



A Learning Option for Students with Unique Abilities

2025-26 STEP UP FAST FACTS

140,147 funded students with unique abilities
Average scholarship worth \$10,000
More than 20,000 education providers, vendors, tutors, therapists, and more
More than 2,000 participating private schools
More than 30ne public school districts or charter schools partners, plus 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

