



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

ELC OF THE BIG BEND PRESENTS

CONNECTING THE PIECES

VIRTUAL RESOURCE FAIR

OCTOBER 29, 2024

featuring



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Community Resource Contacts

Organization		Position	Phone Number	Email	Counties Served
Capital Area Community Action Agency	Matherlyn "Matty" Norwood	Family Advocate	850-222-2043 ext. 621	matherlyn.norwood@cacaainc.org	Franklin, Jefferson, Leon
Family Network on Disabilities	Sassafrass Mittleman	Parent Training Specialist	850-459-1374	smittleman@fndfl.org	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
Figure of Speech	Lydia Mejia	Owner	850-629-9105	contact@figureofspeechservices.com	Leon
Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region	Gabrielle Aboki	Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist	866-973-9030 850-552-7318	crr@elcbigbend.org or gaboki@elcbigbend.org	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)	Lynne Smith	Child Find, Parent & Family Services, Gifted Specialist	850-561-6545	smithm9@leonschools.net	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Taylor, Wakulla
FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)	Audra Burch	Speech-Language Pathologist/ Autism Consultant	850-644-4367	audra.burch@med.fsu.edu	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
211 – Help Me Grow	Amber Volano	Help Me Grow Program Coordinator	850-617-6306	avolano@211bigbend.org	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla
Legal Services of North Florida	Kathy Grunewald	Senior Disaster Coordinator Attorney	850-385-9007 ext. 1014	kgrunewald@lsnf.org	Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla

Capital Area Community Action Agency



Community Action
HEAD START



TO LEARN MORE,
SCAN HERE:



LEON
FRANKLIN
JEFFERSON
MONDAY-FRIDAY

Registration open for children who are
3 and 4 years old by September 1.
Limited slots available.

We offer Head Start, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), and School Readiness services for children between the ages of three and five at all five centers. We are devoted to promoting strong social, emotional, physical, and educational development of young children.

- Child Health & Nutrition
- Early Childhood Development
- Family & Community Engagement
- Special Services (Occupational Therapy; Speech Therapy, and Mental Health Therapy)

CONTACT US:

Phone: 850-222-2043
309 Office Plaza Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301

To learn more, visit us at:

<http://capitalareacommunityactionagency.com/about-head-start/>.



