

- ▶ JANUARY 19
MINI CONFERENCE, BARTOW
- ▶ APRIL 9
ADVOCACY DAY, TALLAHASSEE
- ▶ MAY 18
DUFFELS FOR KIDS WALK, MIAMI

Florida State

Foster/Adoptive Parent Association

THE STATEWIDE SUPPORT GROUP FOR FLORIDA'S FOSTER PARENTS!

Foster children eligible for K-12 scholarships

Florida has help for schoolchildren who are low-income, in foster care or homeless.

Florida has the nation's largest scholarship program for economically disadvantaged K-12 schoolchildren. This year, it is providing \$4,335 scholarships to roughly 50,000 students in more than 1,300 private schools of their choosing.

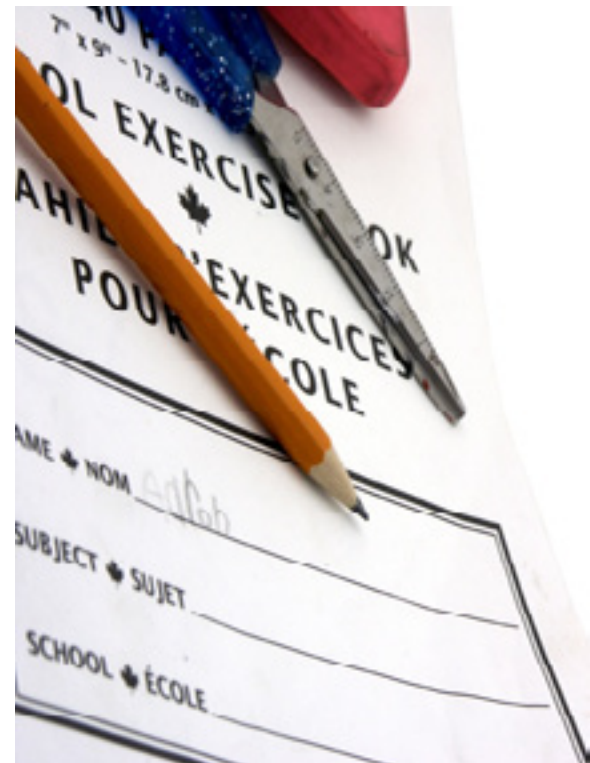
These scholarships are targeted for three groups of children – those with household incomes that qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, those in foster care and those who are homeless.

This program, called the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, was created in 2001 and is funded by corporations that receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for their contributions.

This year, companies contributed \$229 million, and next year they are expected to contribute as much as \$286 million. The intent is to provide learning options for disadvantaged children, allowing their parents or guardians to choose schools that might better meet their children's needs.

Step Up For Students is a nonprofit organization that administers the scholarships, and it provides them on a first-come, first-serve basis each new school year.

Applications start in the early spring. Sign up at StepUpForStudents.org to be notified for the 2013-14 school year. You can also visit www.StepUpForStudents.org to learn more, call 877-735-7837 or email info@sufs.org.



CONTACT US

Phone: 866.913.0977 ~ Website: www.floridafapa.org ~ Email: info@floridafapa.org
Facebook: Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association ~ Twitter: [@FloridaFAPA](https://twitter.com/FloridaFAPA)

Sign up for FSFAPA'S email newsletters! Contact Curtis Byrd at FSFAPA-secretary@panhandle.rr.com to join our mailing list.

Check FSFAPA's website often for updated news and events happening around the state!

FSFAPA Now Accepting Membership Dues for 2013

Every licensed foster parent, relative and non-relative caregiver, and adoptive parent in the state of Florida is automatically entitled to the benefits provided by the Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parents Association (FSFAPA).

Some of these benefits include mini conferences offered each quarter in various parts of the state, participation in Children's Week in Tallahassee where we advocate for the families we serve, and an annual educational conference where more than 300 parents attend.

FSFAPA advocates on your behalf and is involved in many workgroups designed to improve the foster care system. FSFAPA has also designed a

Foster Allegation Support Team (FAST) program to help in the event of an abuse allegation. A FAST coordinator is available to offer guidance and support during this difficult time.

We have many new and exciting programs that we are developing and will continue to develop to help our families.

So why should you pay membership dues if you receive all of this for free?

A dues-paid member is eligible to vote on issues and concerns and participate in the election process. Your support for FSFAPA also

helps the association maintain and expand our current programs, as well as initiate development of new programs to benefit foster parents and children in care.

Please help support FSFAPA. The dues for an individual is \$10 and for a family is \$15. A membership application has been included with this newsletter. You can also email Curtis Byrd, secretary, at FSFAPA-Secretary@panhandle.rr.com for a membership application.

Membership dues become effective January 1, 2013.

“Remember Hand in Hand, Together We Can.”



Florida State Foster/
Adoptive Parent
Association

4100 W. Okeechobee Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

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