

# **FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES (FES-UA)**

## **Purchasing Guidelines**

2026-2027



UCF

**Florida Center for Students  
with Unique Abilities**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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# INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are intended to be general in nature and to assist students' parents to remain in compliance when requesting scholarship disbursements. They are not intended to provide detailed instructions or to prescribe any particular educational program. Because each [Scholarship Funding Organization](#) (SFO) is an independent non-profit organization they each have their own policies and procedures, so it is important that you refer to your SFO's Parent Handbook and materials for detailed information about their scholarship administration processes.

The purchasing guidelines revisions were based on feedback from survey results and public comment meetings designed to solicit feedback. The revisions reflect the combination of family input and the directive to obtain feedback on the scholarship program described in [s 1002.394, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#).

Florida statutes and legislation related to each topic are included in the guidelines and have been placed in a textbox at the beginning of each section. Hyperlinks will take the reader directly to the cited legislation.

## PURCHASING POLICIES

[s. 1000.21\(6\), F.S.](#), "Parent" means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of the parent. For the purposes of the Purchasing Guidelines, the term "Guardian" will be used to include all eligible parents and guardians above who manage an ESA account for an eligible FES-UA student.

As per [s.1002.394, F.S.](#), Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities (FES-UA) scholarship funds must be used to meet the educational needs of an [eligible student](#). Using a student's scholarship funds for other purposes may violate Florida Statutes and may be a crime. For example, purchasing a product with scholarship funds, returning that product, and then spending the returned funds on items that do not meet the educational needs of the scholarship student is against the law.

The SFO will reimburse parents/guardians for their purchase of eligible products or services that meet their student's educational needs. If your SFO has an online platform for purchasing products and services, all items within that platform would be considered approvable. However, that does not limit purchases to the online platform option only. If a parent/guardian purchases a product identical to one offered by an SFO's online platform for a lower price, the SFO is required by law to reimburse the parent/guardian for the cost of the purchase.

If parents/guardians have questions, they should contact their SFO to confirm the eligibility of a purchase or financial transaction before using scholarship funds to ensure compliance with program policies.

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) reserves the right to terminate an FES-UA scholarship for violations of the scholarship guidelines, applicable policies, rules, or laws. Examples of violations that are likely to result in termination include:

- Enrolling the student in a public district school, charter school, and/or public online schools (including summer public school), without paying the public school
- Misspending funds or committing fraud.
- Accepting any other scholarship or tax credit scholarship while participating in FES-UA.

SFOs reserve the right to deny an item or require clarification for item(s) that are not age-appropriate (see definition on p. 2) or promote violence, criminal activity, or illegal behavior.

## GENERAL PURCHASING PROVISIONS

**Age-appropriate:** Given the unique and varied needs of students participating in this scholarship program, age-appropriate items must meet minimum age requirements for safety purposes.

**Cash Purchases:** Cash payments to private sellers are not eligible for reimbursement.

**Duplicate Billing:** Products or services paid for by another agency or source (for example, health insurance, Healthcare Savings Accounts [HSAs], or a School Readiness program) may not be submitted for reimbursement.

**Educational Benefit:** Educational benefit is defined as products, practices, or services that support and advance student learning. Some items or services may require additional information to demonstrate the educational benefit of the item or service to the educational needs of the student.

**Medical Services:** With the exception of those Specialized Services outlined in FES-UA legislation (including licensed Applied Behavior Analysis [ABA], Speech, Occupational, or Physical Therapies), medical services (including doctors' visits, examinations, and medical devices) are not eligible expenses.

**Monetary Benefit:** A family shall not receive a payment, refund, or rebate of scholarship funds from a vendor or provider of any services.

**Out-of-State Service Providers:** With the exception of credentialed providers whose services are delivered virtually (for example, tutors, licensed therapists), services must be delivered in Florida.

**Out-of-State Activities:** Out-of-state activities that meet general expense criteria are eligible with pre-authorization approval.

**Parent:** The term parent has the same meaning as in [s. 1002.394\(2\)\(m\), F.S.](#)

**Pre-Authorization Requests:** Many items and services have been pre-approved as authorized uses of scholarship funds. However, some items or services require a parent to submit a pre-authorization request prior to making the purchase. See Appendix B for a full list.

**Note:** Items or services not listed as eligible in these Purchasing Guidelines require pre-authorization approval before purchasing the item or service. The SFO will not accept or consider pre-authorization requests for items that are prohibited.

A pre-authorization request requires:

- Completion of the SFOs' Pre-authorization Request form
  - A pre-authorization request requires supporting documentation, and an explanation of how the item is an eligible expense.
  - The pre-authorization request should be specific to the student and contain as much detail about the specific item or service being requested, including the approximate cost of the item or service.
- Completion of the SFO's reimbursement or direct pay request if the pre-authorization request is approved. The items or services submitted for reimbursement should correspond to the pre-authorization request.

**Note:** A pre-authorization request is not confirmation of the provider's eligibility or the funding available for the reimbursement.

Approval of pre-authorization requests are decided on a case-by-case basis relevant to the needs of the individual student. An approved pre-authorization request is valid for purchases in the school year in which it was approved.

Pre-authorization requests are submitted through the SFOs portal once a student's account has been funded. The pre-authorization request will be reviewed in the order it was received, and a notification of the outcome will be sent via email. If the pre-authorization request is approved, once you have purchased the item, submit a reimbursement request in the parent/guardian portal.

Product Safety: For safety reasons, items must meet the manufacturer's stated minimum age requirement as indicated on product packaging or the manufacturer's published specifications.

Prorating Payments for Multi-User Items: Other family members often use products purchased with scholarship funds. Consequently, funding for these multi-user items is pro-rated to only cover the scholarship student's cost.

Shipping Guidelines: Your SFO will determine shipping restrictions on any purchases made through its online platform.

# AUTHORIZED EXPENSE CATEGORIES

FES-UA scholarship funds can be used to purchase the following eligible educational products and services as authorized in [s. 1002.394, F.S.](#)

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

[s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

Instructional materials, including digital materials and Internet resources.

1. Instructional materials, including digital devices, digital periphery devices, and assistive technology devices that allow a student to access instruction or instructional content and training on the use of and maintenance agreements for these devices.

