

### **Renewal Application Process**

Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique

Abilities (FES-UA)

We empower Florida students with personalized PreK3-12 education scholarships.



# **Important Notice: Renewal FES-UA Application**

# A few tips before your get started on your renewal FES-UA application . . .



- Click the link or scan the QR code here to review the <u>required application documents</u>.
- Per new legislation <u>families can only apply for ONE scholarship per student at the same time.</u>
- Each time you log onto the EMA platform, you must complete a multi-factor authentication. We recommend you use a cell phone or phone number that does not answer as a recording.
- It can take up to 6 weeks for applications to be processed. You will receive updates via email when
  your application review is complete.

# **Important Notice: FES-UA Application**

# Legislative Update

Parents, if your student turns 3 or 4 years old before December 15 of the school year in which they are applying, they will now be eligible for FES-UA. To apply, you will need to submit the child's birth certificate as documentation in addition to proof of residency and diagnosis.

#### Important Notice: FES-UA Renewal Application

#### **Additional information:**

Your schools will need your student(s) "Award ID" for enrollment. You only need your student's "Award ID" to enroll them through EMA.

To view your students' scholarship status ...

- 1. Click on the "My Students" tab within their EMA account
- 2. Click view next to your active student's name
- 3. Scroll down to see the Award ID under the "Scholarship Status" section

<u>Tip:</u> Families, you may take a screenshot of your student's "Award ID" number and award status. To print the screen on a desktop or laptop computer, they may use "Ctrl + P" (for Windows PC) or "Command + P (for Apple Mac).

Very Important!
You will ONLY able to locate your students'
Award ID number once the application status is "Complete" and they are awarded!

Important: Please note that the current amounts displayed will be updated once new award amounts are published by the State.



# **Renewal Family**

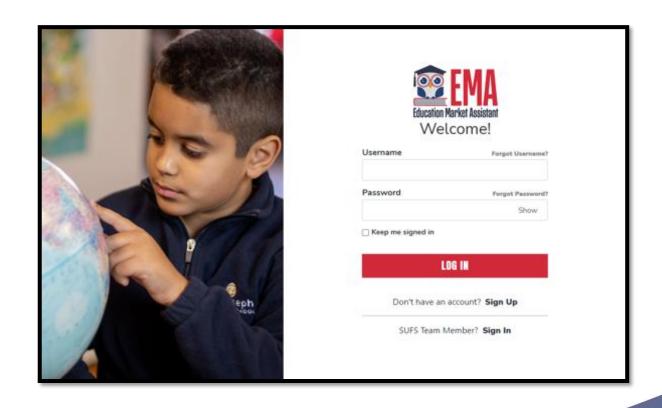
**Completing an FES-UA Renewal Application** 

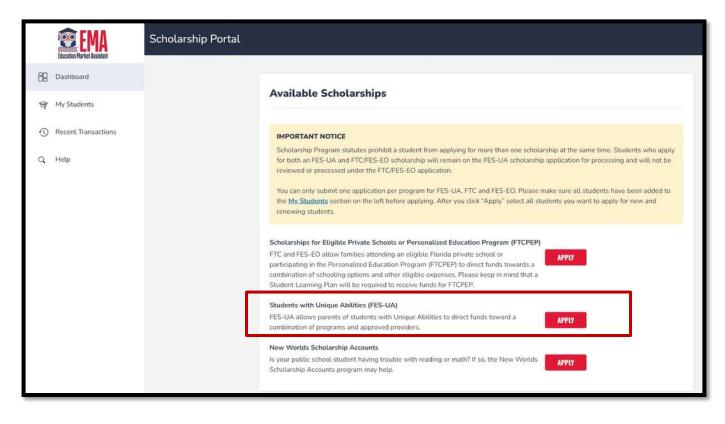


Please go to <u>stepupforstudents.org</u> to complete your renewal application for the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA).

Log into your EMA account by entering your username and password.

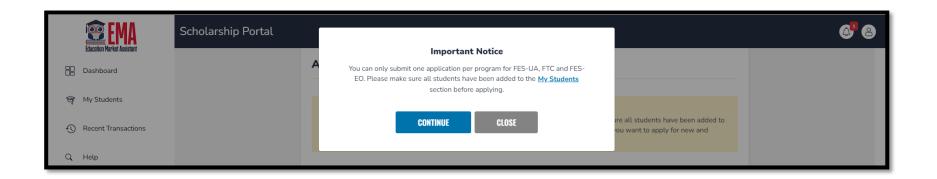
If you have forgotten your username, click on the "Forgot Username" button; if you have misplaced your password, click the "Forgot Password" button.





Once you are logged into EMA, you will land on the "Dashboard."

You can find the "Available Scholarships" section by scrolling down the page. To renew your FES-UA application, click the "Apply" button next to the "Students with Unique Abilities" scholarship description.



