

Apply now for private school scholarships for military families

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

May 3, 2022



ST. PETERSBURG – Private school scholarships are now available to dependents of military veterans. 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 members of the United States Armed Forces may qualify, regardless of household income. This includes members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Space Force and reservists. 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.

Jessica Bianchi is married to Juan Santana, a chief petty officer in the Navy stationed in Jacksonville. Their daughter and son attend private schools on the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Opportunities and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities.

"The Step Up for Students Scholarship has allowed our children to stay at a school that fits their needs and shares our values," Jessica says. "Being a military family away from home, the family environment has served as a surrogate family and a most-needed sense of community, stability, and belonging. They also get the chance to go to top-notch schools that work on unleashing their full potential while developing a true love for learning. We are infinitely grateful for the doors Step Up for Students has opened for them."

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 students who have been victims of bullying and harassment.