Eligible instructional materials include:

### Digital Devices

- Cellular phones
- Desktop computer
- Drones
- e-Reader
- Gaming systems/Consoles purchased with accompanying educational software
- Laptop computer
- Smart watches
- Tablet

*Frequency of Purchase:* Once every two (2) years; however, the devices may be eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization.

### Digital Periphery Devices

- Keyboard
- Computer monitor
- Digital periphery bundle (can include keyboard/mouse bundle)
- Mouse/touchpad/trackball
- Case and screen protector
- Printers (printers can be regular, 3D, sublimation, photo)
- Speakers
- Headsets/headphones/earbuds
- External drive (including hard drive and flash drive)
- Scanner
- Digital pencil
- Virtual and augmented reality headsets/goggles
- Wands and Sticks
- Wi-Fi routers, modems, and extenders

## Assistive Technology Devices

Assistive Technology Devices allow students to access instruction or instructional content.

Examples include the following:

- Augmentative communication device
- Braille displays
- Braille embossers
- FM system
- Hearing aids
- Interactive metronome
- Light signaler alerts
- Prescription eyeglasses
- Proloquo2Go
- Reading tools
- Screen magnifiers/enlargers
- Screen readers
- Sip-and-puff systems
- Smart board
- Speech or voice recognition programs
- Student response systems
- Switches and other devices
- Talking and large print word processors
- Text-to-speech (TTS) or speech synthesizers
- TTY/TTD conversion modems
- Vibroacoustic therapy
- Other Assistive Devices may be eligible with pre-authorization

*Frequency of Purchase:* Once per year; however, the devices may be eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization

## Training On the Use of Eligible Devices

Scholarship funds can be used to purchase training for parents/guardians or students on how to use digital devices, digital peripheral devices, or assistive technology devices.

## Maintenance Agreements for Eligible Devices

Maintenance agreements/warranties for eligible devices purchased with FES-UA funds are eligible FES-UA expenses. Maintenance agreements/warranties are service agreements with a device manufacturer or vendor to support regular service on that device.

## Digital Materials

Scholarship funds can be used to purchase digital material such as CDs, DVDs, and digital documents, including subscriptions or memberships to eBooks, audiobooks, productivity, behavioral, and/or educational applications (apps).

## Internet Resources

Scholarship funds can be used to purchase in-home internet services (including mobile hot-spots and streaming services) at the residential address associated with their student's scholarship application. Modem or router rental from the internet service provider and billed with a monthly internet service is also eligible. Streaming services must be age appropriate.

## Sensory Materials

Sensory materials that encourage learning through sensory stimulation are eligible.

Eligible items include:

- Air Walker
- Balance ball
- Manipulatives & hands-on materials
- Occupational Therapy (OT) augmentation (the use improves or strengthens the outcome)
- Physical Therapy (PT) augmentation (the use improves or strengthens the outcome)
- Sensory bundles (for example, a travel sensory kit or a calming weighted bundle)
- Sensory lighting (for example, lava lamps and bubble tubes)
- Sensory manipulatives (for example, fidget spinners and Boink toys)
- Sensory swing
- Sensory table
- Specialized furniture/comfort chair
- Speech-Language Therapy (SL) augmentation (the use improves or strengthens the outcome)
- Therapy chair

## Physical Education (P.E.)

Authorized P.E. expenses include sports lessons, fees, or equipment for single-person items to benefit the student or equipment designed for shared use in cases where student requires an accompanying adult for safe use including, but not limited to:

- Dance lessons
- Dance supplies
- Digital or video-based sport instruction
- Gym/fitness memberships or “Class Passes” (for the student only), including on- demand fitness classes
- Individual exercise trampoline
- Safety equipment
- Skateboard
- Specialized or sport-specific footwear (including basketball shoes, soccer cleats, dance shoes)
- 
- Sports lessons (including individual training or group trainings)
- Sports supplies (including balls, racquets, basketball goals, soccer goals, tennis/volleyball nets, etc.)
- Sports supplies rentals (including helmets, bats, lacrosse sticks, gloves, shoulder pads, knee pads)
- Sports uniforms, including all required accessories
- Stand-alone athletic event fees (including foot or bike race registrations, endurance events, Special Olympics registration)
- Swim goggles, snorkel, mask, fins
- Team fees (including registration, equipment rental, and competition fees)

P.E. Equipment:

- Exercise equipment (including stationary bike, treadmill/walking pad, weight bench)
- Home playset/swing set (including rubber mulch or safety materials)
- Kayak, canoe, surfboard, boogie board, skim board, stand-up paddleboard
- Table sports (ping-pong, basketball shooting games, foosball table, air hockey)
- Two or three wheeled bicycles

*Frequency of Purchase:* Two (2) years for equipment; however, equipment may be eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization.

A pre-authorization is required for:

- P.E. activities occurring outside of the State of Florida, with the exception of SFO approved military families living outside of Florida

Prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- Any activities occurring outside of the State of Florida that are not pre-authorized
- In-ground or above-ground swimming pools and Jacuzzis
- Motorized equipment (treadmills or walking pads are eligible)
- Motorized scooters or ride-ons (including golf carts)
- Motorized vehicles, including but not limited to two-, three-, and four-wheeled vehicles
- Trampolines (individual exercise trampolines are eligible)
- Watercrafts (except for kayaks, canoes, surfboards, boogie boards, skim boards, stand-up paddleboards)

## Books

Textbooks, workbooks, and other books are eligible FES-UA expenses. Books are neither capped in annual spending nor subject to frequency of purchase. Two copies of a book are permitted.

Prohibited items:

- Books with content that pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior

## Musical Instruments & Equipment

Musical instruments, musical equipment rentals, and certain equipment are eligible FES-UA expenses. Maintenance, tuning, insurance, or service agreements and repair of instruments are eligible.

