



READING SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

2021-2022 End of Year Report

Report Summary

- A total of \$2,478,500 in Reading scholarship funds was distributed for the 2020-2021 school year.
- 76% of all funds awarded were spent during the school year.
- Instructional Materials was the largest expenditure category and made up 63% of all dollars spent.
- Most families, about 82%, spent funds on Instructional Materials.
- Scholarship usage has become more widespread throughout Florida than in previous years. Currently, Broward County has the most Reading scholarship students at 9%.
- Only 7% of Reading students were classified as English Language Learners (ELL).
- The racial/ethnic background of Reading scholarship recipients is diverse with a student population that is 33% white, 33% Hispanic, and 28% black.

Introduction

Since 2018, Florida has offered the Reading education savings account (ESA) program for public schools' students in grades 3-5 with low reading scores. Each ESA is worth \$500.00 and can be used for reimbursements for multiple services or products to include: tuition and fees for part-time tutoring, fees of summer education programs, fees for after school programs, and curriculum and instructional materials related to reading and literacy.

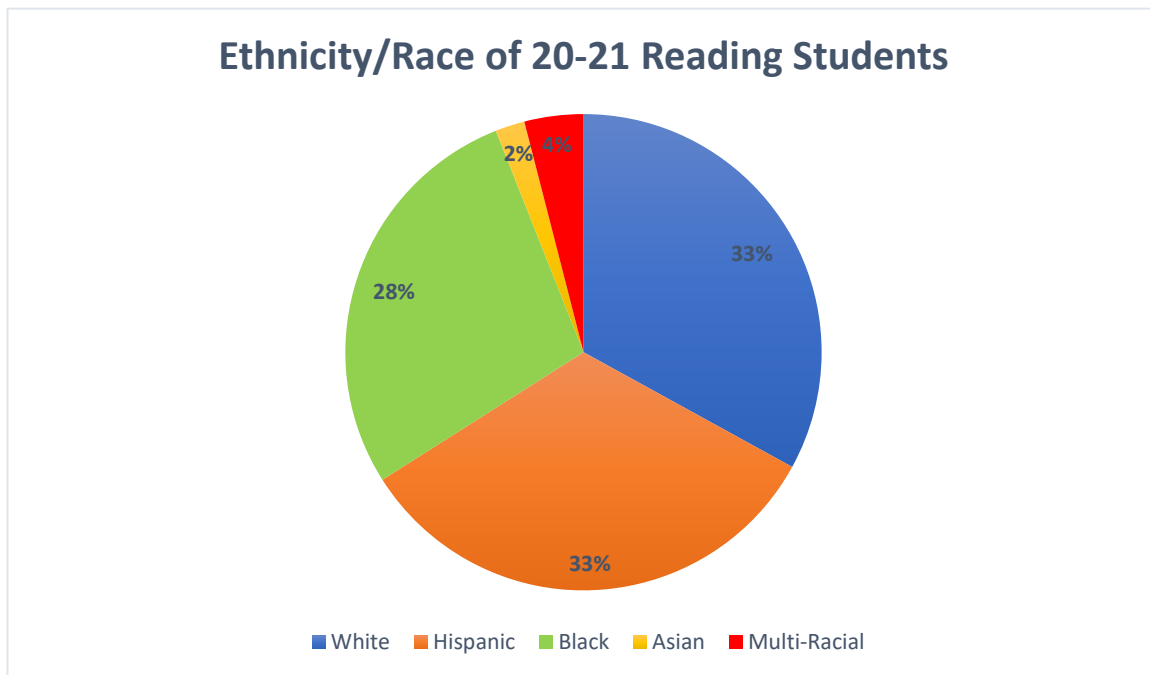
Program Eligibility Requirements

- The Reading Scholarship Program is only available to students in grades 3-5 who are enrolled in a public school.
- Students must have a score of 1 or 2 on the 3rd or 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) section of Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in the prior year.
- Students classified as ELL receive funding priority.

