

Apply now for private school scholarships for families of law enforcement officers

Get an average of \$7,000 a year for K-12 education

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ST. PETERSBURG – Private school scholarships are now available to dependents of Florida law enforcement officers. Parents seeking new educational options for the 2022-23 school year can apply for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options with just one application through Step Up For Students.

Dependent children of law enforcement officers are now eligible, regardless of household income. A law enforcement officer is defined as someone who is elected, appointed, or employed full time by a municipality, county, or the state, who is vested with the authority to bear arms and make arrests.

Scholarships average about \$7,000 and can be used to pay for K-12 private school tuition and fees. Families can apply by visiting www.stepupforstudents.org.

The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC), which began in 2002, and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO), created in 2019, provide learning options for students in grades K-12. Combined this year, they funded over 163,000 students in more than 2,000 private schools statewide.

For Alisha Miller and her husband Andrew, a law enforcement officer in Pasco County, a Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options allowed them to enroll their daughter in the school of their choice without suffering economic hardship.

“Three years ago, when we enrolled our oldest in a Christian school, we stressed the financial impact the tuition would take in the coming years,” Alisha said. “Being in law enforcement we are all too familiar with making sacrifices to meet the needs of our family. Receiving this scholarship means we are able to continue providing our children an education that doesn’t come at the cost of sacrificing Christian values. We are so thankful to live in a state where law enforcement officers are recognized and appreciated for all that they do.”

About Step Up For Students

Step Up For Students, a 501c3 nonprofit based in Jacksonville and St. Petersburg, has awarded more than 1.3 million scholarships since it was founded in 2002. Today, Step Up administers four of the state’s K-12 scholarship programs: the donor-supported Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) and the taxpayer-funded Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO), for low- and middle-income students; the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA, formerly Gardiner); the Reading Scholarship for public school students in grades K-5 with low reading test scores; and the Hope Scholarship for bullied students.