



A Learning Option for Students with Unique Abilities

2023-24 STEP UP FAST FACTS

91,057 funded students with unique abilities
Average scholarship worth \$9,900
More than \$100 million purchased on MyScholarShop
More than 21,000 education providers, vendors, tutors, therapists, and more
1,944 participating private schools

2021-22 ESA Spending by Category

College Savings	\$ 4,760,996.95
Curriculum & Materials	\$ 54,685,519.10
PK and Other Tuition	\$ 2,974,721.92
Post Secondary Tuition	\$ 230,968.55
Public School Services	\$ 4,505.11
Pvt School	\$ 105,171,427.77
Therapies	\$ 16,648,680.65
Tutoring	\$ 11,839,378.49
Virtual School	\$ 1,513,953.01

Total: \$197,830,151.55

The **Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA / formerly the Gardiner Scholarship)** program allows parents to personalize the education of their special-needs children by directing money toward a combination of programs and approved providers. The Gardiner Scholarship amount varies per grade and county of residence. The average scholarship is around \$9,900 and funds may be rolled over from year to year.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS INCLUDE:

Florida students 3 years old through 12th grade, or age 22, with one of the following diagnoses:
Autism Spectrum Disorder
Muscular Dystrophy
Cerebral Palsy
Down Syndrome
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
Prader-Willi Syndrome
Spina Bifida
Williams Syndrome
Deaf, visually impaired, or dual sensory impaired
Hospital homebound, brain injury and more

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE:

Private school tuition & fees	Specialized summer & after school programs
Part-time & full-time tutoring	Instructional Materials
Therapy	Public school services
Postsecondary & transition programs	Online courses