Student Enrollment

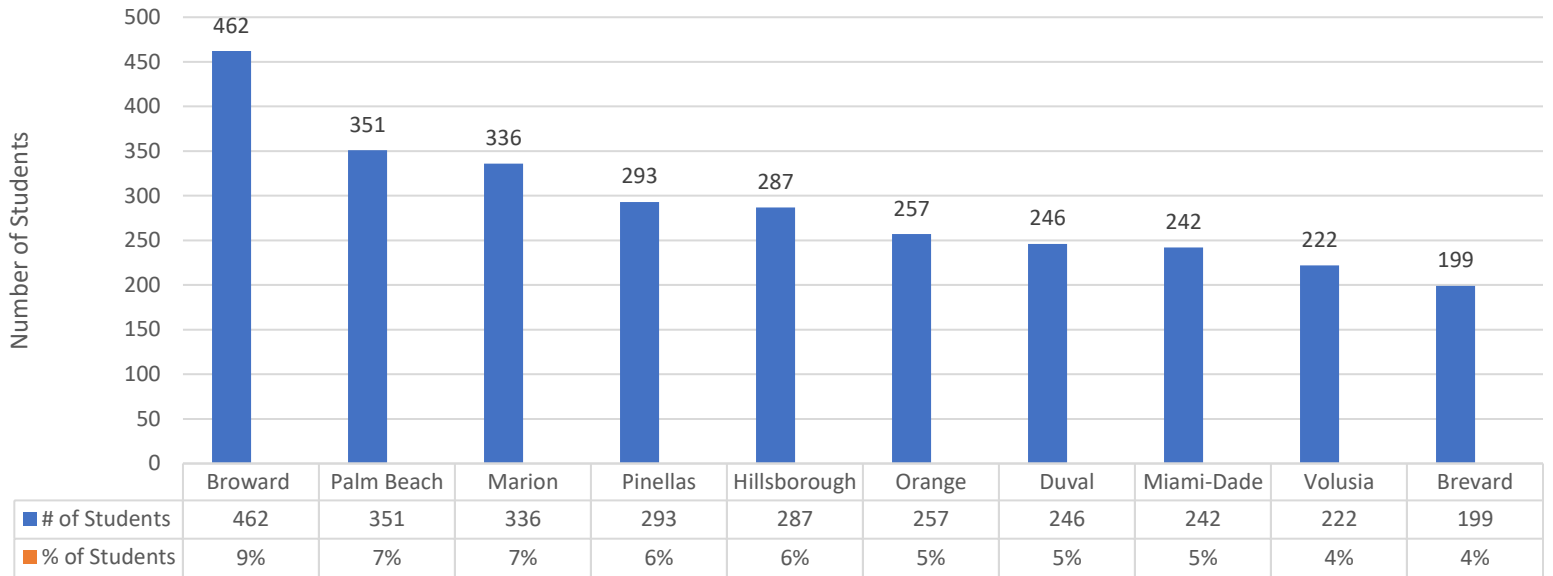
In the 2020-2021 school year, there were 4,961 students who participated in the Reading Scholarship Program through Step Up for Students. There were slightly more male students, 54%, than female students, 46%. Furthermore, a diverse racial/ethnic background was noted among those enrolled in the program with scholarship recipients being 33% white, 33% Hispanic, and 28% black.¹ As for ELL status, only 7% of all students were classified as English Language Learners (ELL). Distribution of these students in relation to counties has also become more widespread than in previous years with Broward County currently having the largest number of Reading students at 9%.

20-21 Reading Student Demographics	
ELL Status	
Yes	7%
No	93%
Gender	
Female	46%
Male	54%
Grade	
Fifth Grade	53%
Fourth Grade	26%
Third Grade	22%



¹ Twenty-one students belong to an “Other” racial category, which was <.01 of the total, and were not included in the chart pertaining to students’ race and ethnicity.

Top 10 Counties With Reading Students



Scholarship Spending

For the 20-21 school year, the Reading ESA program awarded \$2,478,500 in scholarship funds and \$1,894,634 in funds were spent by October 2021. There were 4,080 students that had reimbursements with the average number of reimbursements being 1.3 per student.² However, 2,301 students or 46% of students who were funded during the 20-21 school year have yet to use any of their funds. Of those who did spend funds, most, 82%, spent funds within the category of instructional materials, which was followed by the category of part-time tutoring at 14% and after school programs at 3%.

Expenditure Category	Total Funds Spent	% of All Funds Spent	# of Reimbursements	# of Students Spending in Each Category
Instructional Material	\$1,550,966.92	81.90%	3,760	3,311
Part-time Tutoring	\$260,372.63	13.70%	938	546
After School Program	\$53,034.52	2.80%	326	266
Summer Program	\$25,066.76	1.30%	101	77
Curriculum	\$5,193.59	0.30%	13	13
TOTAL	\$1,894,634.42	100.00%	5,138	4,213

² This number includes students who were funded in previous years but spent their funds during the 20-21 school year.