## Electives

Lessons, equipment, or consumables generally associated with elective or enrichment (non-core academic subjects), can be purchased and include, but are not limited to:

- Animal Husbandry
- Art
- Club fees (such as Boy/Girl Scouts, and 4H/FFA Clubs)
- Culinary (cooking)
- Drama
- Foreign language
- Gardening/Horticultural
- Mechanical training
- Music
- Photography/Videography
- Programming/Digital Production
- Sewing
- Woodworking/building

#### Elective Course Supplies:

- Animal husbandry: bedding, grooming, cleaning supplies
- Art: paint, pencils, canvases, paper, clay, glue
- Cooking: measuring cups, utensils, mixing bowls, subscription kits
- Drama: costumes and accessories, except for both costume and fine jewelry
- Gardening: soil, trellises, drip irrigation, fertilizer, seeds, bulbs, seedlings, potted herbs, fruits/vegetables plants, pollinator plants, or plants in containers no larger than one gallon. Fruit trees/shrubs in seven-gallon pots are allowed.
- Mechanical: screws, wires, lubricants, solder
- Photography/Video: batteries, tripods, microphones, lenses
- Programming and Digital Production: USB drives, cords
- Safety Supplies: disposable gloves, masks, earplugs
- Sewing: thread, fabric, needles, patterns, bobbins
- Postsecondary and Career Education: tape, labels
- Woodworking: wood, nails, glue, sandpaper, stain

#### Elective Course Equipment:

- Animal husbandry: heating lamps, incubators, feeders, grooming
- Art: easels, ceramics kiln
- Cooking: stand mixers, blenders, dehydrators
- Gardening: raised beds, compost tumblers, hydroponic garden kits
- Mechanical: power tools, engine models
- Photography/Video: cameras, lighting kits
- Programming and Digital Production: monitors
- Safety Supplies: non-disposable goggles, gloves, respirators
- Sewing: sewing machine, mannequins, rotary cutters
- Postsecondary and Career Education: toolboxes, specialized trade tools
- Woodworking: workbenches, clamps, drills, sanders

*Frequency of Purchase:* Two (2) years for equipment; however, equipment is eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization.

#### Prohibited items:

- Supplies that are considered general household expenses or improvement (e.g., large irrigation system, large appliances, and chicken coops)

## Identifying an eligible provider for enrichment or elective subjects

Eligible providers for enrichment or elective subjects should have one of the following:

- Eligible to provide part-time tutoring services as identified in the requirements listed in the **Tuition and Fees for Part-Time Tutoring Services or Fees for Choice Navigator Services**
- Valid or expired Florida educator's certificate
- Minimum of three years of experience in the relevant subject area as demonstrated by employment records
- Current enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution as a student of the relevant subject area
- Degree from a postsecondary educational institution in the relevant subject area
- Certification or national accreditation in the relevant subject area

## Field Trips and Other Activities Needed to Enhance Curriculum

The following items are eligible for student admission only. Field trips are eligible for the student only. With a family admission package or membership, reimbursements will be prorated to cover only the student's cost. A student's ticket price must correspond to the student's age (if prices vary by age). Tickets or admission must be purchased directly from the venue/vendor or an authorized third-party seller. Secondary market or resale tickets are not reimbursable. Please see "Appendix A-Summary of Prohibited or Ineligible Items" for more information.

- Admission to cultural programming events or facilities
- Admission to a Florida theme park\*
- Aquarium/zoo admission
- Aquarium/zoo memberships
- Museum admission
- Museum or library memberships
- Programs or events at museums/zoos/aquariums
- School field trip fees paid to an eligible private school or eligible home education program
- Single-admission leisure events such as roller skating, ice skating, bowling, and trampoline parks (including equipment rental) under \$75
- State/National Park admission
- Ticketed events (plays, musicals, or orchestral performances)

Out-of-state field trips and Florida theme park admission reimbursement requests must be accompanied by documentation of educational benefit.

A pre-authorization is required for non-school affiliated field trip activities occurring outside of the State of Florida, but within the United States.

School field trip fees paid to an eligible private school or eligible home education program may be submitted under the Field Trip category or included within tuition and fees.

*\*Note on Florida theme park admission:* Each scholarship student submits one reimbursement request for admission to one Florida theme park during the school year for a value up to \$299 before tax. The parent/guardian may choose either a single or multi-day park admission ticket or an annual pass, which will be reimbursable at the actual rate paid for the student's age group up to \$299 plus tax. Because each scholarship student will be allowed one reimbursement submission, and the parent/guardian will only be reimbursed for the actual amount paid at the time of reimbursement submission, parents utilizing a payment plan must wait until the ticket or pass has been paid in full (or up to \$299) before submitting their reimbursement request. Reimbursement requests for theme parks cannot be bundled with other reimbursement requests or receipts.

The following Florida Theme Parks are eligible:

- Animal Kingdom
- Busch Gardens Tampa Bay
- Dinosaur World
- Epic Universe
- Epcot
- Gatorland
- Hollywood Studios
- Islands of Adventure
- Legoland Florida
- Magic Kingdom
- Peppa Pig Theme Park
- Seaworld Orlando
- Seaworld Orlando
- Universal Studios Florida

\*An annual pass or multi-day ticket includes admission to more than one of the theme parks above in the same resort family.

#### Prohibited items:

- Additional services (such as parking, food, and beverage packages, photographs or souvenirs, or premium access)
- Admission to amusement parks, water parks, and out-of-state theme parks
- Special event ticketing (for example, seasonal or after-hours events) at a Florida theme park

#### Reimbursement Requirements:

- The reimbursement request should contain, in addition to the proof of payment, an invoice and a statement of educational benefit for the student.
- The reimbursement request must not include any additional items for reimbursement.
- The reimbursement request must be submitted after the ticket or pass has been paid in full.
- For purchases made with a payment plan: the parent/guardian will only be reimbursed for the actual amount paid at the time of reimbursement submission.
- Parents utilizing the payment plan must wait until the ticket or pass has been paid in full (or up to \$299) before submitting their reimbursement request.
- Requests will be reviewed and reimbursed at the amount expended at the time of the reimbursement request.
- The purchase date is the date the ticket/pass is paid in full.
- Proof of Purchase for theme park tickets must include the student's name on the receipt or invoice.

## At-Home Classroom Furnishings

Furnishing used to create an at-home classroom tailored to meet the student's unique needs are eligible expenses, including but not limited to:

- Architect/drafting table
- Bulletin board
- Chair
- CD/DVD/music players
- Desk
- Educational poster/visual support
- Indoor projector
- Maps/globes/atlasses
- Picnic table
- Rug or foam tile
- Standing or drop-down screen
- Storage (including bookshelves and storage or organization containers)
- Television (size meets student's unique needs)
- Timer/clock
- Whiteboard
- Other furniture and equipment that supports student learning needs

*Frequency of Purchase:* Once every two (2) years for television, architect/drafting table, picnic table, or projector; however, these items are eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization.

## School Supplies

[s.1002.394\(4\)\(b\) F.S.](#)

Instructional materials, including digital materials and Internet resources. Equipment used as instructional materials may only be purchased for subjects in language arts and reading, mathematics, social studies, and science.

