

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Educational Options

The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program was initially established during the 2019 Legislative Session to enhance Florida's menu of education options for students whose families have limited financial resources, helping enable them to reach their academic goals. The Family Empowerment Scholarship Program -- Educational Options (FES-EO) provides eligible students a scholarship to attend a private school selected by the parent, or funding for transportation to a Florida public school that is different from the school to which the student was assigned.

A student may be eligible for FES-EO if the student meets one of the following criteria:

- The student's household income does not exceed 375% of the federal poverty level or the student is on the direct certification list (list of children who qualify for the food assistance program, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program, or the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations program);
- The student is currently placed, or during the previous state fiscal year was placed, in foster care or in out-of-home care as defined in section 39.01, Florida Statutes;
- The student is a sibling and resides in the same household of a student already participating in the program; or
- The student is a dependent child of an active member of the United States Armed Forces.

Prior to scholarship funds being awarded, the student must be accepted and enrolled in a participating private school. For a list of eligible schools and their contact information, please view the Department's Private School Directory at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

Parents who meet the eligibility requirements above and are interested in applying for FES-EO should first contact one of Florida's two approved scholarship funding organizations (contact information below) to complete the income verification process.

In 2021, the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program was expanded to include a second branch of eligibility, the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA). Both programs have a cap on the number of students who may participate each year. For more information regarding FES-EO or FES-UA, please visit the Department of Education website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs)

AAA Scholarship Foundation

<http://www.aaascholarships.org/>

888-707-2465

info@aaascholarships.org

Step Up for Students

<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>

877-735-7837

info@stepupforstudents.org

WEB:

FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

MAIN LINE: (850) 245-0502

TOLL FREE HOTLINE: (800) 447-1636

EMAIL:

SCHOOLCHOICE@FLDOE.ORG