#### **Important Notice:**

You may not apply for multiple scholarships for an individual student at the same time. Please ensure all students have been added to the "My Students" section before applying.

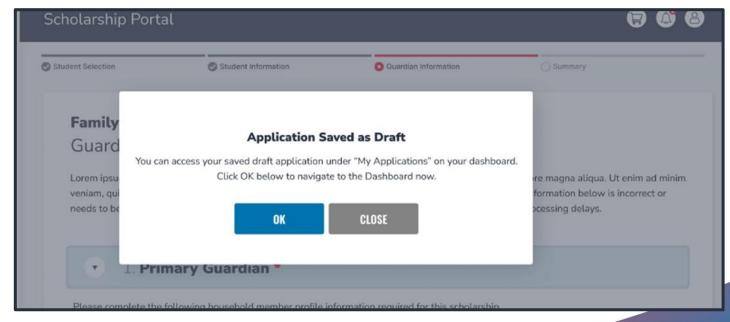
#### **Important Tip: FES-UA Renewal Application**

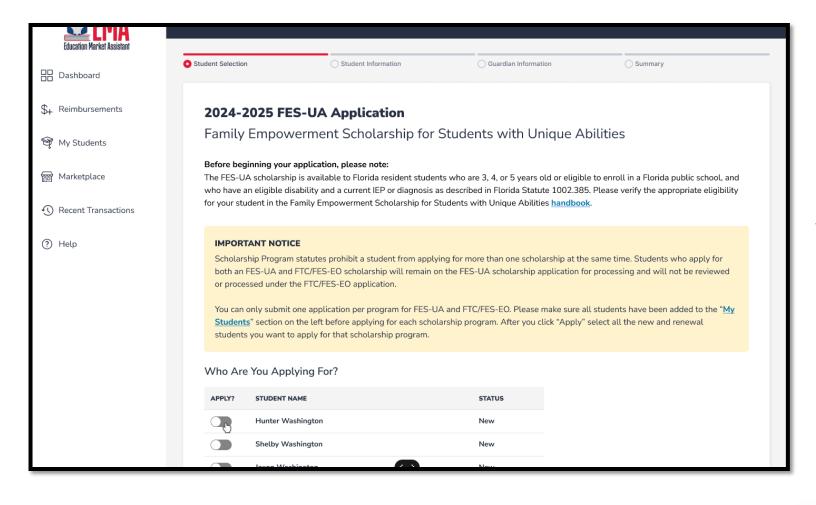
#### Please note:

At any time, you may select "Save as a Draft" to save your progress and come back later.

You can find all your saved drafts on your dashboard, and you can select the saved drafts to continue the process.

