



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 1st, 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?

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| A. Autism Spectrum Disorder | I. Muscular Dystrophy |
| B. Cerebral Palsy | J. Williams Syndrome |
| C. Down's Syndrome | K. Dual Sensory Impaired |
| D. Intellectual Disability | L. Anaphylaxis |
| E. Phelan-McDermid | M. Deaf |
| F. Prader-Willi Syndrome | N. Visually Impaired |
| G. Spina Bifida | O. Traumatic Brain Injured |
| H. For a 3-5-year-old, being a high-risk child | P. Rare Disease |
| | Q. Hospital or Homebound |

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 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.



Can my student attend public school and get the Gardiner Scholarship?

No, your student cannot receive the Gardiner Scholarship and stay in public school. However, you are more than welcome to apply for the Gardiner Scholarship regardless of where your student is currently attending. If “Awarded” then the student can be home schooled or private school which must be in good standing with the Department of Education.

Can my student receive the McKay Scholarship and Gardiner Scholarship at the same time?

No, your student cannot receive both Scholarships at the same time. You may apply for both but once deemed eligible and awarded, you must choose one or the other.

When does the school year start and end for the Scholarship?

The school year for AAA Scholarship foundation starts on July 1st and ends June 30th.

Is an IEP required to apply for the Gardiner Scholarship?

No, an IEP is not required to apply for the Scholarship. However, our Physician’s Form is required to be completed by a Physician, Pediatrician or Psychologist. A Nurse Practitioner, Medical Assistant, Nurse or office staff cannot sign the Physician Form.

Can the Gardiner Scholarship cover therapy services?

Yes, the Gardiner Scholarship can pay or reimburse for services provided by a Licensed or Certified Therapist.

**Note: A request cannot be submitted that has been billed to an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the same services that are paid through the Gardiner Scholarship.*

Can the Gardiner Scholarship cover tutoring services?

Yes, the Gardiner Scholarship can pay or reimburse for services provided by a tutor that is licensed, certified, or that can show a mastery in the field they are instructing

What types of therapy, tutoring services or devices need prior authorization?

Therapy and Tutoring do not need pre-authorizations however, educational materials, digital devices, curriculum, etc. require a pre-auth

Do you transfer to Florida Prepaid Plans?

Yes, the plan must be an eligible plan. We only transfer funds once a month, the request must be submitted by the 10th of the month in order to be transferred that month