



A Learning Option for Students with Unique Abilities

2024-25 STEP UP FAST FACTS

100,182 funded students with unique abilities
Average scholarship worth \$10,000
More than \$200 million purchased on MyScholarShop
More than 20,000 education providers, vendors, tutors, therapists, and more
2,076 participating private schools

2022-23 ESA Spending by Category

College Savings	\$ 7,371,281.12
Curriculum & Materials	\$ 96,110,807.67
PK and Other Tuition	\$ 5,965,807.20
Post Secondary Tuition	\$ 366,623.23
Public School Services	\$ 4,195.82
Pvt School	\$ 395,661,646.77
Therapies	\$ 23,009,249.05
Tutoring	\$ 20,055,329.10
Virtual School	\$ 2,172,062.24

Total: \$550,577,696.36

The **Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA / formerly the Gardiner Scholarship)** program allows parents to personalize the education of their special-needs children by directing money toward a combination of programs and approved providers. The Gardiner Scholarship amount varies per grade and county of residence. The average scholarship is around \$10,000 and funds may be rolled over from year to year.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS INCLUDE:

Florida students 3 years old through 12th grade, or age 22, with one of the following diagnoses:
Autism Spectrum Disorder
Muscular Dystrophy
Cerebral Palsy
Down Syndrome
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
Prader-Willi Syndrome
Spina Bifida
Williams Syndrome
Deaf, visually impaired, or dual sensory impaired
Hospital homebound, brain injury and more

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE:

Private school tuition & fees	Specialized summer & after school programs
Part-time & full-time tutoring	Instructional Materials
Therapy	Public school services
Postsecondary & transition programs	Online courses