School supplies are eligible for purchase, include but are not limited to:

- Adhesives
- Bookbags (backpack, tote bag, messenger bag)
- Calculator
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers
- Lunchboxes, to include bento boxes
- Math tools (abacus/compass/protractor/ruler)
- Notebooks/folders/binders
- Paper
- Planners/Organizers
- Printer Ink
- Scissors
- Tape/paperclips/stapler
- Writing utensils

## Lab Fees and Materials

Science, math, and computer lab fees and equipment and lab safety equipment are eligible FES-UA expenses. Lab equipment should be safe for student use and provide opportunities for instruction.

Lab equipment that poses a threat to the student or others or that promotes violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.

## Learning Manipulatives/Creative Play Items

Eligible items utilized for tactile learning, academic practice, or creative play provide opportunities for instruction, based on the unique needs of the student including, but not limited to:

- Blocks
- Board/card games
- Chess/checker sets
- Dolls (and accessories)
- Dominoes/marbles
- Dress-up clothing and accessories except for both costume and fine jewelry
- Legos
- Play kitchens
- Puzzles
- Stuffed animals
- Water tables
- Other items that support the unique learning needs of the student and provide educational benefit

Prohibited:

- Games or puzzles that pose a threat to the student or others or that promote violence or criminal behavior

## Educational Subscription Kits

Educational Subscription Kits curated and mailed to the home by a kit company are eligible for reimbursement. Subscriptions should be safe for student use and provide opportunities for instruction.

## Educational Software/Subscriptions

The following items are eligible for single use/student pricing only. Reimbursements for multi-user access subscriptions will be prorated to only cover the student's cost. Software and subscriptions should be safe for student use and provide opportunities for instruction.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Graphics/photo editing software
- Magazine subscriptions
- Newspaper subscriptions
- Other educational software and subscriptions
- Software subscriptions (Word processing, Microsoft Office, Adobe, video or music-editing software, LexisNexis, QuickBooks)

## CURRICULUM and CURRICULUM MATERIALS

[s.1002.394, F.S.](#)

(2)(c) "Curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular content area or grade level, including any required supplemental materials and associated online instruction.

For the purposes of this section, a complete course of study includes postsecondary programs aimed at career readiness or trade certification. Parents or guardians must submit a pre-authorization request form for curriculum materials that are not publicly available.

## SPECIALIZED SERVICES

[s. 1002.394, F.S.](#)

3. Specialized services by approved providers or by a hospital in this state which are selected by the parent. These specialized services may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Applied behavior analysis services as provided in [s.627.6686, F.S.](#) and [641.31098, F.S.](#)
- b. Services provided by speech-language pathologists as defined in [s. 468.1125\(8\), F.S.](#)
- c. Occupational therapy as defined in [s. 468.203, F.S.](#)
- d. Services provided by physical therapists as defined in [s. 486.021\(8\), F.S.](#)
- e. Services provided by listening and spoken language specialists and an appropriate acoustical environment for a child who has a hearing impairment, including deafness, and who has received an implant or assistive hearing device.

Specialized services are those provided by the approved providers listed below or a Florida hospital. Services may be delivered outside Florida if credentialed. Online delivery is eligible.

For the purposes of this section, an approved provider is licensed by the Florida Department of Health to perform the service, approved as a provider by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or approved as a Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) Provider by the Office of Early Learning. An approved provider also includes out-of-state psychologists credentialed through PSYPACT. An approved provider must provide services in the specialized area in which they are approved.

These services include:

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services provided by or under the supervision of a [Board Certified Behavior Analyst \(BCBA\)](#) (for example; services provided by a Registered Behavior Technician [RBT] under the supervision of a BCBA)
- Speech-Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Listening and Spoken Language Therapy
- Psychotherapy or counseling by a licensed Psychologist, School Psychologist, Mental Health Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, or Clinical Social Worker
- Vision therapy by a licensed Optometrist

Here are links to help verify specialized service provider credentials:

- [Agency for Persons with Disabilities \(APD\) Waiver Providers](#)
- [Florida Department of Health Providers](#)
- [Specialized Instructional Services \(SIS\)](#)
- [Behavioral Analyst Certification Board \(BACB\)](#)

## TUITION AND FEES

### [s. 1002.394, F.S.](#)

Tuition and or fees associated with full-time or part-time enrollment in a home education program, an eligible private school, an eligible postsecondary educational institution, or a program offered by the postsecondary educational institution, unless the program is subject to [s. 1009.25, F.S.](#) or reimbursed pursuant to [s. 1009.30, F.S.](#); an approved Pre-apprenticeship program as defined in [s. 446.021\(5\), F.S.](#) which is not subject to [s. 1009.25, F.S.](#) and complies with all applicable requirements of the department pursuant to [chapter 1005, F.S.](#); a private tutoring program authorized under [s. 1002.43, F.S.](#); a virtual program offered by a department-approved private online provider that meets the provider qualifications specified in [s. 1002.45\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#), the Florida Virtual School as a private paying student, or an approved online course offered pursuant to [s. 1003.499, F.S.](#) or [s. 1004.0961, F.S.](#)

## Tuition and Fees at an Eligible Private School

Tuition and fees at an eligible private school are covered by a FES-UA Scholarship. Schools must meet state eligibility criteria and elect to participate in the FES program with the FLDOE. Not all private schools are eligible to participate. A list of schools eligible to serve scholarship students can be found at the [Florida Private Schools Directory](#). Select your county; then select Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA). A parent who applies for a FES-UA scholarship and elects to enroll his or her student in an eligible private school must meet with the private school's principal or the principal's designee to review the school's academic programs and policies, specialized services, code of student conduct, and attendance policies before his or her student is enrolled. The private school of enrollment must maintain a physical location in the state at which the students have regular and direct contact with teachers at least two school days per week ([s. 1002.421\(1\)\(i\), F.S.](#)).

The agreed-upon amount of tuition and fees for each student is a contractual agreement between the parent/guardian and their eligible private school. We recommend parents/guardians communicate with their preferred private school about what is required before enrolling their student.