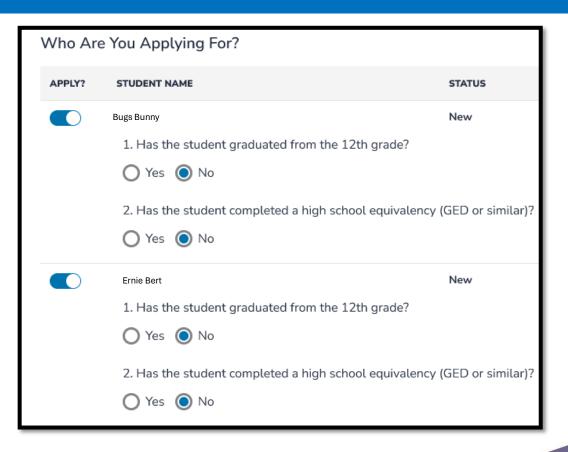




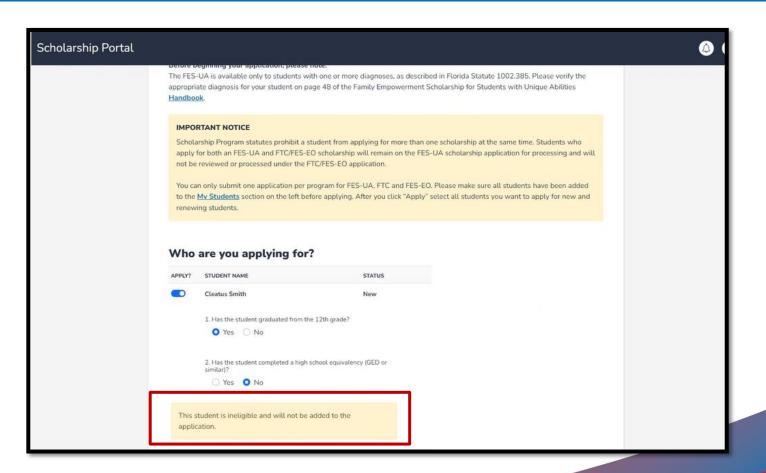


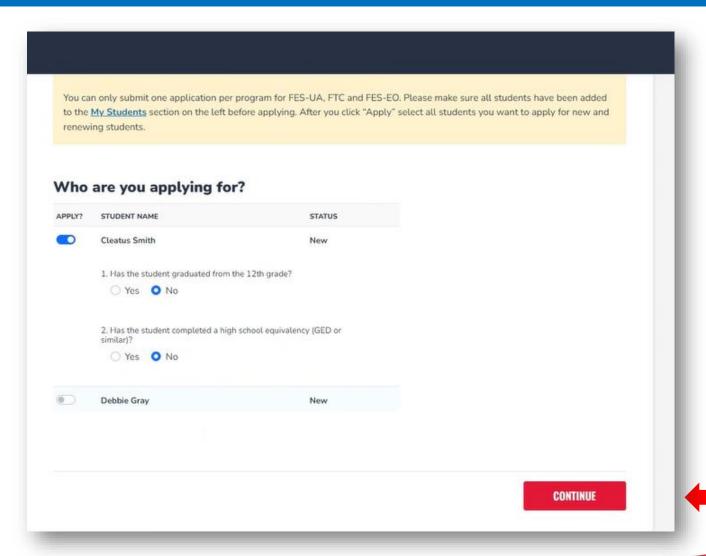
Select the student(s) for whom you wish to apply for FES-UA.

For each student you select you must answer if they have graduated from 12th grade or have completed a high school equivalency (GED or similar).



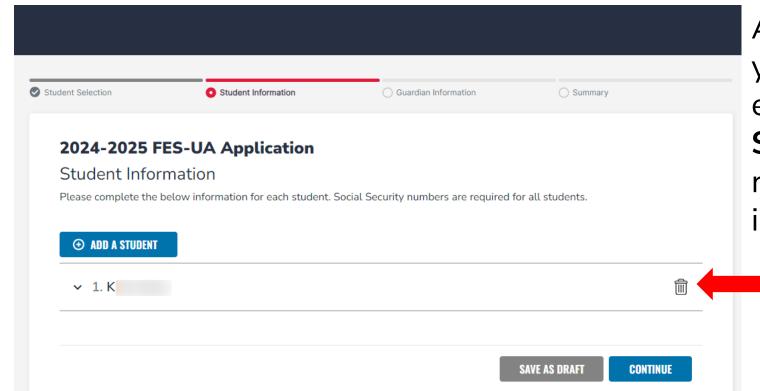
If you select 'Yes' to either question, your student is not eligible for FES-UA and will not be added to the application.



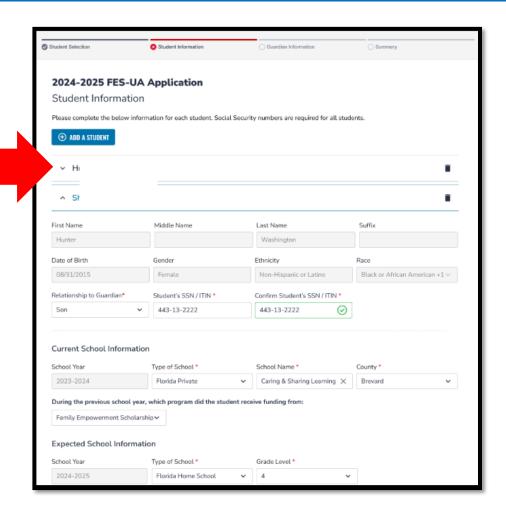


Once you are done selecting students, click "Continue" in the bottom right corner.

If you do not see your student, you will need to add that student via the "My Students" page.



At any point before submitting your application, you can add an existing student via the "Add A Student" blue button, or you can remove a student via the trashcan icon next to the student's name.



To proceed with a selected student, click on the arrow to the left of the student's name and complete the fields below:

- Current School Information
- Expected School Information
- Diagnosis
- Diagnosis Related Documentation
- Additional Information

Please select the student's diagnosis. You must select one. However, you may select more than one if needed.

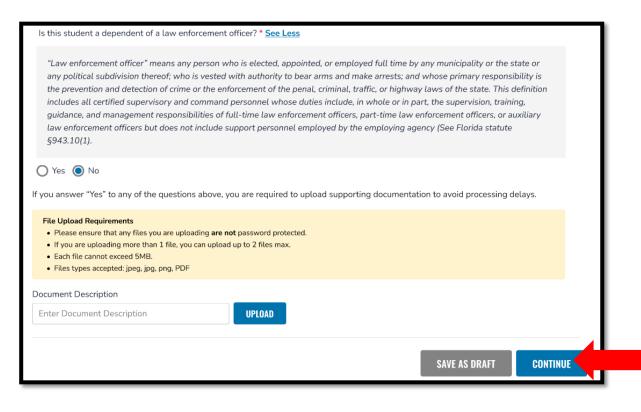
Then upload required diagnosis-related documentation. You must upload at least 1 file.

