

PERSONAL LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS FOR FLORIDA STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES



There is a new way for Florida parents to provide their children with quality, customized learning beyond what is traditionally offered! During the 2014 Legislative Session, lawmakers created the Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts (PLSA) Program. Now, parents of students with certain disabilities can create a customized education plan by choosing the school, services and therapies that fit the needs of their child. PLSAs offer moms and dads the flexibility and freedom to provide their children with a high-quality, individualized education.

Who is eligible for this scholarship?

Florida K-12 public, private and home education students with the following disabilities are eligible: Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Williams syndrome, and Prader-Willi syndrome. Additionally, kindergarteners identified as high-risk and children with select intellectual disabilities may also be eligible.

How much is this scholarship worth?

Every student qualifying for the Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program receives an amount set by the state, estimated at **approximately \$9,000 for the 2014–15 school year.**

How can parents use these scholarship dollars?

Parents can choose the educational setting most appropriate for their child while balancing the optimal level of therapies and services for educational success. Scholarship dollars can be used for any **combination** of:

- ★ tuition and fees at an eligible private school;
- ★ occupational, physical, and language services and therapies;
- ★ private tutoring;
- ★ virtual programs or online courses;
- ★ exam fees;
- ★ contract services from school districts;
- ★ contributions to the state prepaid college program; and
- ★ instructional materials and curriculum (including digital devices and assistive technology).

Can I still home educate my child while using this scholarship?

Yes, parents may home educate their child using the Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program. They must comply with the same rules and standards, including the home education portfolio and annual evaluation requirements, that are normally required of home education students (although many students with specific disabilities are exempt from taking these tests). There will be no additional assessment requirement for participants.

When can I apply?

The program begins with the 2014-15 school year. Scholarship organizations may enroll students, on a rolling schedule, on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible students can apply through administering organizations.

How do I find more about the program?

Step Up For Students: 1.877.735.7837 | www.stepupforstudents.org

A.A.A. Scholarship Foundation: 1.888.707.2465 | www.aaascholarships.org