

Scholarships Open Enrollment 2024-2025: Step Up for Students

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Who we are:

Teach Florida advocates for safe, affordable, quality Jewish education.

We represent 50+ Jewish day schools in Florida. That is over 17,000 Jewish day school students across the state.



**WE ARE YOUR
ADVOCATE
& SUPPORT**

STATE PROGRAMS

 **NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS**
Scholarships now offered to all non-public school students regardless of income and students diagnosed with disabilities.

 **JEWISH DAY SCHOOL SECURITY**
Grants for fixed capital security upgrades and contracted security guards.

 **DUAL ENROLLMENT**
Funding available for schools offering dual enrollment programs contracted with local colleges.

WHO WE ARE

Teach Florida is a leader in education advocacy and has helped Florida become the national leader in universal school choice. Teach Florida is proud to advocate on behalf of Florida's nonpublic schools and their parents.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

 **TITLE PROGRAMS (ESSA)**
Offering guidance on eligibility and advocating for flexibility on Title I, Title II, Title III & Title IV programs.

 **IDEA (INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT)**
Direct support and guidance on obtaining free district evaluations and specialized services in private schools for students with disabilities.

 **NSGP - FEMA (HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS)**
Substantial federal grants (\$150k per site, up to 3 locations) for schools and synagogue campuses to protect against terrorist threats.

CONTACT US

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Scholarship Updates

▶ House Bill 1403:

1. Universal private school scholarships will continue for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Any child turning 3 by 12/15 with a disability can apply for the FES-UA scholarship.
3. 20,000 FES-UA slots added for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. 60,000 FTC-PEP slots added for the 2024-2025

Other Updates:

5. Residency requirements and documents have changed see [here](#) the application checklist, and only one guardian information required.

State Scholarships

Two categories of state scholarships:

A. Private School Scholarship

B. Unique Abilities Scholarship (formerly Gardiner & McKay
for children with disabilities)

Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO's)

Two Scholarship Funding Organizations process state scholarships:

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

Private School Scholarships FTC/FES-EO/

- ▶ Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) -income-based scholarship-funding source contributions from corporations to nonprofit scholarship funding organizations
- ▶ Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) -funding source is the state budget.

Personalized Education Program FTC-PEP

- ▶ Personalized Education Program (FTC-PEP) -students who are not full time in public or private schools can be considered under this version of home school.
- ▶ Students do NOT enroll as a homeschool student through the district but rather through Step Up or AAA scholarships.

Disability-Based Scholarship/FES-UA

- ▶ Family Empowerment Scholarship for unique abilities (FES-UA) -funding source is the state budget.
- ▶ Unique Abilities- formerly Gardiner or McKay

Eligibility for Private School Scholarship (FTC & FES-EO)

Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ Florida Resident
- ▶ Private School attendance ([qualifying private school](#))
- ▶ Personalized Education Program (FTC-PEP)- homeschool option.

Age Eligibility:

- ▶ Child is 5 by September 1st enrolled in kindergarten or 6 by September 1st entering first grade.

Scholarship Amounts & Uses:

- ▶ Educational savings account - click [here](#) for award chart- it can be used for tuition and fees if attending a private school. It can be used for academic tutoring, curriculum or educational supplies.

Eligibility for Unique Abilities Scholarship (FES-UA)

Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ 1. Resident of Florida
- ▶ 2. Student is aged 3 by Dec. 15th
- ▶ 3. Student attends a private school or homeschool
- ▶ 4. Diagnosis Letter (Step Up) or Form (AAA) or current (less than 3 years old) IEP with qualifying diagnosis

Award amounts click [here](#)

Spending Uses of the Educational Savings Account (ESA):

- a. Private school tuition and fees
- b. Approved specialized services
- c. Approved educational materials and curriculum

Family Empowerment Scholarship Unique Abilities (FES-UA) Guidelines:

- ▶ A diagnosis letter written by a medical doctor (MD) or psychologist. (an Autonomous APRN letter is also acceptable).
- ▶ Once you qualify for a disability category you do not need to requalify annually. (unless it is for High-Risk child who needs a new diagnosis the year they turn 6 by Sept 1st, or hospital homebound).
- ▶ Slots are more limited than private school scholarship
- ▶ . Student coming from public school-(with or without an IEP) have a guaranteed slot if they have a disability category

Applying for a Scholarship

- ❖ You can access the scholarship applications and other available resources by [clicking here](#). Make sure to login using the [EMA portal](#).
- ❖ For NEW applicants, please [download this guide](#) to create an EMA account. **PLEASE NOTE:** You MUST add all new students to your account before submitting your application.
- ❖ **Please note:** If you have a child that cannot be added to the FES-UA application (the child is turning 3 after Sept 1st or you are still waiting on the diagnosis documentation). You can apply for the other children and then after the application is processed, you can add the other child.