#### Eligible Fees:

- Academic services fee
- Activity fees (for example, choir or band fees)
- Application fee (payable in the year preceding the academic year, i.e., pay in February prior to August enrollment)
- Athletic fees
- Book fee
- Club fees
- Graduation fee
- Registration fee (payable in the year preceding the academic year, i.e., pay in February prior to August enrollment)
- Security fee
- Technology fee
- Test fee
- Uniform fee (basic uniform pieces purchased from a school-required vendor, based on the unique needs of the student)
- Other fees that support the unique needs of the student

#### Prohibited Fees:

- Annual fees
- Before or after school care
- Costs associated with scholarship management
- Food fees
- Fundraising fee/donation/fee/volunteer waiver fee
- Giving fees
- Optional fees
- Shoes and accessories

**Note:** These categories, if provided by an Eligible Private School, may be listed as a fee. These providers and services will not be credentialed at the provider level, and they may be billed to the school and included in the fee schedule for services occurring during the school day by otherwise credentialed providers.

## Tuition and Fees for Home Education Programs

Scholarship funds can be used to pay tuition and fees for programs, courses, or classes offered to home education students. These services must be part of the student's sequential instruction per the definition of a home education program.

### [s. 1000.21, F.S.](#)

(5), "Parent" means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a student in place of the parent.

### [s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

4. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time enrollment in a home education program; an eligible private school; an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the postsecondary educational institution, unless the program is subject to [s. 1009.25, F.S.](#) or reimbursed pursuant to [s. 1009.30, F.S.](#); an approved pre-apprenticeship program as defined in [s. 446.021\(5\), F.S.](#) which is not subject to [s. 1009.25, F.S.](#) and complies with all applicable requirements of the department pursuant to [chapter 1005 F.S.](#); a private tutoring program authorized under [s. 1002.43, F.S.](#); a virtual program offered by a department-approved private online provider that meets the provider qualifications specified in [s. 1002.45\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#); the Florida Virtual School as a private paying student; or an approved online course offered pursuant to [s. 1003.499, F.S.](#) or [s. 1004.0961, F.S.](#)

The following considerations apply when determining whether a program is an eligible home education program tuition & fee expense. Eligible programs must:

- Be a program selected by the parent as a part of his or her home education student's parent-directed instruction;
- Private schools, virtual schools, and public or charter schools are not considered home education instructional programs
- Provide courses and/or activities for home education students that enhance or enrich the student's learning opportunities;
- Have publicly available/reviewable program descriptions of courses and/or activities; and,
- Be a business organization (tuition and fees cannot be paid to an individual, except for regional program directors or designated liaisons of national home educational communities).

**All other live instruction, whether in-person or via remote access online, must meet the requirements for part-time tutoring services to be reimbursed by FES-UA funds.**

## Tuition and Fees at an Eligible Postsecondary Institution

Tuition and fees required for enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution, or a program offered by an eligible postsecondary institution, is covered by FES-UA.

Eligible postsecondary institutions include:

- A [Florida College System](#) institution
- A [state university](#)
- A [school district technical center](#)
- A school district adult general education center
- An independent college or university that is eligible to participate in the William L Boyd, IV Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program under [s. 1009.89](#) F.S.
- An accredited [independent postsecondary educational institution](#), as defined in [s. 1005.02](#) F.S., which is licensed to operate in the State of Florida or is approved to participate in a [reciprocity agreement](#)

## Tuition and Fees for Approved Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

[s. 1002.394, F.S.](#)

4. Tuition and fees associated with full-time or part-time enrollment in an eligible postsecondary educational institution or a program offered by the postsecondary educational institution, unless the program is subject to [s. 1009.25](#) or reimbursed pursuant to [s. 1009.30](#); an approved preapprenticeship program as defined in [s. 446.021\(5\)](#) which is not subject to [s. 1009.25](#) and complies with all applicable requirements of the department pursuant to chapter 1005; a private tutoring program authorized under [s. 1002.43](#); a virtual program offered by a department-approved private online provider that meets the provider qualifications specified in [s. 1002.45\(2\)\(a\)](#); the Florida Virtual School as a private paying student; or an approved online course offered pursuant to [s. 1003.499](#) or [s. 1004.0961](#).

Tuition and fees for an organized course of instruction designed to prepare a person 16 years of age or older to become an apprentice in a course approved by and registered with the department and sponsored by a registered apprenticeship program under [s. 446.021\(5\), F.S.](#)

## Tuition and Fees for Dual Enrollment

Students receiving the FES-UA scholarship are eligible to participate in dual enrollment at an approved post-secondary institution. Participation in the scholarship program does not affect the ability to use funds for dual enrollment.

## Tuition and Fees for a Private Tutoring Program

Tuition and fees required for enrollment in an eligible Private Tutoring Program, authorized under [s.1002.43, F.S.](#), are covered.

Requirements for approved Private Full-Time Tutors include:

- The tutor must hold a current, valid Florida teaching certificate for the subject or grade level in which they will tutor
- For grades K-3, full-time tutoring is considered 720 hours per school year
- For grades 4-12, full-time tutoring is considered 900 hours (equivalent to 180 teaching days)
- A tutor seeking to provide services must certify compliance with relevant statutes, including attendance requirements, and file annually a W9 form with the appropriate SFO prior to the receipt of education savings account funds (ESA), and then annually thereafter. The FLDOE may institute a standardized compliance form.

A full-time private tutor receiving FES-UA funds may not serve more than 5 students at one time. However, a full-time private tutor may provide tutoring for up to 25 students if the following facility requirements are satisfied:

Private tutoring may be provided for up to 25 students in any commercial building with a valid certificate of occupancy, library, community service, museum, performing arts, theater, cinema, or church facility; in any facility or on any land owned by a Florida College System institution or university; in any similar public institution facility; and in any facility recently used to house a school or child care facility licensed under [s. 402.305 F. S.](#) within the preexisting zoning and land use designations of the facility without obtaining a special exception, rezoning, or a land use change so long as the provision of such tutoring meets all applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including those pertaining to fire safety and building safety.

## Tuition and Fees for Part-Time Tutoring Services or Fees for Choice Navigator Services

[s. 1002.394, F.S.](#)

**“Choice navigator” has the same meaning as in [s. 1002.395\(2\), F.S.](#)**

“Choice navigator” means an individual who meets the requirements of sub-subparagraph (6)(d)4.h. and who provides consultations, at a mutually agreed upon location, on the selection of, application for, and enrollment in educational options addressing the academic needs of a student; curriculum selection; and advice on career and postsecondary education opportunities. However, nothing in this section authorizes a choice navigator to oversee or exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of a personalized education program.