#### **Please Note:**

If your student previously qualified for the FES-UA scholarship under one of the following categories, you must submit documentation to demonstrate the student qualifies under an eligible diagnosis for the 2024-25 school year:

- Students who qualified as "high-risk" and who are turning 6 on our before September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Students who qualified based on being hospitalized or homebound

Diagnosis *							
The FES-UA scholarship is available only to students who have one or more of the following disabilities described in Florida Statute 1002.385. Please note "Other Health Impairment" under the Diagnosis section means having limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that is due to chronic or acute health problems. For more details please see the <a href="Handbook">Handbook</a> .  You must make at least one selection:							
A Specific Learning Disability	☐ High-Risk Child	☐ Prader-Willi Syndrome					
A Specific Learning Disability  Anaphylaxis	☐ Hospital or Homebound	Rare Diseases					
Autism Spectrum Disorder	☐ Intellectual Disability	Speech Impairment					
☐ Cerebral Palsy	☐ Language Impairment	Spina Bifida					
☐ Down Syndrome	☐ Muscular Dystrophy	☐ Traumatic Brain Injured					
☐ Dual Sensory Impaired	☐ Orthopedic Impairment	☐ Visually Impaired					
☐ Emotional or Behavioral Disability	Other Health Impairment	■ Williams Syndrome					
☐ Hearing Impaired	☐ Phelan-McDermid Syndrome						
Diagnosis Related Documentation	Diagnosis Related Documentation						
To document your child's disability, you will be required to submit a copy of the student's current, valid Florida or out-of-state Individual Education Plan (IEP), a diagnosis from a licensed Florida physician, Autonomous Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, or psychologist, or a diagnosis from a physician with an active license issued by another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.							
File Upload Requirements  Please ensure that any files you are uploading are not password protected.  If you are uploading more than 1 file, you can upload up to 2 files max.  Each file cannot exceed 5MB.  Files types accepted: jpeg, jpg, png, PDF							



Once you are done completing all the sections, click "Continue" in the bottom right corner to proceed or "Save As Draft" to save and return to complete the application at a later time.

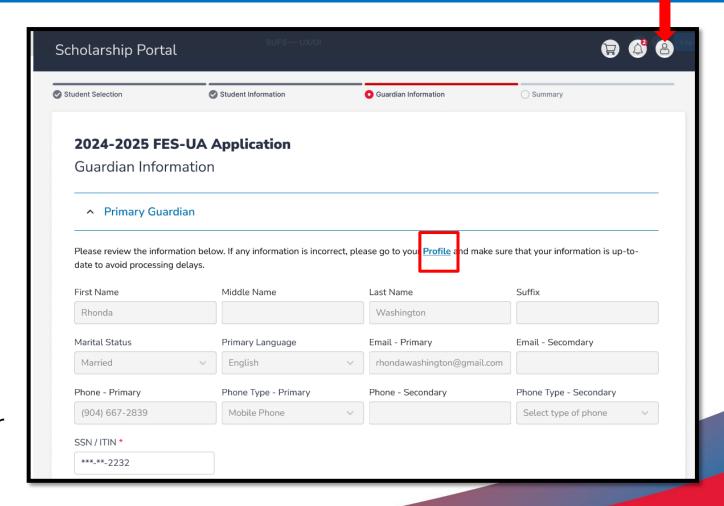


**Reminder:** At any point before submitting your application, you can add an existing student via the "Add A Student" blue button, or you can remove a student via the trashcan icon next to the student's name.

After completing the current section, you'll be directed to the "Guardian Information" section. You must review the information listed here to ensure its accuracy.

If you need to make any changes, simply click on the **Profile** icon in the upper right-hand corner of the page, and make the necessary corrections.

Failure to do so may result in processing delays. You will need to enter your social security number (SSN) or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) and provide proof of residency.



#### Proof of Residency \*

Step Up For Students requires detailed Proof of Residency provided by the primary parent/guardian. 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.

Proof of Residence can be established with one document from Column A or two different documents from Column B (see below). Please select the type of document you are submitting, then upload.

You will not be able to continue with the application unless the required documents are uploaded.

