

# Gardiner Scholarship

2015 – 2016 Summary Report for Step Up For Students

The Gardiner Scholarship (previously known as the Personal Learning Scholarship Account) program is a Florida Educational Choice program designed to help parents individualize educational options for their children with specific special needs. The program is currently administered by two state-approved, non-profit scholarship funding organizations (SFO), Step Up For Students and AAA Scholarship Foundation. This report provides summary information for students participating in the Gardiner Scholarship program through Step Up For Students (SUFS) during 2015-2016.



Liam and Stacey Thomas, Scholarship Family

## Eligibility Requirements

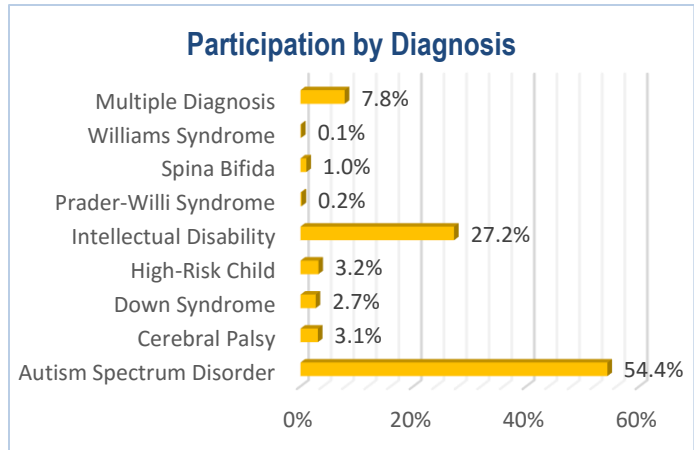
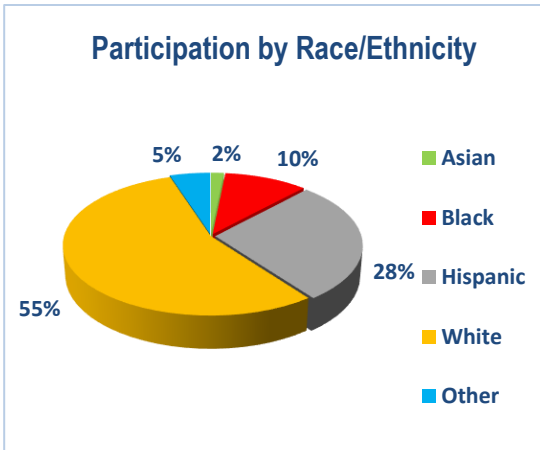
Gardiner Scholarship eligibility is based on residency, age, and disability. In order to be eligible to receive the scholarship for the 2015-16 year, a student must have been:

- A Florida resident.
- 3 yrs. old through 12<sup>th</sup> grade or 22 yrs. old, whichever comes first.
- Diagnosed with one of the following disabilities: **autism spectrum disorder, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Spina bifida, Williams syndrome, or intellectual disability (severe cognitive impairment)**. Also, students 3-5 yrs. old deemed “**high risk**” due to **developmental delays** and not older than 5 on Sept. 1 may be eligible for the year they apply.
- The subject of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) written in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education or has received a diagnosis of one of the disabilities listed above as defined from a physician who is licensed under Florida Statutes chapter 458 or chapter 459, or a psychologist who is licensed in Florida.

