

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

Purchasing Guide

2024-2025

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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 guide revisions were based on the feedback from parent focus groups and unsolicited emails from families. The revisions reflect the combination of family input and the directive to obtain feedback on the scholarship program described in [s.1002.394](#) Florida Statute (F.S.).

Note: 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

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. Please contact your SFO if you have questions about the eligibility of a financial transaction using scholarship funds prior to engaging in this transaction.

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. It is recommended that parents/guardians verify with their SFO that a purchase is eligible for reimbursement before making the purchase.

[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 Guide, 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.

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.

Scholarship Funding Organizations reserve the right to deny an item or require clarification for item(s) that are not age-appropriate 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 evaluations are primarily focused on 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. These items or services include:

- Multiple of a single digital periphery device that exceeds \$50
- Multiple of a single At-Home Classroom Furnishings item that exceeds \$50
- Assistive devices not enumerated in this Guide
- Adaptive exercise equipment
- P.E. activities occurring outside of the State of Florida
- Curriculum that is not publicly available

- Non-school affiliated field trip activities occurring outside of the State of Florida, but within the United States
- Overnight or day educational camps with documentation of the educational benefit.
- Full or half day education programs for students aged 16 and up
- Items that fall outside the frequency of purchase requirements listed below

Note: Items or services not listed as eligible in this Purchasing Guide require a 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 and the completion of the Educational Benefit 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 a confirmation of the provider's eligibility or the funding available for the reimbursement.

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

Pre-authorizations 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 is approved, once you have purchased the item, submit a reimbursement request in the parent/guardian portal.

Pre-authorizations are accepted until April 30, 2025. This will ensure that pre-authorizations have time to be approved and parents have time to make the purchase and submit a reimbursement request prior to the end of the school year on June 30, 2025.

Product Safety: For safety reasons, Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFOs) review manufacturers' recommended minimum age use when determining if an education product is age-appropriate.

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. If a single-user subscription is available, the multi-user item purchase is prohibited.

Purchase Location: Purchases made online through the direct buying platform (for example; Amazon ©; MyScholarShop ©) must be shipped to the Florida residential address associated with the student's scholarship account. This requirement does not apply to dependent children of active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces who have received permanent change of station orders to this state or, at the time of renewal, whose home of record or state of legal residence is Florida.

AUTHORIZED EXPENSE CATEGORIES

[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

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

Eligible instructional materials include:

Digital Devices

- Desktop computer
- Laptop computer
- Web-centric laptop computers (such as Chromebook or Surface)
- Tablet
- e-Reader
- Cellular phones
- Smart watches
- Gaming systems/Consoles purchased with accompanying educational software

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
- Mouse/touchpad/trackball
- Printer (including 3D printers)
- Speakers
- Headsets
- External drive (including hard drive and flash drive)
- Scanner
- Digital pencil
- TTY/TDD conversion modems
- Virtual and augmented reality headsets/goggles
- Wands and Sticks
- Wi-Fi routers, modems, and extenders
- Switches and other devices that are unique to the student's needs

Multiples of single items over \$50 require a pre-authorization.

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
- Interactive metronome
- Light signaler alerts
- 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

Training On the Use of Eligible Devices

[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.

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

Maintenance Agreements for Eligible Devices

Maintenance agreements for eligible devices purchased with FES-UA funds are eligible FES-UA expenses. Maintenance agreements 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, and audiobooks. Productivity, behavioral, and/or educational applications (apps).

Internet Resources

Parents/guardians can use scholarship funds to pay for 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.

Stand-Alone Online Class

Parents/guardians can purchase online courses that are appropriate and meet the unique needs of the student. More information about virtual and on-line classes and tuition can be found in the section in this guide on **Tuition and Fees at an Approved Online or Virtual Provider**.

Sensory Materials

Sensory materials that encourage learning through sensory stimulation are eligible.

Eligible items include:

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

Physical Education (P.E.)