Diagnosis Letter Guidance

- ❖ The letter should include the qualifying disability title.
- ❖ District documents including an IEP (within 1 year) or evaluation (within 3 years) are preferred documents.
- ❖ Private psychoeducational evaluations are also acceptable documents.
- ❖ The evaluation reports or IEP must be from a Florida Practitioner.
- ❖ The Diagnosis letter can be written by a DR from out of state if they have an active license.

New Eligibility Categories as of 2022

1. speech impairment
2. language impairment
3. orthopedic impairment
4. specific learning disability
5. other health impairment (includes ADHD, asthma, diabetes)
6. emotional or behavioral disabilities

For a full list of eligibility categories click [here](#)

Role of Teach Florida

- ▶ Advocacy for expanded funding in the state legislature.
- ▶ IT or other scholarship processing issues
- ▶ Guidance and support in the scholarship process. If you have any questions, please email us at scholarships@teachcoalition.org or call our customer service line (561) 680-6973.
- ▶ Teach Webpage <https://teachcoalition.org/fl-scholarship/>

FAQ's

- ▶ How do I start the application process for 2024-2025? **Answer-Go to the “dashboard” scroll down to the list of applications and click the red “apply” button for the application you want to renew or start new.**
- ▶ What does it mean that I can only add one application per program? **Answer -It means for each of the scholarships there should be one application per family with all children.**
- ▶ Should I submit an application if one of the children cannot be added now? (missing the diagnosis letter, the child will be turning 3 after Sept. 1st) **Answer-If it is the cases listed above you can submit for the rest of the children and add your child later to the application when the initial application is showing the status “complete”**
- ▶ Can I apply to two scholarships per child and once awarded choose the scholarship I want? **Answer- No. If you get denied for the FES-UA scholarship you can then apply for the private school scholarship for that child.**
- ▶ Is there a sibling scholarship for FES-UA? **Answer-No. only siblings with a qualifying disability can be added to a FES-UA application.**
- ▶ What do the different application statuses mean? Submitted, Pending, On-hold, Completed **Answer- Submitted is when you first submit before it is reviewed, Pending-is when your application is being reviewed. On-hold- is when your application is missing documentation. Complete-means the review is complete and the award ID is available.**
- ▶ Where can I find the award ID? **Answer-Click on “my students” on the left side of the screen. Click on “view” next to your child's name on the table in the middle of the screen. Scroll down to scholarship status.**
- ▶ When do I give the award ID to the school? **Answer- Schools will notify you when it is time to submit the Award ID to be enrolled in the school EMA portal to use the funds for tuition and fees.**

FAQ's

FTC/FES-EO/PEP Questions

- ▶ Why is it asking for income if it is universal? **Answer-The law still requires that priority status is given to those who fall into the income thresholds. Click here for the thresholds.**
- ▶ Do I have to add all household members who are not eligible for a scholarship? **Answer- No. Only if you want to be considered for priority income status.**
- ▶ If I am not within the income priority status will it affect my ability to get a scholarship? **Answer-The state has invested an incredible amount of funding for the private school scholarship that the income priority status should not impact your ability to be funded.**
- ▶ If I am a renewal family will I be given priority. **Answer-Yes. The statute specifies that a renewal applicant is “once in always in” and will be processed as a priority application. However, if you wait too long to apply you may lose your priority status in terms of priority processing. You will still complete a shorter application as a renewal family.**
- ▶ How do I find the FES-UA ID number? **Answer-Click on “my students” on the left side of the screen. Click on “view” next to your child's name on the table in the middle of the screen. Scroll down and you can view the FES-UA scholarship from 2023-2024 and find the FES-UA ID number.**

FAQ's

FES-UA

- ▶ Why is my child who is younger than 5 showing on the application as attending a “homeschool”
Answer-the state does not consider a child younger than 5 school aged. Therefore, the system will default to homeschool for the current and upcoming year. (You can proceed with the application despite not being able to edit that section).
- ▶ Why can't I add my 2 year old to the application if they will be turning 3 after Sept. 1st but before the Dec. 15th cutoff? **Answer-The new legislation has not gone into effect for children turning 3 after Sept. 1st. Therefore, Step Up will send notification when these children can be added to the application.**

Q & A