



A Learning Option for Students with Unique Abilities

2025-26 STEP UP FAST FACTS

147,728 funded students with unique abilities
Average scholarship worth \$10,000
More than 25,000 education providers, vendors, tutors, therapists, and more
2,321 participating private schools with an average of 34 FES-UA students per school.
52 public school district partners, plus charter schools and Florida Virtual School

2024-25 Top Spending Categories

Tuition & Fees Pvt School	\$584,551,677.85
Curriculum/Course/ Instructional Material	\$275,892,204.34
Part-time tutoring	\$43,467,237.64
Home Ed Tuition/Fees	\$24,372,665.90
Specialized Services (SLP)	\$19,800,297.35
VPK & School Readiness	\$18,231,516.64
College Savings/Prepaid	\$17,623,595.83
ABA Therapist Services	\$11,941,142.17
OT Therapist Services	\$11,002,303.53
Other Therapist Services	\$7,291,854.90

Total Spending: \$1,030,244,092.31

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) program allows parents to personalize the education of their special-needs children by directing money toward a combination of programs and approved providers. The FES-UA scholarship amount varies per grade and county of residence. The average scholarship is around \$10,000 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

