

# Reading Scholarship Accounts

July 2022



## THE READING ESA: A LEARNING OPTION FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS

Florida became the first state to offer an education savings account (ESA) program for students enrolled in public schools. The program offers parents of public school students in third- through fifth-grade access to education savings accounts, worth \$500 each, to pay for tuition and fees related to part-time tutoring, summer and after-school literacy programs, instructional materials and curriculum related to reading or literacy.

### 2021-22 FAST FACTS

1,726 students funded in 2021-22

3,496 students funded in 2020-21

\$500 scholarship amount

### Eligibility

- Students must be in the third- through fifth-grade
- Must have scored a 1 or 2 on the Third or Fourth grade English Language Arts section of the Florida Standards Assessment in the prior year
- Students classified as English Language Learners receive priority
- Must remain enrolled in a public school

### Top 10 Counties in 2020-21

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Broward    | 324 |
| Pinellas   | 277 |
| Marion     | 271 |
| Palm Beach | 242 |
| Dade       | 188 |
| Orange     | 183 |
| Duval      | 181 |
| Lee        | 146 |
| Polk       | 125 |
| Brevard    | 122 |

### ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE:

- |                                                                         |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring                               | ✓ Fees for summer education programs to improve reading or literacy                |
| ✓ Instructional materials and curriculum related to reading or literacy | ✓ Fees for after-school education programs designed to improve reading or literacy |