Authorized P.E. expenses include sports lessons, fees, or equipment (subject to manufacturer's age recommendations), including, but not limited to:

- Home playset/swing set (including rubber mulch or safety materials)
- Two or three wheeled bicycles
- Exercise equipment (including stationary bike, treadmill/walking pad, weight bench)
- Ping-pong table/table sports (ping-pong, basketball shooting games, foosball table, air hockey)
- Sports lessons (including individual training or group trainings)
- Sports equipment (balls, basketball goals, racquets, specialized or sport-specific footwear, etc.)
- Team fees (including registration, equipment rental, and competition fees)
- Stand-alone athletic event fees (including foot or bike race registrations, endurance events, Special Olympics registration)
- Gym/fitness memberships or "Class Passes" (for the student only), including on-demand fitness classes
- Individual exercise trampoline
- Swim goggles, snorkel, mask, fins
- Skateboard

- Kayak, canoe, surfboard, boogie board, skim board, stand-up paddleboard
- Nintendo Wii © equipment or similar movement-based platforms
- Digital or video-based sport instruction

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

Note: Adaptive exercise equipment is eligible with pre-authorization. A pre-authorization is required for P.E. activities occurring outside of the State of Florida.

Prohibited Items Include but Are Not Limited To:

- Motorized equipment (treadmills or walking pads are eligible)
- Trampolines (individual exercise trampolines are eligible)
- Pool tables
- In-ground or above-ground swimming pools
- Motorized vehicles, including but not limited to two-, three-, and four-wheeled vehicles
- Motorized scooters or ride-ons (including golf carts)
- Watercrafts (excluding items listed above)
- Single-admission leisure events (including equipment rental)
- Activities occurring outside of the State of Florida that are not pre-authorized

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. Books with content that pose a threat to the student or others or promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.

Musical Instruments & Equipment

Musical instruments, 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:

- Music lessons
- Art lessons
- Art Supplies (including subscription kits)
- Club fees (such as Boy/Girl Scouts, and 4H/FFA Clubs)
- Cooking lessons
- Cooking supplies (including subscription kits)
- Drama lessons
- Foreign language lessons
- Sewing lessons
- Sewing supplies
- Animal husbandry lessons or training programs
- Animal husbandry supplies
- Woodworking/building lessons or training programs
- Woodworking/building supplies (tools must satisfy manufacturer age recommendations)
- Mechanical lessons or training programs

- Mechanical supplies (tools must satisfy manufacturer age recommendations)
- Gardening or horticulture lessons or training programs
- Garden supplies (tools must satisfy manufacturer age recommendations)
- Safety items (including protective gloves and goggles)
- Tools related to postsecondary transition goals or career plans
- Programming/digital production lessons
- Enrichment classes/courses

Frequency of Purchase: One (1) year for supplies; two (2) years, for equipment. However, the equipment is eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization.

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 trip is eligible for the student only. With a family admission package, 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.

- Museum admission
- Aquarium/zoo admission
- Programs or events at museums/zoos/aquariums
- Museum or library memberships
- Aquarium/zoo memberships
- Ticketed events (including plays, musicals, or orchestral performances)
- Admission to cultural programming events or facilities
- Admission to a Florida theme park*
- School field trip fees paid to an eligible private school or eligible home education program

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

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. Check with your SFO to verify the correct category.

***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 paid rate 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 reimbursement request should contain, in addition to the proof of payment and invoice with the corresponding student's name visible and a statement of educational benefit form for the student.

Note: Only the actual cost of the basic admission for the scholarship student will be covered. Additional services (such as parking, food, and beverage packages, photographs or souvenirs, or premium access) will not be covered. Special event ticketing is also prohibited.

One reimbursement request for a Florida theme park ticket or annual pass* during the school year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) can be submitted per scholarship student, which is reimbursed up to \$299 (before tax). Only the actual cost of the basic admission for the student will be covered. Additional services (such as parking, food and beverage packages, photographs or souvenirs, or premium access) will not be covered.

The following Florida Theme Parks are eligible:

- Animal Kingdom
- Busch Gardens Tampa Bay
- Epcot
- Hollywood Studios
- Islands of Adventure
- LegoLand Florida
- Magic Kingdom
- Peppa Pig Theme Park
- 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.

