

GARDINER SCHOLARSHIP



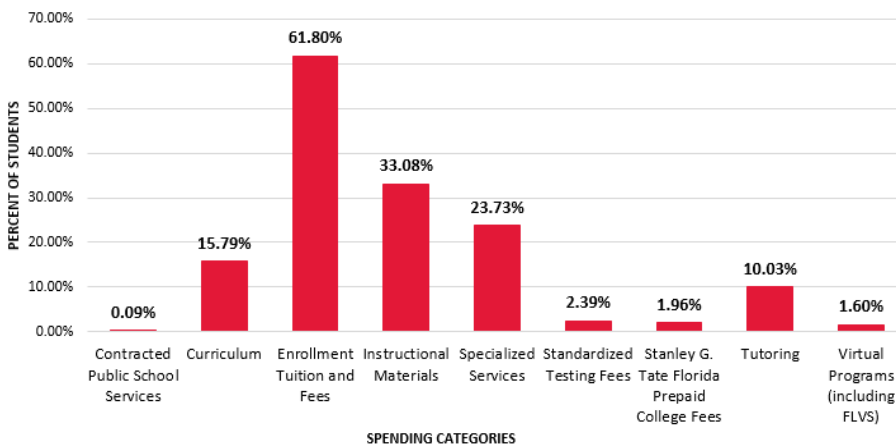
MARCH 2017

OFFICE OF POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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 \$10,000, and funds may be rolled over from year to year. Step Up For Students awarded 7,448 scholarships in the 2016-17 school year.

2015-2016 GARDINER SPENDING

Percentage of students who spent a portion of their award in each spending category



2016-2017 FAST FACTS*:

7,913 scholarships awarded

Average scholarship amount = \$10,096

\$71.2 million in scholarship funding

More than 2,500 participating providers

*As of February 28, 2017. Includes all scholarship organizations.

WHO QUALIFIES?

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
- Intellectual Disability (severe cognitive impairment)
- Kindergarten students deemed "high risk"



ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| ✓ 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 |

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