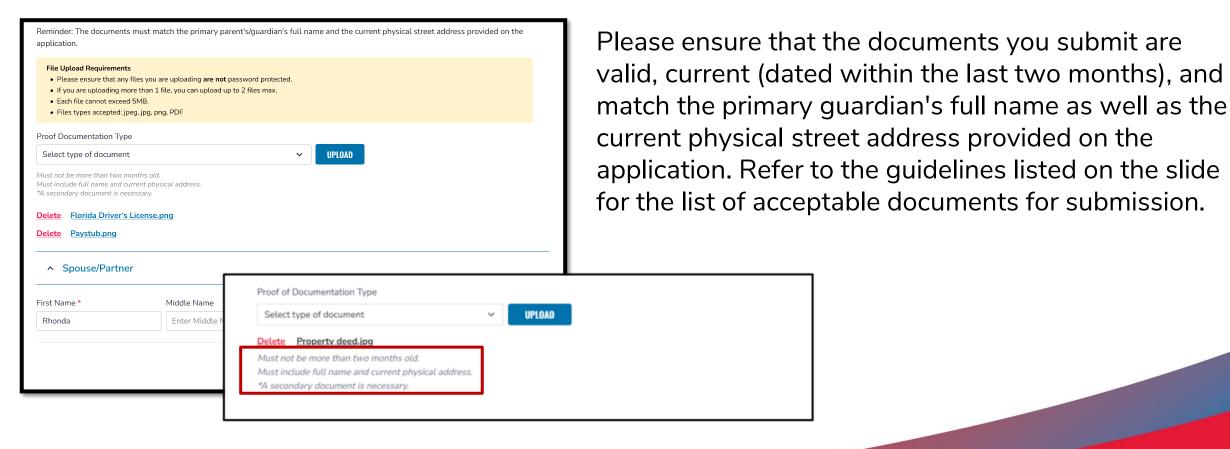
COLUMN A (UPLOAD <u>ONE</u> DOCUMENT)	COLUMN B (UPLOAD TWO DIFFERENT DOCUMENTS)
Utility bill (electric, gas, water)	Florida driver's license or state-issued ID*
Mortgage statement or residential lease agreement	Paystub*
Proof of current government benefits: Social Security, Veterans Affairs, Disability, 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 renters insurance policy*
Homeless Verification or Certificate	Home phone bill*
Migrant Address Verification Letter	Mortgage acceptance letter*
Declaration of domicile	USPS confirmation of address change request*
Property deed	*A secondary document is necessary

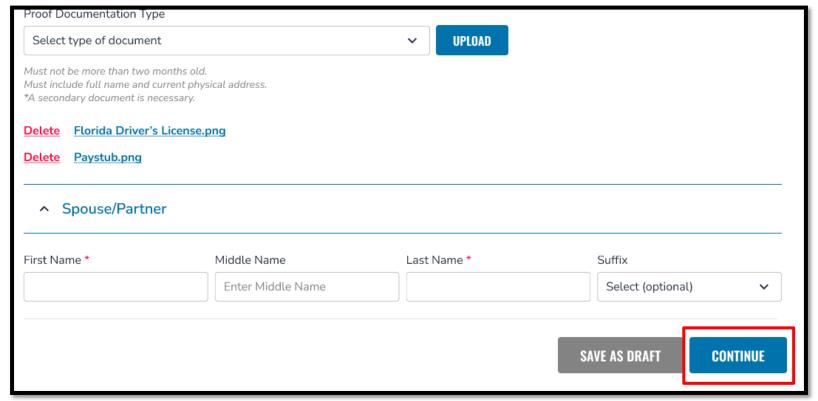
Reminder: The documents must match the primary parent's/guardian's full name and the current physical street address provided on the application.

Under the Guardian Section, you will confirm that the auto-populated information displays correctly, you will need to enter your social security number (SSN)/individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) and provide proof of residency.

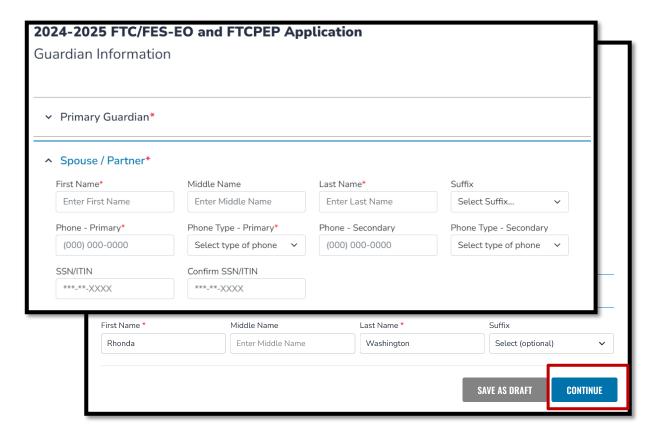
#### **Please Note:**

Previously UA primary parents were allowed to use a document with the spouse's name for proof of residency. That is no longer an approved form of Proof of Residency (POR). It has to have the primary parent/guardian's name.



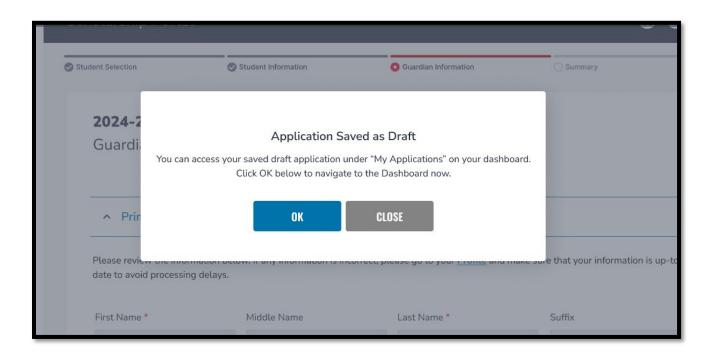


Once you have completed all the questions in the "Guardian Information" section, click "Continue" to proceed to the next section.