## Student Participation

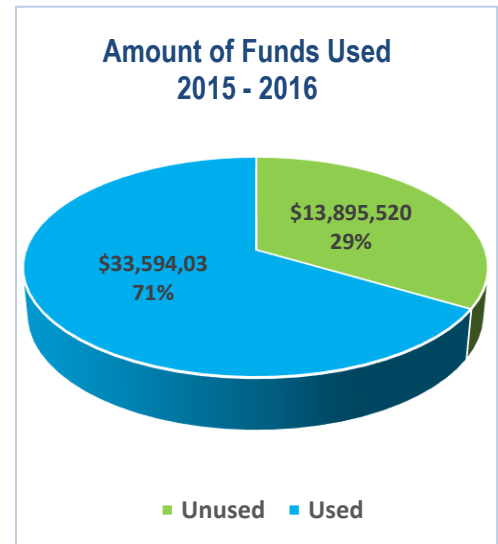
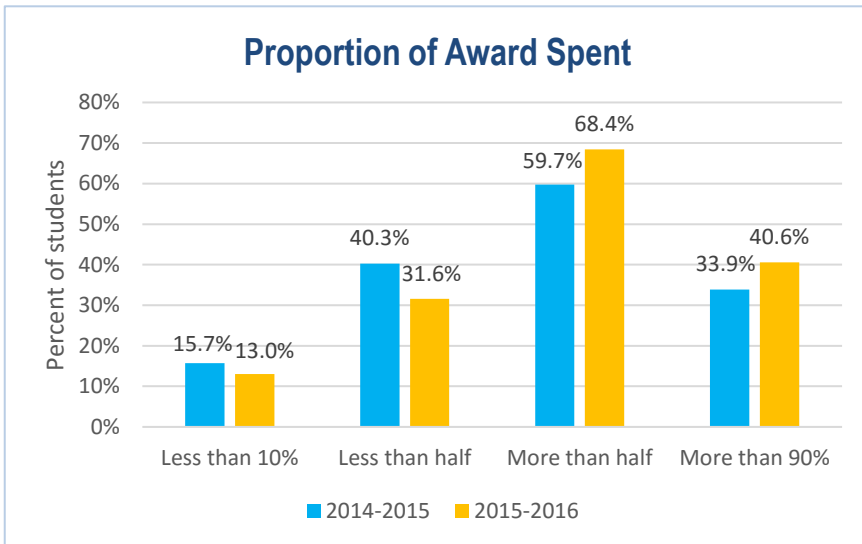
In 2015-2016, there were 4,686 students who participated in the Gardiner Scholarship program through Step Up For Students, compared to 1,429 students in the 2014-2015 school year. Students ranged from 3 years old to 12th grade and comprised several different races, grade levels, prior school types, and disabilities.

Gender		Grade Level		Prior School Type		Participation	
Male	68%	3-4 Yrs Old	9%	Home School	14%	New	72%
Female	32%	Elementary Grades K-5	49%	Private School	40%	Renewal	28%
		Middle grades 6-8	24%	Public School	18%		
		High Grades 9-12	18%	Other	28%		



## Scholarship Awards

The average scholarship awarded for 2015-2016 was \$10,147. However, the actual amount of a child's award is based on his/her grade and county of residence. For Step Up for Students, a total of \$47,489,558 was awarded to 4,686 students. SUFS families spent approximately 71% of 2015-2016 funds on qualifying educational expenses and, on average, submitted nearly twelve reimbursements per child and spent \$6,751 of each child's scholarship award. A greater proportion of the award that each family received was spent in 2015-2016 than in 2014-2015. This may reflect the longer period of time the families had to spend their award in comparison to the first year, which had a late start for the scholarship. Unspent funds in student accounts roll over from year to year and are refunded to the state if the student has not enrolled in any eligible post-secondary institution for three consecutive years following high school graduation.

