



Hope Scholarship Program Contribution Election

The Hope Scholarship Program (Program) provides a public-school student who was subjected to an incident of violence or bullying at school the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to attend an eligible private school rather than remain in an unsafe school environment.

Beginning on or after October 1, 2018, when you purchase or register a motor vehicle qualifying for the Program in Florida, you may designate \$105 per vehicle to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization participating in the Program. If the state sales tax due is less than \$105, you may designate the amount of state sales tax due. Your motor vehicle dealer, county tax collector, or private tag agent will remit your contribution to the organization and remit the remaining state sales tax and surtax to the Florida Department of Revenue.

To make your contribution to the Program, complete the following. Sign and date.

Eligible Nonprofit Scholarship-Funding Organization: Step Up for Students, Inc.		Contribution Amount (Lesser of \$105, or state sales tax due):	
Vehicle Owner's Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Vehicle Co-Owner's Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Vehicle Year:	Vehicle Manufacturer:	Vehicle Identification Number:	
Signature of Owner:			Date:
Signature of Co-Owner*:			Date:

*For vehicles owned by more than one person, the signature of the owner and the co-owner is required.

For use by motor vehicle dealer, county tax collector, or private tag agency.

Program Summary

Through the Hope Scholarship Program (Florida Statute 212.1832), beginning October 1, 2018 **the purchaser of a motor vehicle shall be granted a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to \$105** for an eligible contribution to a nonprofit scholarship funding organization, like Step Up For Students, for the sales tax imposed by the state and collected from the purchaser by a dealer, designated agent, or private tag agent as a result of the purchase or acquisition of a motor vehicle. **This designation is at no cost.**

The Hope Scholarship Program, administered by Step Up For Students, was established to provide the parent of a public school student who was subjected to an incident of violence or bullying an opportunity to transfer the student to another public school or to request a scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend an eligible private school.

MISSION

Step Up For Students is proud to be the only eligible scholarship funding organization administering the Hope Scholarship Program during the 2018-19 school year. Step Up empowers parents to pursue and engage in the most appropriate learning options for their children, with an emphasis on families who lack the financial resources to access these options.

This innovative scholarship opportunity allows students who are systemically bullied to refocus on their education by utilizing a Hope Scholarship to help find a new educational environment. The scholarship provides financial assistance to attend a Florida Department of Education-approved private school or for transportation to an out-of-district public school. Additionally, eligible students can also transfer to an in-district public school with capacity.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

Since Step Up For Students' founding in 2001, the organization has been committed to ensuring all students have the equal opportunity to succeed. Step Up has funded more than 700,000 PreK-12 scholarships to children in need throughout Florida. In addition to the Hope Scholarship, Step Up For Students helps administer three other legislatively-authorized scholarship options for Florida schoolchildren:

- Florida Tax Credit Scholarship for lower-income children
- Gardiner Scholarship Program for special-needs students
- Reading Scholarship Accounts for students struggling with reading

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Step Up has a **4-star rating from Charity Navigator** and is recognized as a **Platinum charity by GuideStar**.

Step Up is ranked 26th by *Forbes* and 42nd by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* in the publications' listings of largest nonprofits in the United States.



IMPACT ON VEHICLE PURCHASER

Beginning on October 1, 2018, a dealer or county tax collector is required to provide a vehicle purchaser the [Contribution Election Form](#) at the time of purchase or registration of a motor vehicle.

Your contribution is not a charitable contribution and is at no additional cost to the purchaser, dealer or tax collector. This program simply allows you to earmark a portion of your sales taxes due to fund scholarships for bullied children. Your motor vehicle dealer, county tax collector, or private tag agent will remit your contribution to Step Up For Students and remit the remaining sales tax to the Florida Department of Revenue.

EXCEPTIONS

For the purposes of the Hope Scholarship, the term "purchase" does not include the lease or rental of a motor vehicle. A "motor vehicle" does not include a heavy truck or any vehicle more than 5,000-pound net weight, truck tractor, trailer, motorcycle, recreational vehicle or golf cart. The person making the contribution may not designate a specific student, school or county as the beneficiary of the contribution.

SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS

The Hope Scholarship Program provides parents with two financial assistance options – including a private school scholarship, or a transportation scholarship of up to \$750 to attend an out-of-district public school.

The private school scholarship can be used at a Florida Department of Education-approved private school to help cover the costs of tuition and fees. The scholarship amount pays up to \$6,519 for K – 5th grade, \$6,815 for 6th - 8th grade and \$7,111 for 9th – 12th grade for the 2018-19 school year.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

In the 2018-19 school year, contingent upon available funds, and on a first-come, first-served basis, a student enrolled in a Florida public school in K - 12th grade is eligible for a Hope Scholarship if the student was subjected to and reported an incident of battery, harassment, hazing, bullying, kidnapping, physical attack, robbery, sexual offences, threat, intimidation or fighting.

