



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES

Application Guide

AM I ELIGIBLE?



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- a. The child is a Florida resident.
- b. The child attends a private school or is homeschooled
- c. The child turns 3 by September 1st the year the application is submitted.
- d. The child has one of the qualifying disabilities.

LIST OF QUALIFYING DISABILITIES:

- a. Autism Spectrum disorder
- b. Cerebral palsy
- c. Down syndrome
- d. An intellectual disability
- e. A speech impairment
- f. A language impairment
- g. An orthopedic impairment
- h. Other health impairment (includes ADHD, Asthma, Diabetes, and Cancer)
- i. An emotional or behavioral disability
- j. A specific learning disability, including, but not limited to dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia.
- k. Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- l. Prader-Willi syndrome
- m. Spina bifida
- n. Is considered a [high-risk child](#) – This disability is only for children ages 3-5.
- o. Muscular dystrophy
- p. Williams syndrome
- q. [Rare Diseases](#)
- r. Anaphylaxis
- s. A hearing impairment, including deafness
- t. A visual impairment, including blindness
- u. Traumatic brain injury
- v. Hospital or homebound
- w. Identification as dual sensory impaired

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?



REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR PROCESSING: :

- a. Diagnosis letter for Step Up for Students or Diagnosis Form for AAA Scholarships.
- b. Residency documents (Florida driver's license, utility bill, lease or mortgage statement).
- c. Sworn Compliance Statement
- d. Child's birth certificate.
- e. Proof of enrollment in a private school (schools have a template).



WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED TO SHOW AN ELIGIBLE DISABILITY?



DISABILITY DETERMINATION:

- a. The diagnosis must be written by a medical doctor or psychologist (e.g. Psychoeducational evaluation or diagnosis letter or form from a medical doctor).
- b. A speech and language therapist cannot write the diagnosis, but their evaluation, service or therapy plan should be brought to the doctor to write the diagnosis.
- c. For a child with ADHD, the diagnosis should be for Other Health Impairment.
- d. Many genetic diseases are under the "rare diseases" category.
- e. The diagnosis letter should contain the wording of the qualifying disability.

WHERE DO I APPLY?



THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS (SFO) THAT PROCESS THE UNIQUE ABILITIES SCHOLARSHIPS ARE:

1. **Step Up for Students** – stepupforstudents.org
2. **AAA Scholarships** – aaascholarships.org

- a. Step Up is recommended due their considerably shorter processing time and better customer service. (Step Up processes applications in 2-4 weeks versus AAA Scholarships can take up to 12 weeks.).
- b. If your application is put on hold, it means there is missing documentation.

For Step Up related questions, please call customer services (877) 735-7837 or use their chat feature. For AAA Scholarships questions, email plsa@aaascholarships.org or contact customer service 1888-707-2465 option 6 or 0 for income-based scholarships or option 1 for disability. For Teach Florida support, visit our webpage <https://teachcoalition.org/fl-scholarship/> to check eligibility, review our FAQs, or submit a question.