****

 **A PROGRAM OF:**

LOCAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION LOGO

**FAQs for SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

**What is a Jump Start scholarship?**

It is a Florida Prepaid tuition scholarship that provides recipients:

* 30 credit hours of tuition at a Florida state public college or the equivalent value at Florida public universities and technical colleges for eligible credit-hour programs.
* Support for college success, including financial aid, life skills and career exploration workshops through local education foundation.

**What is the rationale behind the one-year, 30-hour tuition award?**

* **Flexibility!** Students can complete in-demand technical education programs or apply scholarship to Florida state college or university tuition.
* **Increase Access!** Encourage students who may not have been college-bound to get started.

If they choose to continue toward a two- or four-degree, they will likely be eligible for institutional and/or federal support to continue.

**What are the student eligibility requirements to receive a Jump Start scholarship?**

Students must meet income eligibility guidelines for the USDA Free and Reduced Lunch Program\*. Documentation of income eligibility can come from a variety of sources such as eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, HUD (Very Low Income), or IRS Form 1040 and must be received. See: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/income-eligibility-guidelines>. If applicants have a question about eligibility documentation, they may submit the document into FL Prepaid for review and follow up if needed.

\* If a Free and Reduced Lunch letter is presented, the 1040 tax form must accompany the letter.

Students must also provide proof of Florida residency. Accepted documentation may be one of the following: Florida Driver’s License for the student or parent/guardian - issued at least one year prior to assignment; transcript or report card for the student including the 11th and 12th grade; or Florida voter’s registration card for the student or parent/guardian issued at least one year prior to assignment.

**How does the Jump Start scholarship program differ from the traditional Florida Prepaid Project STARS matching funds?**

Jump Start scholarships are for Florida-only scholarship plans. The scholarship is less expensive than traditional plan pricing.

These scholarships are intended to be awarded to students in their senior year and there is no mentoring requirement. Each scholarship plan is assigned to only one student and may not be transferred or canceled. Otherwise, eligibility requirements and how the plan pays tuition for students are the same.

 **At A Glance Comparison**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Traditional Project STARS Scholarships*** 1:1 match
* May be used at out of state or private colleges with donor approval
* Unused scholarships may be transferred by donor to other eligible recipients
* Administrative support needed by sponsor to track scholarship usage
* Income and FL Residency Requirements
 | **Jump Start Florida-Only Scholarships*** 3:1 match in total value to the purchasing price
* Scholarships may be used at Florida-only institutions
* Once a scholarship is assigned, it cannot be canceled or transferred to another student
* No administrative support needed by sponsor after assignment
* Income and FL Residency Requirements
 |

**How long do students have to use their Jump Start scholarship?**

Students will have six years from their original projected enrollment year (PEY) date to use their scholarship plan. The PEY is set at the time scholarships are purchased from Florida Prepaid. Plans will expire after this time.

**What if a student wants to apply their Jump Start scholarship to tuition at a Florida university?**

They may do so, with the per-semester hour college tuition rate applied to their tuition. Florida university tuition rates vary. Based on current tuition rates, the 30-hour Jump Start tuition scholarship will cover approximately half of tuition and fees for one year at a Florida university. (<https://www.flbog.edu/universities/parents-students/tuition-fees>)

**What happens if a student wants to apply their scholarship to obtain a technical certificate?**

Florida’s technical colleges are designed to meet immediate workforce needs by offering industry-driven career and technical education and training. The value of a Jump Start scholarship may be applied to tuition and fees at a Florida technical college, but only toward credit-hour based programs. Equipment and supplies required for certain technical programs will not be covered by the scholarship.

Technical certificate programs vary by length and cost and students can explore the wide variety of options available at Florida’s 48 public technical colleges at: <https://gettherefl.com/>

**How long does it take to process scholarships?**

The more lead time for FPCF to process scholarships the better, but if full documentation for scholarship recipients is received in June the students should have access to their award by the beginning of the fall semester.

Students need to identify as having a FPCF scholarship (not Jump Start or name of education foundation) when they enroll and pay tuition.

**This Program is Offered in Partnership With:**