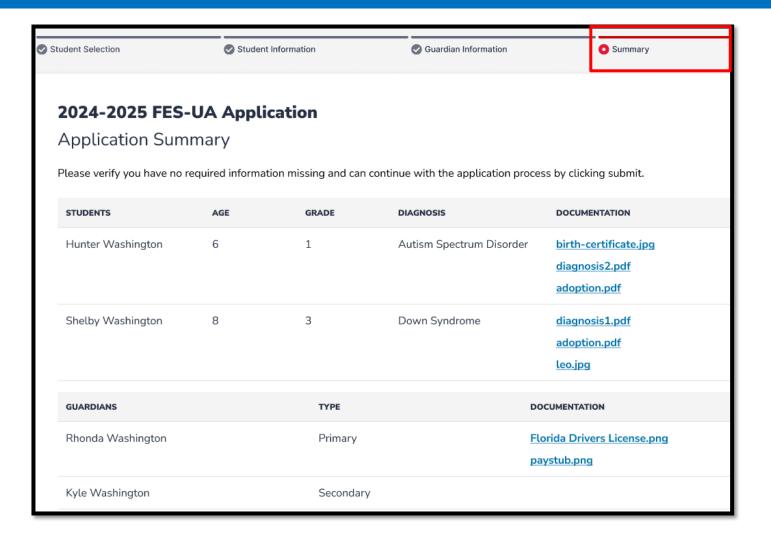


If applicable, complete the "Spouse/Partner" section with the required information indicated by a red asterisk.

When you have completed the "Guardian Information" section, you may press the continue button to proceed.

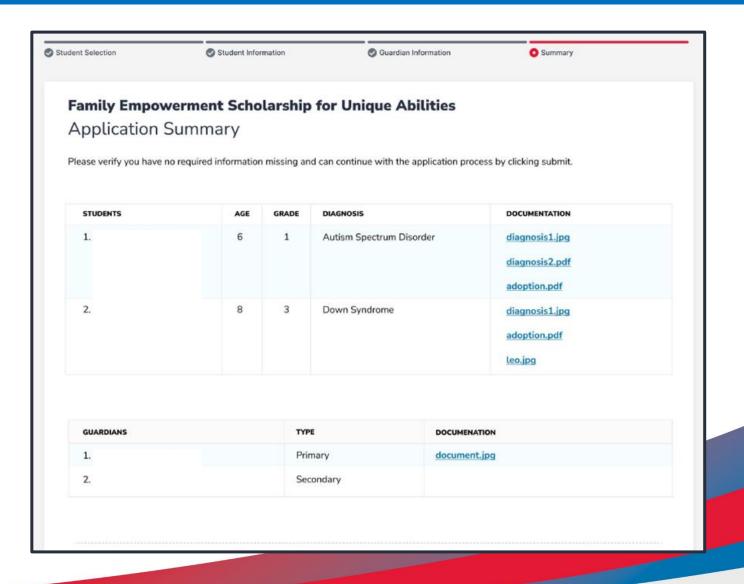


Your application has been saved as a draft under the "My Applications" tab. Click OK to navigate to the Dashboard.



Now you should be on the "Summary" section of the application. The summary page gives you an overview of all submitted documents and completed sections.

You can review and go back to change anything you would like. You can use the headers on top of the page to navigate to different sections.



Parent/Guardian Terms & Conditions				
By submitting this scholarship application, under the penalties of perjury, I certify the following:				
I certify that I and any applying student meet the residency requirements for the scholarship programs in the State of Florida and understand that continued physical residency is a requirement for scholarship participation. I understand that I must notify Step Students if either myself or my student move out of the State of Florida while my student is participating in a scholarship program.	Up For			
I certify that the information I am providing in the course of the scholarship application and management process is true and accounderstand that providing false representations constitutes an act of fraud. False, misleading, or incomplete information may residenial of the scholarship application or revocation of a scholarship award.				
I understand additional information and/or documentation related to my application can/may be requested at any time post-awar auditing purposes. I understand if a post-award audit determines my student is not eligible, the scholarship may be rescinded.	rd for			
I have read, understand, and agree to the terms, conditions and rules as outlined in the Step Up For Students Parent/Guardian M including <a href="Parent/Guardian Handbook">Parent/Guardian Handbook</a> , <a href="Parent-Guardian Handbook">Program Purchasing Guide</a> , Terms & Conditions and Sworn Compliance Statement. Step reserves the right to routinely update, modify, or alter the Parent/Guardian Materials without notifying me of any such updates. I understand that I am bound by the terms of these Materials.	Up			

#### Make sure to click on each box once you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions.

✓ I have read and agree to the compliance statement.