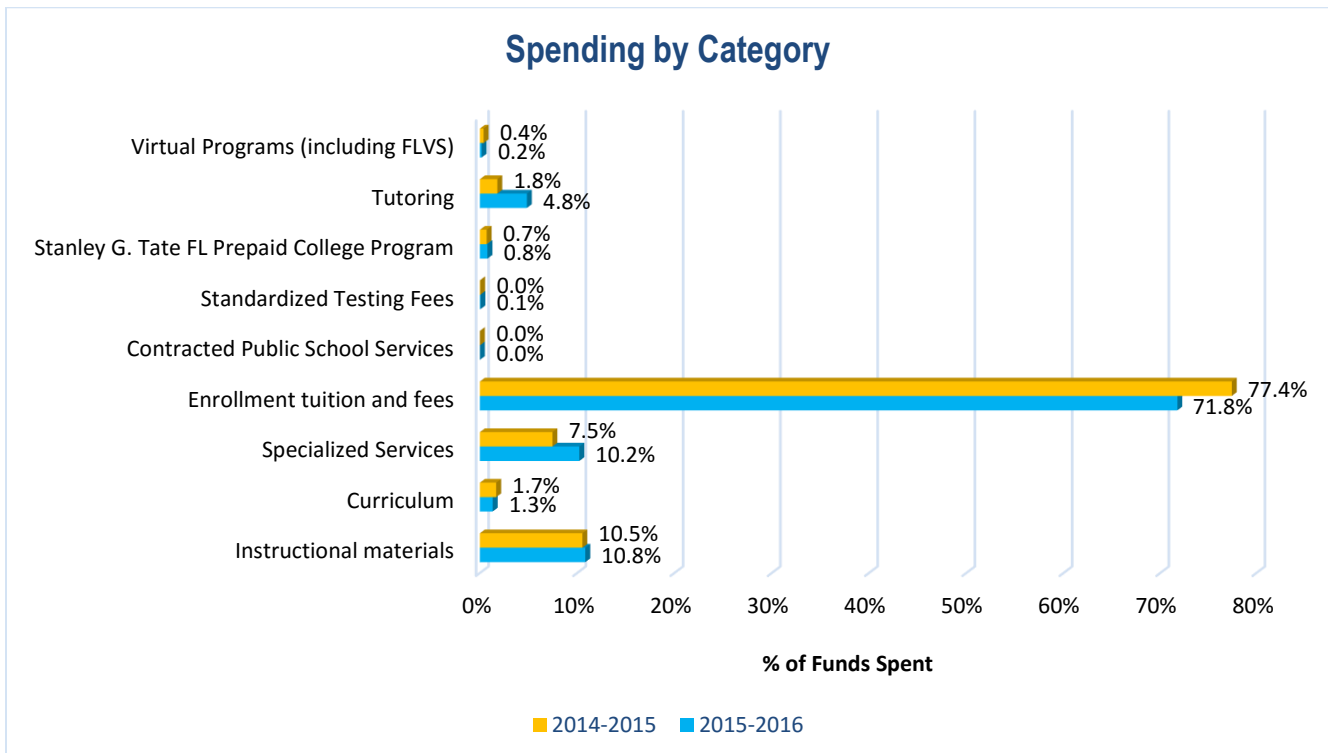


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Overall, the majority of SUFS families that spent Gardiner Scholarship funds used the funds for enrollment tuition and fees (approximately 72% of dollars spent). The second largest proportion of funds was used for instructional materials, which totaled about 11% of scholarship dollars spent. More money was also spent in 2015-2016 on such categories as tutoring and specialized services than in the 2014-2015 school year.