Admission to amusement parks, water parks, and out-of-state theme parks is not an eligible expense.

Special event ticketing (for example, seasonal or after-hours events) at a Florida theme park is not an eligible expense.

Reimbursement Requirements:

- The reimbursement request must be submitted under Instructional Materials > Field Trips > Florida theme park admission and shall not include any additional items for reimbursement.
- An Educational Benefit Form must be completed and submitted with the reimbursement request.
- 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 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:

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

Frequency of Purchase: Once every two (2) years for furniture, televisions, or projectors; however, the devices are eligible for replacement sooner with pre-authorization.

Note: Multiple of a single At-Home Classroom Furnishings item that exceeds \$50 and televisions over 55 inches require 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::

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

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:

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

Games or puzzles that pose a threat to the student or others or that promote violence or criminal behavior are ineligible for purchase.

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:

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

Educational Software and Subscriptions requiring the completion of the Educational Benefit Form include but are not limited to:

- Video/TV/online streaming service
- Musical streaming service
- In-game purchase or credit
- Live television
- Social media (except LinkedIn Learning for Students)
- Family or Multi-User software subscriptions

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](#) and [641.31098](#).
- b. Services provided by speech-language pathologists as defined in [s. 468.1125\(8\)](#).
- c. Occupational therapy as defined in [s. 468.203](#).
- d. Services provided by physical therapists as defined in [s. 486.021\(8\)](#).
- 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 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): link to APD site for [Waiver Providers](#)
- Florida Department of Health: Link to [provider website](#)
- [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](#) or reimbursed pursuant to [s. 1009.30](#); an approved Pre-apprenticeship 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 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 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 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
- Security fee
- 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, based on the unique needs of the student).
- Book fee
- Technology fee
- Test fee
- Athletic fees
- Club fees
- Activity fees (for example, choir or band fees)
- Graduation fee
- Other fees that support the unique needs of the student

Prohibited Fees:

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

Note: These categories, if provided by an Eligible Private School, may be listed as a Fee. These providers and services will no longer 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](#) or reimbursed pursuant to [s. 1009.30](#); an approved pre-apprenticeship 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](#).

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;
- Have a published tuition and fee schedule;
- Be operated in a physical location (cannot be in online); 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.

Parents submit a pre-authorization request to have a proposed home education program provider reviewed for approval.

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](#)
- An accredited independent postsecondary educational institution, as defined in [s. 1005.02](#), which is licensed to operate in the State of Florida.

Tuition and Fees for an Approved Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

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

8. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services or fees for services provided by a choice navigator. Such services must be provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate pursuant to [s. 1012.56](#), a person who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to [s. 1012.57](#), a person who has a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in the subject area in which instruction is given, a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area. knowledge pursuant to [s. 1012.56\(5\)](#), or a person certified by a nationally or internationally recognized research-based training program as approved by the department. As used in this subparagraph, the term "part-time tutoring services" does not qualify as regular school attendance as defined in [s. 1003.01\(16\)\(e\)](#).

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. 446.042](#) 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](#) 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\(2\)](#).

“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\(2\)\(a\)](#).
- 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](#) or [1004.0961](#)
- A private virtual school that meets the requirements of [s. 1002.421](#)

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](#).

STANDARDIZED TESTING FEES

[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/>

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

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

Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program

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 Plan

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.

Contributions to a Stanley G. Tate Florida Prepaid College Program account must be paid out of pocket and reimbursed to the parent. There is no direct payment option for Florida Prepaid Accounts.

Florida College Savings Program

[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.

- The account type must be an Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA) or Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA). This site describes the two accounts: <https://www.savingforcollege.com/article/what-is-an-ugma-or-utma-account>
- 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: Although 529 funds are eligible to pay for private school expenses, up to \$10,000. FES-UA funds cannot be used at a private school that is not an FES-UA eligible private school. <https://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/savings-plan/faqs/>

Contributions to a 529 account must be made by direct contributions from scholarship funds. Contributions cannot be made out of pocket and reimbursed to the parent.