#### You will also be required to complete the Parent/Guardian Terms & Conditions and Sworn Compliance Statement.

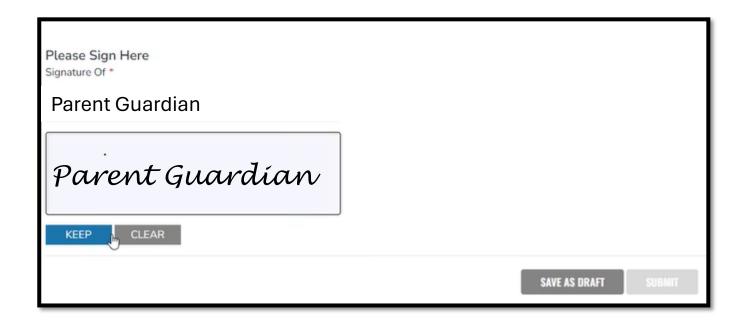
#### Sworn Compliance Statement

The Family Empowerment Scholarship program statute includes parent and student responsibilities that parents and students must follow to participate in the scholarship programs. Pursuant to s. 1002.394(10), F.S. I affirm that:

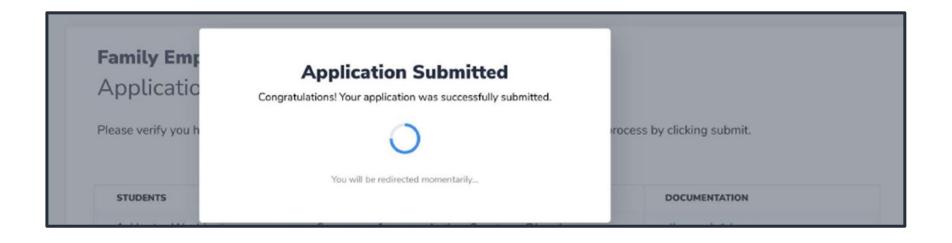
- I will enroll the student in a parochial, religious, or denominational school; private school; or a home education program that meets regular school attendance requirements as required by s. 1003.01(13)(b), (c) or (d), F.S., as provided for in the Family Empowerment Scholarship
- I will use the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) funds only for authorized purposes serving the student's educational needs, as described in the Family Empowerment Scholarship program statute (s. 1002.394(4)(b), F.S.).
- I will not transfer any prepaid college plan or college savings funds to another beneficiary.
- I will not receive a payment, refund, or rebate from an approved provider of any services under this program.
- I understand that I am responsible for the payment of all eligible expenses in excess of the amount of the FES-UA scholarship account in accordance with the terms agreed to between the parent/guardian and the providers.
- I will ensure that the student's educational progress is evaluated each year by complying with the requirement of the private school I choose or a home education program.
- I understand if the student is enrolled in an eligible private school, the student must take an assessment selected by the private school pursuant to s. 1002.395(8)(c), F.S. If the student is enrolled in a home education program, the parent/guardian may choose any of the evaluation methods provided for in s. 1002.41(1)(c), F.S. I will require the child to take any pre- and post-assessments selected by the provider if the child is four years of age and is enrolled in a program provided by an eligible Voluntary Prekindergarten Education program provider. A student with disabilities for whom a pre- and post-assessment is not appropriate is exempt from this requirement.
- I understand if the student is enrolled in a home education program, the parent/guardian may choose any of the evaluation methods provided for in s. 1002.41(1)(c), F.S.



Please type your name in the box and sign your name in the signature box. Please click "Keep" if you wish to keep your signature. If you want to change your signature, you can click "Clear" and sign again.

