



### **What is the Gardiner Scholarship Program?**

The Gardiner Scholarship Program formerly known as Personal Learning Scholarship Account or (PLSA) was established in 2014 to provide parents the option to better meet the individual needs of their eligible children. Parents of eligible Florida children may use the accounts to purchase approved educational-related goods or services, as well as provide for prepaid college plans.

### **Who is eligible for Gardiner Scholarship Account Program?**

A student is eligible for a Gardiner from AAA through this program, if:

- A. the student is a resident of Florida;
- B. the student will be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>, or
- C. the student is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade twelve in a public school in Florida; and
- D. the student has a disability as defined by Section 1002.385(2)(d), Florida Statutes; and
- E. the student has a diagnosis of an eligible disability that matches the definition in Section 1002.385(2)(d) from a licensed physician or psychologist

### **What types of disabilities qualify?**

- A. Autism Spectrum Disorder
- B. Cerebral Palsy
- C. Down's Syndrome
- D. Intellectual Disability
- E. Phelan-McDermid
- F. Prader-Willi Syndrome
- G. Spina Bifida
- H. For a 3-5 year old, being a high-risk child
- I. Muscular Dystrophy
- J. Williams Syndrome

### **How much is the scholarship worth?**

The scholarship amount will vary according to grade, county and disability, and is worth 90% of the funding a school district would receive for the student. The average amount for most students is \$10,000. Students with the most severe disabilities may be eligible for a higher scholarship amount if the student receives an IEP after he/she has been awarded a Gardiner Scholarship.



### **How can the scholarship account funds be used?**

The accounts can be used to pay for:

- A. Instructional materials, including digital devices, digital periphery devices, and assistive technology
- B. Curriculum materials
- C. Specialized services by approved providers which may include, but are not limited to applied behavior analysis services, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapy; physical therapy; services from listening and spoken language specialists
- D. Tuition and fees at an eligible private school
- E. Private tutoring (full or part-time by a state-certified teacher)
- F. Virtual programs offered by FL DOE approved private online providers
- G. Florida Virtual School
- H. Approved online courses
- I. Fees for nationally standardized, norm-referenced achievement tests, AP exams, industry certification exams, assessments related to postsecondary education or other assessments
- J. Contributions to Florida Prepaid College Program or Florida College Savings Program
- K. Contracted services provided by a public school or school districts
- L. Fees for specialized summer education programs
- M. Fees for specialized after-school education programs
- N. Transition services provided by job coaches
- O. Fees for an annual evaluation of educational progress by a state-certified teacher under s.1002.41(1), if this option is chosen for a home education student;
- P. Tuition and fees associated with programs offered by Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers approved pursuant to s.1002.55 and school readiness providers approved pursuant to s.1002.88.

### **How do I apply for a scholarship?**

AAA will provide an application on our website at [www.aaascholarships.org](http://www.aaascholarships.org) that can be completed on-line or printed, signed and mailed into the Application Processor with All required documentation including a diagnosis of an eligible disability from a licensed Florida physician or psychologist.

### **How are scholarships awarded?**

Scholarships are awarded to eligible students in the following order of priority: renewing students; students retained on the previous school years wait list; new applicants and late-filing applicants (renewals and wait listed students who missed the priority deadline) on a first-completed, first-awarded basis.

### **How do I learn more about the scholarship?**

Please refer to the Gardiner Scholarship Parent / School Handbook.