

State Scholarship Open Enrollment: 2024-2025

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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.



Teach FL
Act for Jewish Education

**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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Legislative Updates

▶ House Bill 1403:

1. Universal private school scholarships will continue for the 2024-2025 school year.
2. Any child turning 3 by December 31st 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.

Preschool Updates

For the 2024-2025 school year, you can now pair the funding from VPK and the FES-UA scholarship!

School readiness can be paired with VPK and FES-UA.

DID YOU KNOW?



The FES-UA scholarship can be used in coordination with the VPK voucher. Children ages 3-5 who have been awarded FES-UA scholarship can use the funds for private school pre-K tuition, provider services, and more!
To learn more, visit sufs.org.



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. 31st
- ▶ 3. Student attends a private school that is scholarship compliant or a preschool that is VPK or school readiness certified.
- ▶ 4. Diagnosis Letter (Step Up) or Form (AAA) or current evaluation (within 3 years) or IEP (within 1 year).

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.

Application Tips

Getting Started:

- ❖ On the dashboard of the EMA page, scroll down and choose the red “apply” button next to the scholarship you want to begin or renew.
- ❖ If you have (new or renewal) apply for all at once for that scholarship type.
- ❖ You have to toggle the button to choose which student you are applying for in the appropriate scholarship type.
- ❖ Do not add a student in the application type if they are not to be considered for that type of scholarship.
- ❖ For FES-UA, any child under 5 yrs. old will default to “homeschool” as their current and previous school.

Diagnosis Letter Guidance

- ▶ • For speech and language impairment, parents to bring their speech or language evaluation and have the pediatrician write. “This child is recommended for speech or language services to address their speech or language impairment. An evaluation and IEP from the district is even better documentation.
- ▶ • High Risk Child- a child who completed an occupational therapy evaluation or physical therapy evaluation and is recommended or receiving therapy. The letter would state " This child, name, birth date, is a high-risk child in the area of physical development for(indicating the area of need- gross motor, defined motor etc.)
- ▶ • Other Health Impairment- I have included the doctor template [here](#). (This category includes; ADHD, Asthma, Diabetes, cancer etc.).
- ▶ • Specific Learning Disability-would only come from an educational evaluation from a private or district psychologist. (dyslexia is a category of a learning disability).
- ▶ • Emotional and Behavioral disabilities-a child who is struggling with mental health or social emotional issues eg. anxiety, depression. This child name, birth date, is diagnosed with __, an emotional or behavioral disability....
- ▶ • Rare Diseases- growth hormone deficiency, pediatric crohns, refractory celiac.

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.
- ▶ 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).

Q & A