



Step-Up for Students FAQs

What is Step-Up?

- Step-Up is a state-approved nonprofit scholarship funding organization that awards an average scholarship of \$8,000 per student annually to go towards private school education. All K-12 Florida students qualify for a Step Up for Student scholarship. Please follow the link [here](#) to learn more about Step-Up for Students and apply for scholarships for next year.

What scholarships are available and what are they for?

- Florida Tax Credit (FTC) and Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO):
 - Available to Florida residents regardless of household income, who are eligible to attend a K-12 public school.
 - The scholarship will first pay for the cost of private school tuition.
 - \$7,800 average award amount for private school scholarships.
 - Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA):
 - Scholarship is available to students aged 3 through grade 12 or age 22, whichever comes first, who have a specific diagnosis.
 - \$10,000 average award for an FES-UA scholarship.
 - Click [here](#) to learn more.

How often do I need to apply?

- All students need to re-enroll in Step-Up and notify JCS with the new award information every year.

Where do I apply?

- For instructions on how to apply/re-apply through Step-Up, please click [here](#).
- If you have questions during the enrollment process, please reach out to Step-Up directly. For the fastest response time, please use their chat line through their website.

What new changes can I expect for the 25/26 school year?

- **IMPORTANT:** JCS will no longer be accepting the AAA Scholarship. All students will need to go through Step-Up for Students.

What do I do once I am awarded?

- Step-Up will not notify JCS when your student is awarded. Once awarded with Step-Up, please follow the instructions below. Your 25/26 billing cannot be adjusted until we receive the 25/26 award information.
- Please email our Student Billing Coordinator, [Melissa Schindler](#) the following information:
 1. Students name and grade for the 25/26 school year
 2. 25/26 Step-Up Award #
 3. Step-Up Student ID#
 4. County Awarded In (County where you reside)
 5. Award amount
 6. Type of award: FES-EO, FES-UA, or FTC
- Please note FES-EO and FTC are different awards. Please check carefully.

Where do I find my award information?

- You can find your award information by following the instructions below:
 1. Log into your EMA (pronounced Emma) account by clicking [here](#).
 2. Click on My Students on the left.
 3. Click on VIEW Student under child's name.
 4. The awarded amount, student ID, award #, and award type will be displayed.
 5. You are welcome to take a screenshot and email [Melissa Schindler](#) at your earliest convenience. Please verify that it is the 25/26 award information before sending.

How is my billing set up once I am awarded?

- A Step-Up credit will be applied to your monthly billing bringing your overall tuition for the year down. The amount you are invoiced for each month, June-May, is the amount you owe JCS after your Step-Up scholarship. The full scholarship award amount is placed in your June billing for Step-Up to pay down quarterly throughout the year. Please note that Fourth Quarter payments from Step-Up typically do not arrive until May or June.

What is an Enrollment Form?

- JCS will issue an Enrollment Form through Step-Up for Students for each student whose award information we have received. Once an Enrollment Form is completed for your student, Step-Up will notify you to approve payment to JCS through your EMA portal. Please approve immediately to ensure timely payments. JCS will not receive any money from Step-Up until after you approve.

Do I need to let the school know each quarter that I am funded?

- No, Step-Up will notify JCS each quarter when your student is ready to be invoiced. The date you are funded is different than the date JCS receives quarterly payments from Step-Up.

What is the Quarterly Payment Process?

- Step-Up will notify JCS when it is time to approve the quarterly invoice for each student. Once approved, Step-Up will notify the parent or guardian to approve the quarterly invoice. Please approve the invoice immediately to ensure timely payment to JCS. JCS will not receive any money from Step-Up until invoices are approved by the parent or guardian.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

- If you have any questions about billing, please feel free to email [Melissa Schindler](mailto:Melissa.Schindler@step-up.org).
- If you have questions about enrollment with Step-Up or about your Step-Up account, please contact Step-Up directly. Step-Up recommends that you use their chat line through their website that you can access [here](#).