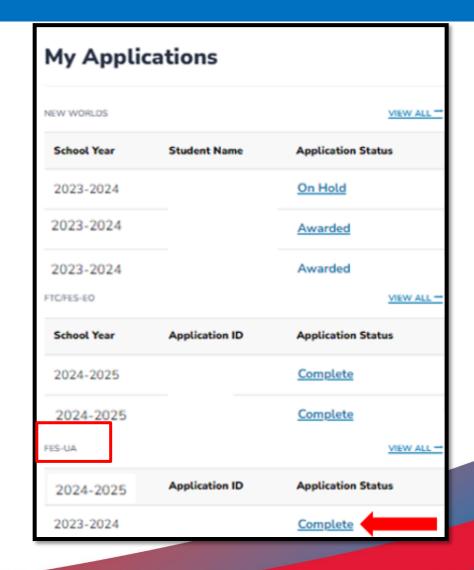


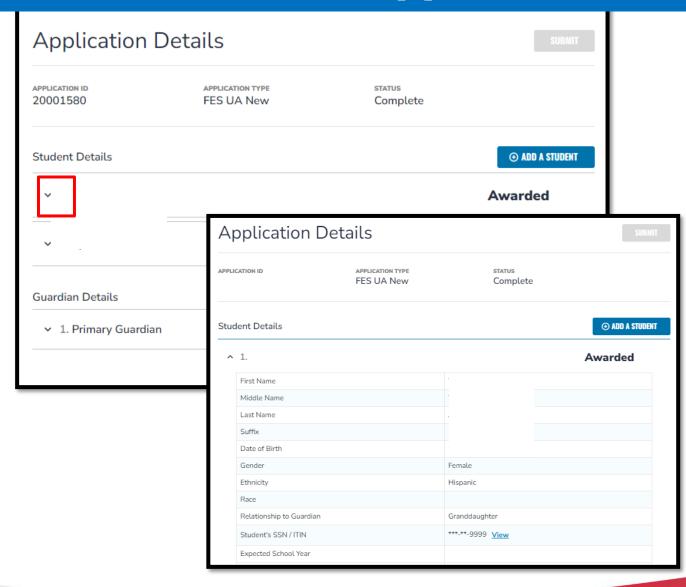
After approving your signature, you may choose the "Save As Draft" option to complete your application later or "Submit".



By clicking "**Submit"**, your application will be sent for processing. You will get a confirmation notice on your screen.

Once you have submitted your application, you will return to your dashboard. On the dashboard you can see the status of your application(s). If you want to see details, click the status (blue hyperlink).





The hyperlink will open your "Application Details" page with more details and will show the application(s) status and student(s) status.

You can click on the arrow adjacent to the student's names to see the application details.

# **Application Statuses**

Status	Meaning
Pending	Your student's eligibility status is still under review. Please monitor your EMA account for updates.
Awarded	Your application was approved, and the student has been determined eligible for a scholarship. Please note, your student has not yet been "funded" for the applying school year.
Funded	Your student's scholarship has been funded to your EMA account. You may now utilize the funds in your account.



After a student is awarded, if you plan to use your student's scholarship at an eligible participating school, you need to contact the school to start the enrollment process.



#### **ENROLLMENT NOTIFICATION**

Dear :

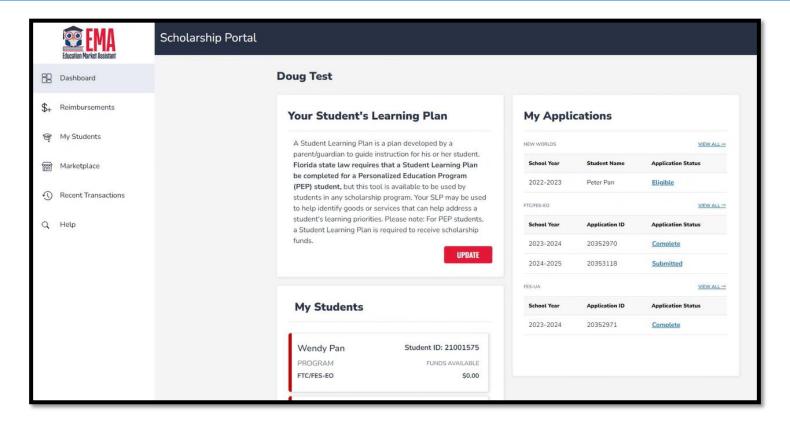
You have received a request to approve a School Enrollment Form from School for the student named below.

Student's Name:

Academic Year: 2024-2025

A School Enrollment Form links your student to the selected private school for billing purposes. When you accept a School Enrollment Form, you are approving the use funds from your student's Scholarship Account to pay the school directly for the amount of the tuition and fees or the available balance in your student's account, whichever is less. Payments to the school will be divided by the number of deposits made into the students' account. For example, if the student's tuition in \$1,000, and the scholarship is \$400 with two yearly deposits, you are approving two payments of \$200 for the selected school.

Once an eligible private school enrolls the student in their system, you will receive an email notification asking you to log in and review the enrollment request.



You can view and approve enrollment requests from the Dashboard.

#### Are you sure you want to enroll?

School Year	STUDENT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	REQUEST DATE	TOTAL AMOUNT
2024-2025			01/06/2023	\$4,150.00

**IMPORTANT:** By accepting the School Enrollment Form, you are approving payment for the tuition and fees for your students at the selected private school OR your student's award amount, whichever is less. Payments will be divided by the number of deposits made into the students' account. For example, if the student's tuition in \$1,000, and the scholarship is \$400 with two yearly deposits, you are approving two payments of \$200 for the selected school.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your total amount reflects an adjustment of \$1,000.00 applied by the school due to your students enrollment being after the start of the school year or due to an agreed adjustment amount previously discussed with the school.

NO

When you accept the School Enrollment Form for your student, you also approve payment for the tuition and fees associated with the private school you have selected.

Approving the payment to the selected private school is required for your student to receive their scholarship funds.



#### **Contact Us**

**Step Up For Students** 

**\** 877.735.7837

**Monday - Friday** 

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM





