

## State of Florida School Choice Expansion

On March 27, 2023, Gov. DeSantis signed House Bill (HB) 1 into law which eliminates the income restrictions on the FES-EO and FTC Scholarships, thus making all children of Florida residents who are eligible to attend public school in grades K-12 eligible for a scholarship. It is estimated that scholarship awards will be approximately \$8,000 per student. This new law will go into effect on **July 1, 2023**, and Academy of the Holy Names will continue to participate in this program. The distribution of scholarship awards is prioritized in four tiers. [Click here](#) for more information regarding the scholarship tiers.

### How to Apply

The application window for new and returning families for FTC/FES-EO and FES-UA is now open and is facilitated by Step Up For Students (SDFS). **Important:** All families must create an account with the [Education Market Assistant \(EMA\)](#). Each family will have one account to manage their students' scholarships, even if the children benefit from different Step Up programs.

#### For Renewal Families:

1. [Sign up for an account in EMA.](#)
2. Connect all your renewal students, regardless of scholarship, using the **"FIND STUDENTS"** tool. Additionally, you can use the **"Add a Student"** tool to include any new students you would like considered for a scholarship.
3. To pull the information over to EMA, you'll be asked to enter the login information for your previous Step Up account. Make sure you enter your **email address from your 2022-23 account** as your username.
4. On your EMA dashboard, click the **"Apply"** button for the appropriate program to complete and submit your renewal application. Apply for all students, including the new students you are adding. If you are applying for more than one program, repeat the process after submitting the first application.
5. Monitor your email for application status updates and Award Notifications including Award ID. Please email a screenshot of the page within your EMA account that displays your student's Award ID to [SDFS23-24@holynamespa.org](mailto:SDFS23-24@holynamespa.org).

#### For New Families:

1. [Sign up for an account in EMA.](#)
2. Add all students you would like to be considered for a scholarship using the **"Add a Student"** tool. **Note:** *The "Find Students" tool is reserved for renewing students only.*
3. On your EMA dashboard, click the **"Apply"** button for the appropriate program and submit your application for all students. If you are applying for more than one program, repeat the process after submitting the first application.
4. Monitor your email for application status updates and Award Notifications including Award ID. Please email a screenshot of the page within your EMA account that displays your student's Award ID to [SDFS23-24@holynamespa.org](mailto:SDFS23-24@holynamespa.org).

### How Does This Affect My Billing?

Once you receive an Award Notification, please email a screenshot with the Award ID to [SDFS23-24@holynamespa.org](mailto:SDFS23-24@holynamespa.org). AHN will enroll your student(s) into the program, but cannot do so without the Award ID. Once the scholarship amount for the 2023-2024 school year is available, a credit will be applied to the student(s) FACTS account. If you have paid your balance in full, and are subsequently awarded a scholarship, the Academy will issue you a refund for the overpayment.

### Will This Affect My Financial Aid?

As noted in your FACTS award notifications, if you have received need-based tuition assistance from the Academy and are awarded new scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year, your aid application will be reviewed. The Academy need-based financial assistance may be reduced but will not result in an increase in the net amount owed per the enrollment contract. Participation in this scholarship program will be a net benefit.