Tuition and Fees for part-time tutoring, or fees for Choice Navigator services are covered by FES-UA. Part-time tutoring includes tuition and fees for services provided by a person who meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Holds a valid Florida educator’s certificate
- Holds a valid professional standard teaching certificate issued by another state
- Is certified by a nationally or internationally recognized research-based training program as approved by the department
- Holds an adjunct teaching certificate
- Has a bachelor’s or graduate degree in the subject area of instruction
- Holds a valid certificate issued by the national Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) or the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)

- Has an official FTCE score report indicating a passing score on a Florida subject area exam, not more than 10 years old
- Has a passing score report that is not more than 10 years old, above the intermediate level, on both the oral and written exams for a foreign language subject area (excluding French, German, or Spanish) administered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL)
- Has a form provided by a Florida school district and signed by the school district, indicating there is no standardized exam in the subject area, but the person has attained the essential subject matter competencies and subject area specialization requirements
- Has a valid Statement of Status (SOE) issued by Educator Certification that indicates the educator is *eligible* for a Professional Certificate
- For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree (i.e., Reading), has a score report indicating a passing score on a Florida subject area exam (not more than 10 years old) AND a valid Statement of Status of Eligibility (SOE) issued by Educator Certification that indicates the educator is *eligible* for a Temporary or Professional Certificate

A “Choice Navigator” is an individual who meets the credentialing requirements of a Part-Time Tutor (above) and who provides consultations, at a mutually agreed upon location, on the selection of, application for, and enrollment in educational options addressing the academic needs of a student; curriculum selection; and advice on career and postsecondary education opportunities. A Choice Navigator may not oversee or exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of a student.

## Tuition and Fees at an Approved Online or Virtual Provider

Tuition and fees required for enrollment at an eligible or approved online or virtual provider are covered by FES-UA.

Approved online or virtual providers include:

- An approved private online provider under [s. 1002.45\(2\)\(a\), F.S.](#)
- A program offered by the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) in which the eligible student is enrolled as a private paying student. (Note: If a student is enrolled in FLVS as a public-school student the student will be considered a public-school student and will be ineligible for a FES-UA)
- An approved online course offered pursuant to [s. 1003.499, F.S.](#) or [s. 1004.0961, F.S.](#)

The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) has approval authority for these funding categories. The FLDOE publishes and maintains a list of approved online or virtual providers pursuant to the above statutory authority. You can find the list of providers online at [FLDOE Approved Virtual Instruction Program \(VIP\)](#).

## Tuition and Fees as a Private-Pay Student for Florida Virtual School

Tuition and fees required for enrollment as a private-pay student at an approved virtual schools are covered by FES-UA. Students utilizing Florida Virtual School (FLVS) must be enrolled as a private-pay student. If a student is enrolled in FLVS and funded as a public-school student, the student will lose eligibility and funding for FES-UA. For further information on using the FES-UA scholarship to pay for FLVS enrollment visit the [FLVS website for school choice scholarships](#).

# TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS

[s.1002.394 \(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

5. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced achievement tests, Advanced Placement Examinations, industry certification examinations, assessments related to postsecondary education, or other assessments.

Fees associated with standardized testing or examinations are covered by FES-UA funds.

Approved standardized testing or assessments include:

- National and state standardized, norm-referenced assessments
- Advanced Placement (AP) examinations
- Industry certification examinations
- Transition assessments
- Assessments related to postsecondary education
- Conducting career and interest assessments
- Initial or re-evaluation assessments
- Other assessments may be eligible with pre-authorization

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO APPROVED COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

This link will take you to a website describing Florida Prepaid College options:

<https://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/resources/prepaid-vs-savings/>.

To find out more about how to use the scholarship funds to contribute to a college savings plan, visit [Family-Empowerment-Scholarship-Program.pdf](#).

[s.1002,394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

6. Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to [s. 1009.98 F.S.](#) or the Florida College Savings Program pursuant to [s.1009.981 F.S.](#) for the benefit of the eligible student.

[s.1009.98, F.S.](#)

(1) STANLEY G. TATE FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PROGRAM; CREATION. There is created the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program to provide a medium through which the cost of registration and dormitory residence may be paid in advance of enrollment in a state postsecondary institution at a rate lower than the projected corresponding cost at the time of actual enrollment. Such payments shall be combined and invested in a manner that yields, at a minimum, sufficient interest to generate the difference between the prepaid amount and the cost of registration and dormitory residence at the time of actual enrollment. Students who enroll in a state postsecondary institution pursuant to this section shall be charged no fees in excess of the terms delineated in the advance payment contract.

Contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program pursuant to [s. 1009.98, F.S.](#), or the Florida College Savings Program pursuant to [s. 1009.981, F.S.](#), F.S., for the benefit of the eligible student, are covered by the FES-UA.

## Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program (Prepaid 529 Plan)

The following plans are eligible for contributions:

- 1-Year University Plan
- 4-Year University Plan
- 2-Year College Plan
- 4-Year College Plan
- 2+2 Florida Plan
- Dormitory 529 Plan

Florida Prepaid 529 Investment Plan funds can be used out-of-state and can be applied to room & board or off-campus housing.

The following restrictions on the FES-UA scholarship fund contributions to the Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Fund apply:

- Contributions can only be made on behalf of the eligible FES-UA scholarship student.
- The account owner cannot change the beneficiary of an account that contains scholarship funds.
- Any privately contributed funds in the account will be used to pay plan benefits before the scholarship funds.
- If a Prepaid College account is closed the money will go back to the open scholarship account along with any interest accumulated, or to the State of Florida if the scholarship account has been or is being closed.
- If a student's scholarship account closes for any reason, money in the student's Florida Prepaid account contributed through the scholarship will be returned to the State of Florida.

## Florida 529 College Savings Program (Investment 529 Plan)

### [s. 1009.981, F.S.](#)

Florida College Savings Program.

(1)(a) The Florida Prepaid College Board is authorized to create, establish, and administer the Florida College Savings Program to promote and enhance the affordability of higher education in the state and to enable persons to contribute funds that are combined and invested to pay the subsequent higher education expenses of a designated beneficiary.