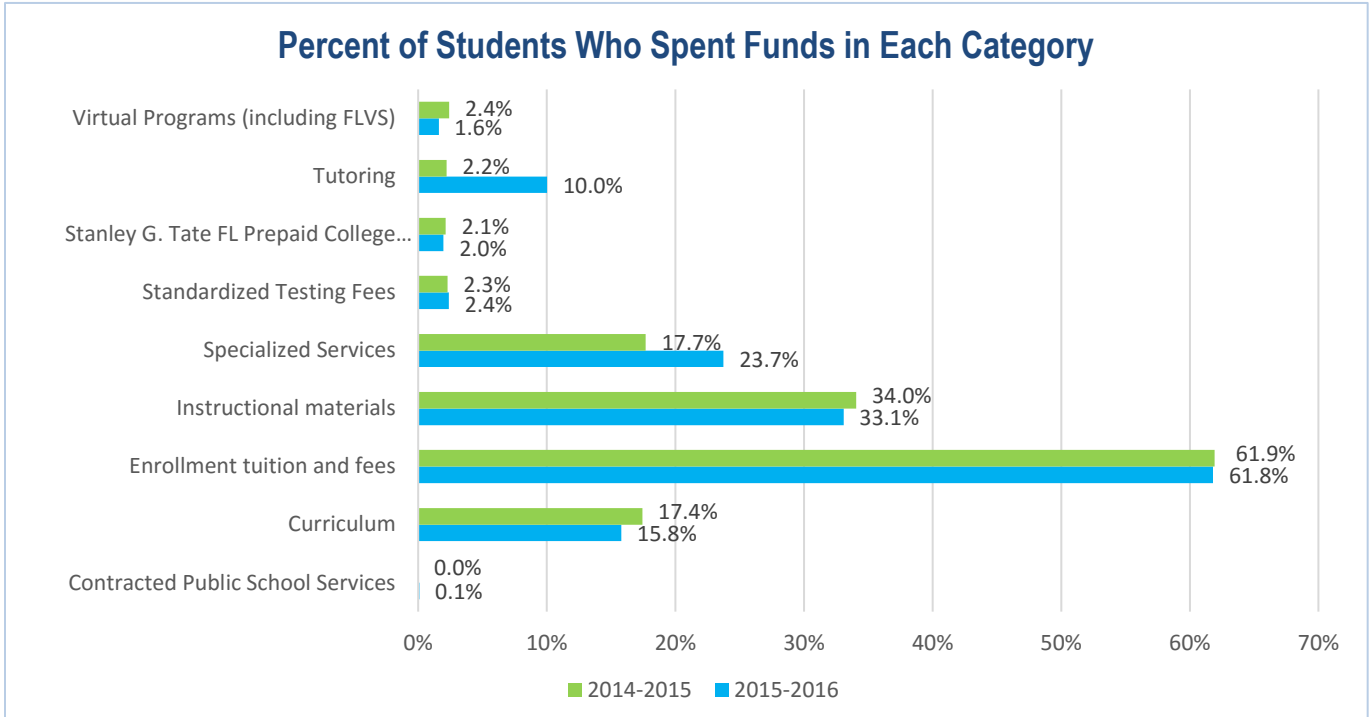
### **Spending by Category** *(Items purchased or services received during the 2015-2016 fiscal year)*

	Total Amount Spent	%
Instructional Materials	\$ 3,428,257	10.8%
Curriculum	\$ 416,893	1.3%
Specialized Services	\$ 3,233,422	10.2%
Enrollment Tuition and Fees	\$ 22,707,589	71.8%
Contracted Public School Services	\$ 1,972	0.01%
Standardized Testing Fees	\$ 17,163	0.1%
Stanley G. Tate FL Prepaid College Fees	\$ 245,443	0.8%
Tutoring	\$ 1,527,834	4.8%
Virtual Programs (including FLVS)	\$ 55,824	0.2%



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An examination of the percentage of students who spent funds in each category reveals that the top category for student expenditures was for enrollment tuition and fees (about 62%). This was followed by instructional materials, which accounted for around 33% of expenditures, and specialized services that increased to almost 24% of student expenditures.



When it comes to average amount spent per category in 2015-2016, tuition and fees still ranked highest with an average of \$7,841 spent. However, the second largest expenditure category, instructional materials, ranked fifth in terms of average expenditure amount. Tutoring, specialized services, and the Stanley G. Tate FL Prepaid College Program all demonstrated a higher average expenditure amount than instructional materials.

### ***Average Amount Spent by Category***

	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Average Amount Spent per Student</b>
Contracted Public School Services	4	\$493
Curriculum	740	\$563
Enrollment tuition and fees	2,896	\$7,841
Instructional materials	1,550	\$2,212
Specialized Services	1,112	\$2,908
Standardized Testing Fees	112	\$153
Stanley G. Tate FL Prepaid College Program	92	\$2,668
Tutoring	470	\$3,251
Virtual Programs (including FLVS)	75	\$744

