

Hope Scholarship Program

Bringing Educational Opportunity to Bullied Students



A STEP FORWARD FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS

In 2018, Florida leaders established a program that allows parents of public school students subjected to bullying, harassment or other behaviors to transfer their student to another public school or receive a scholarship to attend a participating private school.

Why the Hope Scholarship is Needed:

In one school year, more than 47,000 of Florida's public school students reported being battered, bullied, harassed, assaulted or attacked.

Florida laws already address the perpetrator of bullying behavior, this law provides assistance and educational choices for the victimized student.

SCHOLARSHIP ROLES AND REQUIREMENTS

School Principal or Designee:

- Investigates incident.
- Provides copy of report to parent of victim and parent of alleged offender and determines if statewide reporting is required.
- Notifies parent of the Hope Scholarship Program, upon conclusion of investigation or within 15 days, whichever occurs first.

Parents/Families:

- Applies for scholarship via state funding organization website.
- Selects eligible private school and complies with school's requirements.
- Informs school district and withdraws student.
- Ensures that student takes the norm-referenced assessment offered by the private school.

Scholarship Funding Organization:

- Receives applications, determines student eligibility.
- Notifies parents of scholarship depending upon available funding.
- Awards scholarships to students, giving priority to renewing students from previous year.
- Submits required quarterly reports and any violations to the state department of education
- May retain 3 percent for administrative fees and is subject to annual operational audit conducted by the Auditor General.

Per-Student Funding Amounts

Based on statewide per full-time equivalent (FTE) - \$7,400

Grades K-3

🌟 88 percent - \$6,519

Grades 4-8

🌟 92 percent - \$6,815

Grades 9-12

🌟 96 percent - \$7,112

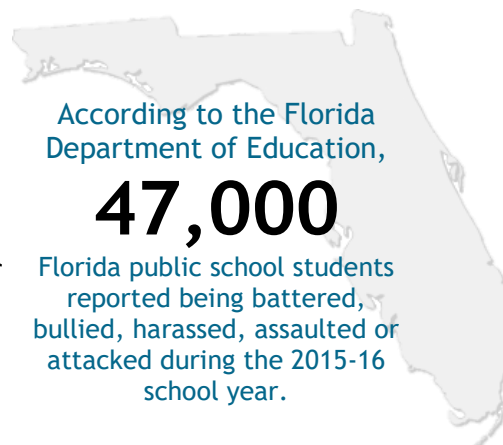
Revenue Source

- 🌟 Voluntary single payment of \$105 at time of purchase of motor vehicle or, if not purchased from a dealer, when it is registered.
- 🌟 Tax credit not available until October 1, 2018.
- 🌟 Estimated \$40M for 2018-2019 school year.



Participating Private School:

- Complies with anti-discrimination provisions and demonstrates fiscal soundness and accountability.
- Meets applicable health and safety requirements and maintains a physical location.
- Publishes or provides parents required information on programs, services and qualifications of teachers.
- Provides parents with notice of student's progress.
- Conducts state and national background screenings of employees with direct contact with students and of school owners/operators.
- Adopts required policies related to ethical conduct of school staff.
- Provides independent CPA report to the scholarship funding organization annually.



State Department of Education:

- Implements provisions of scholarship program accountability including:
 - Annual verification of private schools' compliance.
 - Establishes toll free hotline and process for individuals to notify the state department of education of possible violations.
 - Conducts inquiries into complaints.
 - Obtains copies of health and fire inspection reports of private schools.
 - Conducts site visits prior to schools entering a scholarship program for the first time (effective 2018-2019).
 - Reports annually to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate on implementation activities and violations.
 - Verifies that participating students are not also enrolled in public schools and requires quarterly reports from scholarship funding organizations on number of participating students and schools.
 - Maintains list of nationally norm-referenced tests and facilitates private school access to state assessments, if chosen.
 - Contracts with independent entity to provide an annual program evaluation.
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To learn more about Florida's Hope Scholarship Program, visit <http://www.fl DOE.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/hope/>.

“The Hope Scholarship is about giving bullied kids a way out, if that's what their parents think is best, and a way to afford that way out if it is a private school.”

Florida Parent Alyson Hochstedler, *Fort Myers News-Press* - Nov. 2017