The following restrictions on scholarship fund contributions apply:

- Families must select "Family Empowerment Plan" from the available account options.
- No action is required for families who previously established an UGMA/UTMA account as all legacy UCMA/UTMA accounts tied to Family Empowerment Scholarship funds have been automatically reclassified as "Family Empowerment Plan" accounts, and families will see the change reflected.
- The account owner cannot change the beneficiary of an account that contains scholarship funds.
- The privately contributed funds in the account (if any) will be used to pay plan benefits before the scholarship funds.
- If a Florida 529 College Savings account is closed, the money will go back to the open scholarship account along with any interest accumulated, or to the State of Florida if the scholarship account has been or is being closed.
- If a student's scholarship account closes for any reason, any money in the student's 529 College Savings account contributed through the scholarship will be returned to the State of Florida.

- If a student has an existing Florida 529 College Savings plan, scholarship funds will be managed in a separate account from private funds that are invested.

**Note:** Scholarship funds that are transferred to a Florida Prepaid account remain subject to both the terms and conditions of Florida Prepaid and the rights and restrictions of the scholarship program under [s. 1002.394, F.S.](#) In other words, once the scholarship funds are transferred to Florida Prepaid, they continue to be governed by the rules of the FES-UA scholarship program.

## CONTRACTED SERVICES PROVIDED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR SCHOOL DISTRICT

[s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

7. Contracted services provided by a public school or school district, including classes. A student who receives services under a contract under this paragraph is not considered enrolled in a public school for eligibility purposes as specified in subsection (6) but rather attending a public school on a part-time basis as authorized under [s. 1002.44, F.S.](#)

Contracted services provided by a public district or charter school, or school district are covered by FES-UA.

A scholarship recipient is eligible to take courses, participate in programming (including after school, extracurricular, supplemental, or summer school programs) or receive services from a public school (including charter schools and the Florida Virtual School), if the student contracts for classes/services on a private pay basis.

The parent/guardian can pay for services and request reimbursement, or the school district can choose to be paid directly as a provider.

There is no requirement for public school districts or charter schools to set up an account for payment as a provider. Participation is optional for the public schools and/or districts.

A student who receives contracted services under this paragraph is not considered enrolled in a public school for scholarship eligibility purposes. However, if the district reports the student for any full time equivalent (FTE) funding or other state funding, the student will be ineligible for the FES-UA.

# FEES FOR SPECIALIZED SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

[s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

9. Fees for specialized summer education programs.

Fees for specialized summer education programs (or other programs during standard school breaks) meeting eligibility criteria are covered by FES-UA. The term “specialized” means a program developed specifically for students with special or unique needs or a program that can meet the student’s needs.

- Overnight or day educational camps may be permitted with pre-authorization.
- Published fees must be provided to the SFO prior to receipt of any FES-UA funding.
- Proof of attendance is required for reimbursement.

# FEES FOR SPECIALIZED AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

[s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

10. Fees for specialized after-school education programs.

Fees for after-school education programs meeting eligibility criteria are covered by the FES-UA. The term “specialized” means a program developed specifically for students with special or unique needs or a program that can meet the student’s needs.

Any pre-authorization submitted for camps not developed specifically for students with special or unique needs must include a letter from a therapist or doctor describing how this specific program will benefit your student's needs. Camp lodging and food costs will not be covered.

Published fees must be provided to any SFO prior to receipt of FES-UA funding. Proof of attendance is required. For students age 14 and up, full or half day education programs are permitted.

# TRANSITION SERVICES

[s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

(16) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM. A student with a disability who is determined eligible pursuant to paragraph

(3)(b) who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years of age and who has not received a high school diploma is eligible for enrollment in his or her participating private school's transition-to-work program. A transition-to-work program shall consist of academic instruction, work skills training, and volunteer or paid work experience.

(a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating private school must:

1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must include a written description of the academic instruction and work skills training students will receive and the goals for students in the program.
2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice and consider any guidance provided by the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(d) relating to the plan.
3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan for each student enrolled in the

program. The student's parent, the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the office.

4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and, if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

6. Provide the parent and student with a quarterly report that documents and explains the student's progress and performance in the program.

7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records for the student.

(b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program must, at a minimum:

1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the participating private school's physical facility, which must include academic instruction and work skills training.

2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's volunteer or paid work experience.

(c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a business must:

1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's performance and hours worked and provide the information to the participating private school.

2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

## TRANSITION SERVICES PROVIDED BY JOB COACHES

[s.1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#) F.S.

11. Transition services provided by job coaches. Transition services are a coordinated set of activities which are focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of a student with a disability to facilitate the student's movement from school to postschool activities and are based on the student's needs.

Transition services provided by job coaches for students, ages 12 through 22 are eligible for reimbursement. Job coaches can:

- Be hired by the private school as a job coach.
- Be hired by the school district as a job coach.
- Be hired through credential agencies, such as:
  - [Vocational Rehabilitation](#) (Vendor)
  - [Agency for Persons with Disabilities](#)
  - [Career Source](#)
  - [Florida Centers for Independent Living](#)
- Meet the criteria/training of the [Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities](#).
- Have an [Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators](#) (ARCE) certification.
- Have an [Association of People Supporting Employment First](#) (APSE) certification.
- Have an [Institution for Community Inclusion](#) certification.
- Be an [Employment Specialist Vendor for Vocational Rehabilitation](#).

Types of Transition Services provided by the job coach:

- Conducting career and interest assessments
- Self-determination/self-advocacy training
- Employability/soft skills education
- Job development
- Job training
- Interview skill development and support, assistance with preparation and post interview, resume development
- Onsite job coaching
- Follow-along support to maintain employment
- Monitoring and re-training for changes on the job site
- Benefits planning and financial literacy services (ex. working with the student to understand the impact of work on SSI benefits and income)
- Advocacy services (ex. working on benefit issues, Social Security, facilitating transportation services)
- Career Exploration
- Career Counseling
- Inclusive programs with multiple services where job training or coaching is a defined, regular component of the program

Scholarship participants should explore all available State resources including the [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\)](#) and financial aid. VR helps high school youth with disabilities establish a foundation for a seamless transition to individualized training, education, and employment. For more information on VR's Transition Program visit the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at <https://www.rehabworks.org/>

## ANNUAL HOME EDUCATION EVALUATION FEES

[s.1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

12. Fees for an annual evaluation of educational progress by a state-certified teacher under s. [1002.41\(1\)\(f\), F.S.](#), if this option is chosen for a home education student.

