC AND ART THERAPY

Music and art therapy fees may be eligible FES-UA expenses.

This category includes fees for services provided by a therapist who is certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

To find a therapist in Florida certified by the Board for Music Therapists, [click here](#).

To find a therapist in Florida credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc., [click here](#).