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](#).

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 district or charter schools, or school districts, to contract for services with a scholarship participant or 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 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.

Published fees must be provided to any SFO prior to receipt of FES-UA funding. Proof of attendance is required. For students aged 16 and up, full or half day education programs are permitted with pre-authorization.

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 or certificate of completion 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 a 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 to the parent and student 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.

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/>

TUITION AND FEES AT ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Tuition and fees required for enrollment at eligible postsecondary institutions, or programs offered by eligible postsecondary institutions, are 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.

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\(1\)\(f\)](#), 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](#), school readiness providers approved pursuant to [s. 1002.88](#), 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.

Therapies or services for all prekindergarten program providers require preauthorization.

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 funds
- 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.](#)

2024-2025 Family Empowerment Scholarship – Unique Abilities/Family Input Survey

In 2024, under [s. 1002.394\(4\)\(b\)](#) 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 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_e4jhyka1LUWC7eS.

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
- Guns, blades, knives and items with blades or knives (except for scissors, math tools, or some cooking equipment)
- Bouncy houses
- Business, mobile, and Starlink RV internet services
- Commercial-grade tools/equipment
- Concert tickets (except for plays, musicals, or orchestral performances)
- 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
- Family memberships to gyms, YMCAs, libraries, museums or other facilities
- Family or multi-user subscriptions (when a single-user subscription is available)
- Full-time online instruction
- Gaming subscription services
- Gas or electric-powered gardening tools
- Group admissions or rentals
- 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 or Jacuzzis
- Live animals
- Medical items, including mobility aids, hearing aids, contact lenses, non-prescription eyeglasses, and prescription sunglasses (except one pair of prescription eyeglasses each year)
- Motorized exercise equipment (except for treadmills or walking pads)
- Motorized scooters or ride-ons (including golf carts)
- Music streaming services
- Ornamental plants (shrubs, landscaping, houseplants)
- Outdoor televisions/inflatable outdoor theatres
- Pool tables
- Pool toys/floats (except for kickboards)
- Secondary market or resale tickets

- Single-admission leisure events (except for bowling, trampoline parks, or ice-skating sessions)
- Specific tuition and fees at an Eligible Private School or prekindergarten program provider
 - Annual funds
 - Before or after-school care
 - Costs associated with scholarship management
 - Food fees (i.e. lunch)
 - Fundraising fee/donation fee/volunteer waiver fee
 - Giving funds
 - Optional fees
 - Shoes and accessories
 - Nursery or daycare fees
- Sporting event tickets
- Trampolines (except for individual exercise trampolines)
- Watercrafts (except for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards)

Appendix B

Items requiring Pre-Authorization and Educational Benefit Form:

- Overnight or day educational camps
- Therapies or services as fees for all prekindergarten program providers
- Mechanical lessons or training programs
- Mechanical supplies (tools must satisfy manufacturer age recommendations)
- Gardening or horticulture lessons or training programs
- Garden supplies (tools must satisfy manufacturer age recommendations)
- Safety items (including protective gloves and goggles)
- Tools related to postsecondary transition goals or career plans
- Programming/digital production lessons
- Enrichment classes/courses
- Multiple of a single At-Home Classroom Furnishings item that exceeds \$50
- Multiple of a single digital periphery device that exceeds \$50
- Items or services not listed as eligible in this Purchasing Guide
- Assistive devices not enumerated in this guide
- Adaptive exercise equipment
- P.E. activities occurring outside of the state of Florida
- Curriculum that is not publicly available
- Full or half day education programs for students aged 16 and up
- Televisions over 55”
- 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
- Proposed home education program provider
- 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)

Appendix C

Items and Services requiring Educational Benefit Form:

- Out-of-state field trips and Florida theme park admission (as notated within Field Trips and Other Activities Needed to Enhance Curriculum)
- Educational Software and Subscriptions including but not limited to:
 - Video/TV/online streaming service
 - Musical streaming service
 - In-game purchase or credit
 - Live television
 - Social media (except LinkedIn Learning for Students)
 - Family or Multi-User software subscriptions