Fees for annual evaluations of the educational progress of a home education student as required under s. [1002.41\(1\)\(f\), F.S.](#), are covered by the Family Empowerment Scholarship.

Eligible evaluation methods include:

- Evaluation of a student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student by a teacher holding a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level.
- Administration of any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher.

# TUITION AND FEES FOR AN APPROVED VPK PROGRAM PROVIDER, AN APPROVED SCHOOL READINESS PROVIDER, OR AN ELIGIBLE PRIVATE SCHOOL

[s.1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

13. Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers approved pursuant to [s. 1002.55, F.S.](#), school readiness providers approved pursuant to [s. 1002.88, F.S.](#), and prekindergarten programs offered by an eligible private school.

Families are encouraged to contact their local Early Learning Coalition for information about eligible VPK or School Readiness Providers. This category includes tuition and fees for the educational needs of the student and covers a full-day program. Approved VPK and School Readiness services are not to be billed under an Eligible Private School.

## Eligible Fees:

- Application fee (payable in the fiscal year preceding the academic year)
- Registration fee (payable in the fiscal year preceding the academic year)
- Uniform fee (basic uniform pieces purchased from a school-required vendor)
- Book fee
- Technology fee
- Graduation fee

## Prohibited Fees:

- Fundraising fee/donation fee/volunteer waiver fee
- Giving fees
- Costs associated with scholarship management
- Optional fees
- Nursery or daycare fees

## HORSE THERAPY

[s.1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

14. Fees for services provided at a center that is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

Horse therapy fees are covered by FES-UA.

This category includes fees for services provided at a center that is a member of the [Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International \(PATH\)](#). *The PATH certification must be issued to the center and not to individuals working at the center.*

# MUSIC AND ART THERAPY

[s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

15. Fees for services provided by a therapist who is certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists or credentialed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.

Music and art therapy fees are covered by FES-UA. This category includes fees for services provided by a therapist who is certified by the [Certification Board for Music Therapists](#) or credentialed by the [Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.](#)

## 2026-2027 Family Empowerment Scholarship – Unique Abilities/Family Input Survey

In 2024, under [s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\), F.S.](#) F.S., the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities at the University of Central Florida was tasked with developing the FES-UA purchasing guidelines. The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities at the University of Central Florida will consult with families annually related to their experiences using the FES-UA scholarships. The consultation will include feedback from the Family Advisory Boards within each SFO, solicitation of family survey information, and other types of feedback.

Parents wishing to provide feedback can access the survey at [https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_exqeCmmSnQwpcR8](https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_exqeCmmSnQwpcR8).

# Appendix A

## Summary of Prohibited or Ineligible Items:

Prohibited Items include, but are not limited to:

- Any activities occurring outside of the state of Florida that are not pre-authorized
- Admission or annual passes to amusement or theme parks not listed under the Theme Parks section, water parks, and out-of-state theme parks
- Any item or service that may pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior
- Any item for which the scholarship student does not meet the manufacturer's minimum age recommendation
- Arcade games or visits
- Books with content that pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.
- Bouncy houses
- Business, mobile, and Starlink RV internet services
- Commercial-grade tools/equipment
- Costs of accommodations (including lodging or meals)
- Costs of transportation (including gas, mileage, or public transportation)
- Costs outside of basic admission for Field Trips and Theme Parks (including lodging, parking, food and beverage packages, photographs or souvenirs, premium access, and special event tickets) Note: School field trip fees paid to an eligible private school or eligible home education program may be submitted under the Field Trip category or included within tuition and fees.
- Educational Subscription Kits not age and size appropriate for the student
- Food and beverage
- Gaming subscription services
- Gas or electric-powered gardening tools
- Group admissions or rentals
- Guns, blades, knives and items with blades or knives (except for scissors, math tools, or elective equipment)
- Household items, other than cooking supplies or items on the At Home Classroom Furnishings list
- Housing/food for live animals
- Inflatable slides
- In-ground or above-ground swimming pools and Jacuzzis
- Live animals
- Live mature or ornamental plants in containers that exceed one gallon, with the exception of fruit trees, which cannot exceed seven gallons.
- Meet and greet events
- Medical items, including mobility aids, contact lenses, non-prescription eyeglasses, and prescription sunglasses
- Motorized exercise equipment (except for treadmills or walking pads)
- Motorized scooters or ride-ons (including golf carts)
- Motorized vehicles, including but not limited to two-, three-, and four-wheeled vehicles
- Ornamental plants (shrubs, landscaping, houseplants)
- Outdoor televisions/inflatable outdoor theatres
- Photographs or souvenirs, premium access, and special event tickets outside of basic admission for Field Trips and Theme Parks
- Secondary market or resale tickets

- Smart and augmented reality prescription glasses
- Special event tickets (for example, seasonal or after-hours events) at a Florida theme park
- Specific tuition and fees at an Eligible Private School or prekindergarten program provider
  - Annual fees
  - Before or after-school care
  - Costs associated with scholarship management
  - Food fees (i.e. lunch)
  - Fundraising fee/donation fee/volunteer waiver fee
  - Giving fees
  - Optional fees
  - Shoes and accessories
  - Nursery or daycare fees
- Sporting event tickets
- Trampolines (except for individual exercise trampolines)
- Toy weapons to include, but are not limited to: toy arrows, Nerf guns, airsoft guns, pellet and BB guns, water guns, toy pistols, rifles, shotguns, toy swords, knives or daggers, toy axes or hatchets, toy spears, nunchucks, throwing stars, toy grenades, toy tactical vests paired with toy weapons, slingshots, and dart guns.
- Watercrafts (except for kayaks, canoes, surfboards, boogie boards, skim boards, stand-up paddleboards)

# Appendix B

## Items requiring Pre-Authorization:

- Overnight or day educational camps with documentation of educational benefit
- Assistive devices not enumerated in these guidelines
- P.E. activities occurring outside of the state of Florida, with the exception of SFO approved military families living outside of Florida
- Curriculum that is not publicly available
- Televisions over 55 inches
- Fees associated with standardized testing or examinations not listed in the handbook
- Non-school affiliated field trip activities occurring outside of the State of Florida, but within the United States, with the exception of SFO approved military families living outside of Florida
- Items or services that fall outside the frequency of purchase requirements listed in the handbook (within Digital Devices, P.E., Electives, At-Home Classroom Furnishings)

SFO approved military families living outside of the state of Florida do not need pre-authorization for out-of-state activities and field trips.