Appendix

*Enrollment by County (Top 25)*

	Number	Percent
Dade	573	12.2%
Orange	332	7.1%
Broward	317	6.8%
Duval	258	5.5%
Pinellas	245	5.2%
Palm Beach	240	5.1%
Polk	229	4.9%
Hillsborough	215	4.6%
Pasco	185	4.0%
Seminole	183	3.9%
Brevard	163	3.5%
Volusia	146	3.1%
Osceola	142	3.0%
Lake	135	2.9%
Leon	123	2.6%
Hernando	119	2.5%
St. Lucie	90	1.9%
Manatee	84	1.8%
Columbia	74	1.6%
Lee	71	1.5%
St. Johns	68	1.5%
Clay	66	1.4%
Alachua	65	1.4%
Marion	60	1.3%
Sarasota	50	1.1%

*Enrollment by Grade*

	Number	Percent
3 years old	210	4.5%
4 years old	227	4.8%
Kindergarten	490	10.5%
First	321	6.9%
Second	360	7.7%
Third	350	7.5%
Fourth	369	7.9%
Fifth	388	8.3%
Sixth	420	9.0%
Seventh	362	7.7%
Eighth	340	7.3%
Ninth	306	6.5%
Tenth	224	4.8%
Eleventh	173	3.7%
Twelfth	146	3.1%

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***Enrollment by School (Highest Enrollments)***

School Name	Number of Students	Total Amount Received (2015-2016)
Esther's School Inc	86	\$ 705,674
Florida Virtual School	72	\$ 49,358
Solid Rock Community School	59	\$ 374,843
HOPE Ranch Learning Academy	53	\$ 396,566
Our Children's Of Winter Haven South	50	\$ 499,134
Lighthouse Center for Creative Learning	45	\$ 376,505
Lake City Christian Academy	38	\$ 274,110
Highpoint Academy, Inc	36	\$ 358,468
North Florida Educational Institute	33	\$ 256,058
American Preparatory Academy	32	\$ 243,476
De LaSalle Academy of Fort Myers	28	\$ 249,069
L.I.F.T Academy	28	\$ 202,975
Morning Star School	28	\$ 276,379
Broach/Crossroads Schools	27	\$ 192,535
Individualized Education Services, Inc. D.B.A. Seven Bridges School	27	\$ 261,787
Morning Star Catholic School	27	\$ 277,936
North Florida School of Special Education	23	\$ 228,840
Pace Brantley School	23	\$ 209,979
CRISDA Christian Academy/Learning Center	22	\$ 189,450
Schoolhouse Academy	22	\$ 231,908
The Chase Academy	22	\$ 147,314
Family Christian Center School of Clermont	21	\$ 88,149
Angel's Centers	20	\$ 204,249
Faith Fellowship School	19	\$ 175,797
Broach School	18	\$ 109,639
Center Academy	18	\$ 157,643
IBCK Educational Center	17	\$ 107,606
Montessori School of Orlando	17	\$ 132,989
East Hill Academy	16	\$ 110,948
Center Academy-Riverview	15	\$ 127,136
Community Christian School of Tallahassee, Inc.	15	\$ 122,317
Creative Learning	15	\$ 143,638
S.T.A.R.S. Autism School	15	\$ 140,652
The Paragon School	15	\$ 154,354
Beyond the Spectrum Education Center	14	\$ 126,459
Blue Jay Academy Inc	14	\$ 128,120
Brevard Academy, Inc	14	\$ 86,126
Chosen Generation Christian Academy	14	\$ 110,369
Lakeland Institute for Learning	14	\$ 130,968
New Generation School	14	\$ 115,360
Rose Academy, LLC	14	\$ 119,462

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South Florida Jewish Academy	14	\$	147,275
Allison Academy	13	\$	117,342
Downey Christian School	13	\$	96,179
Impact Christian Academy	13	\$	115,784
Northwest Florida Christian Education Association Inc	13	\$	70,124
The Arc Jacksonville, Inc.	13	\$	101,616
The Carrie Brazer Center For Autism	13	\$	135,160
Triumph Christian Academy	13	\$	114,009

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