



Program Summary

The **Hope Scholarship Program** ([Florida Statute 212.1832](#)), created by the Florida Legislature in 2018, allows the purchaser of a motor vehicle to designate a portion of the required state sales tax (up to \$105) to fund K-12 scholarships for Florida public school students who are subjected to incidents of bullying or violence.

This innovative scholarship provides at-risk students an opportunity to refocus on their education in a new learning environment at a Florida Department of Education-approved private school or an out-of-district public school. Any funds remaining, once all Hope Scholarship students have been served, may be used to fund scholarships for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship provides lower-income Florida students the opportunity to attend a FLDOE-approved private school or for transportation assistance to an out-of-district public school.

Step Up For Students is proud to be the only Scholarship Funding Organization authorized by the State of Florida to administer the Hope Scholarship Program. Step Up has 18 years of experience administering statewide scholarship programs.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Hope Scholarship Program provides parents with two financial assistance options: a private school scholarship or a transportation scholarship to help with costs associated with attending an in-district or out-of-district public school.

The private school scholarship can be used at a Florida Department of Education-approved private school to help cover the costs of tuition and fees. The scholarship amount varies by the county in which the student resides. On average, the scholarship funds about \$6,751 per student for K-5th grade, \$7,058 for 6th-8th grade and \$7,368 for 9th-12th grade. The transportation assistance scholarship is worth up to \$750.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

For the 2019-20 school year, a student enrolled in a K-12 Florida public school is eligible for a Hope Scholarship if the student was subjected to and reported an incident of battery, harassment, hazing, bullying, kidnapping, physical attack, robbery, sexual offences, threat, intimidation or fighting. Scholarships are contingent on available funds and on a first-come, first-served basis.

IMPACT ON DEALERS AND TAX COLLECTORS

As of October 1, 2018, a dealer, designated agent or private tag agent is required to provide a vehicle purchaser the [Contribution Election Form](#) at the time of purchase or registration of a motor vehicle.

Dealers, designated agents or private tag agents collect the eligible contributions and remit the total contribution amount to Step Up monthly. Along with the remittance, dealers, designated agents or private tag agents must report the contribution to the [Florida Department of Revenue](#) monthly for the preceding month.

EXCEPTIONS

For the purposes of the Hope Scholarship, the term "purchase" does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle. A "motor vehicle" does not include a heavy truck of more than 5,000-pounds net weight, truck, tractor, trailer, motorcycle, recreational vehicle or golf cart.

The purchaser may not designate a specific student, school or county as the beneficiary of the contribution.

ABOUT STEP UP FOR STUDENTS



Step Up For Students empowers parents to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children, with an emphasis on families who lack the financial resources to access these options.

Since 2001, Step Up For Students has funded more than 824,000 PreK-12 scholarships to children throughout Florida. In addition to the Hope Scholarship, Step Up also administers four other legislatively-authorized scholarships:

- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for lower-income children
- Family Empowerment Scholarship for lower-income children
- Gardiner Scholarship Program for special-needs students
- Reading Scholarship Accounts for students that struggle with reading

Step Up has a **4-star rating from Charity Navigator** and has earned the **GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Platinum Seal of Transparency**. Step Up is ranked 19th by *Forbes* and 31st by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* in the publications' listings of largest nonprofits in the United States.