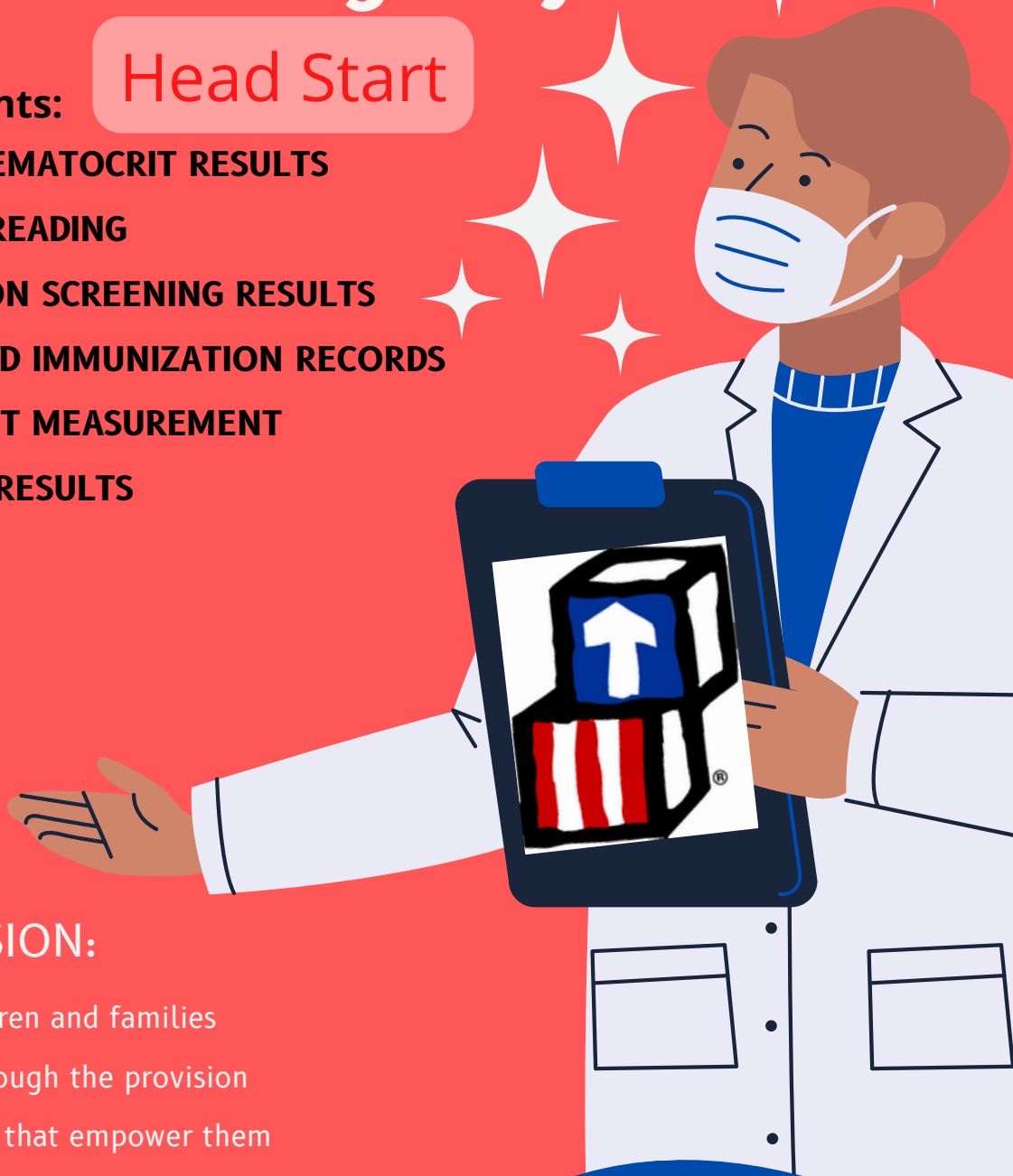
Capital Area Community Action Agency

Head Start

Health Requirements:

Head Start

- **HEMOGLOBIN or HEMATOCRIT RESULTS**
- **BLOOD PRESSURE READING**
- **HEARING AND VISION SCREENING RESULTS**
- **PHYSICAL EXAM AND IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**
- **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT MEASUREMENT**
- **BLOOD LEAD TEST RESULTS**
- **DENTAL SERVICES**



HEAD START MISSION:

It is our mission that children and families become self-sufficient through the provision of comprehensive services that empower them socially, emotionally, economically, and physically.



Call for more information about partnering with Community Action:

850-222-2043

SCAN ME!



There are all kind of families. Families with different skin colors, national origin, sexual orientation, beliefs, and values. Many of them have children with disabilities, children with learning challenges, or children with medical needs. Wherever you are in the process of embracing the uniqueness of your family, we are here for you.

As your **PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTERS FOR FLORIDA**, our job is to help you access the most accurate and updated information regarding your child's right to free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment as stated in the law, IDEA. As the statewide **FAMILY STAR PROGRAM**, we are here to help you find the right path to ensure your child's access to the right services when they face medical or mental health challenges.

We provide information, resources, and in-person and online support through: Conferences, Live Webinars, Training, One on One Support, and Workshops

We have an extense collection of family-friendly materials created just for you, and a wonderful library of resources that links to research-based information created by federally funded agencies that work in partnership with us to ensure you don't miss a thing. Even better, through our website and social media, you will stay informed, educated and motivated. Give us a call, send us an email, or a message. We are here for you!



FAMILY NETWORK ON DISABILITIES (FND) was founded in 1985 by a group of parents of children with disabilities who came together for mutual support and information-sharing. FND is a grassroots organization for persons with disabilities and their families that is family-centered and family-driven. The mission of FND is to strive for the complete integration and equality of persons with disabilities in a society without barriers and to serve families of children with disabilities, ages birth through 26, who have the full range of disabilities described in section 602(3) of IDEA. FND is a parent organization as defined in section 671 (a)(2) of IDEA 2004.



@FamilyNetworkonDisabilities



@Family_Network_on_Disabilities



@FND_USA



(800) 825-5736



fnd@fndusa.org



fndusa.org



Evaluating Children for Disability

Evaluation is an essential beginning step in the special education process for a child with a disability.

Before a child can receive special education and related services for the first time, a full and individual initial evaluation of the child must be conducted to see if the child has a disability and is eligible for special education.

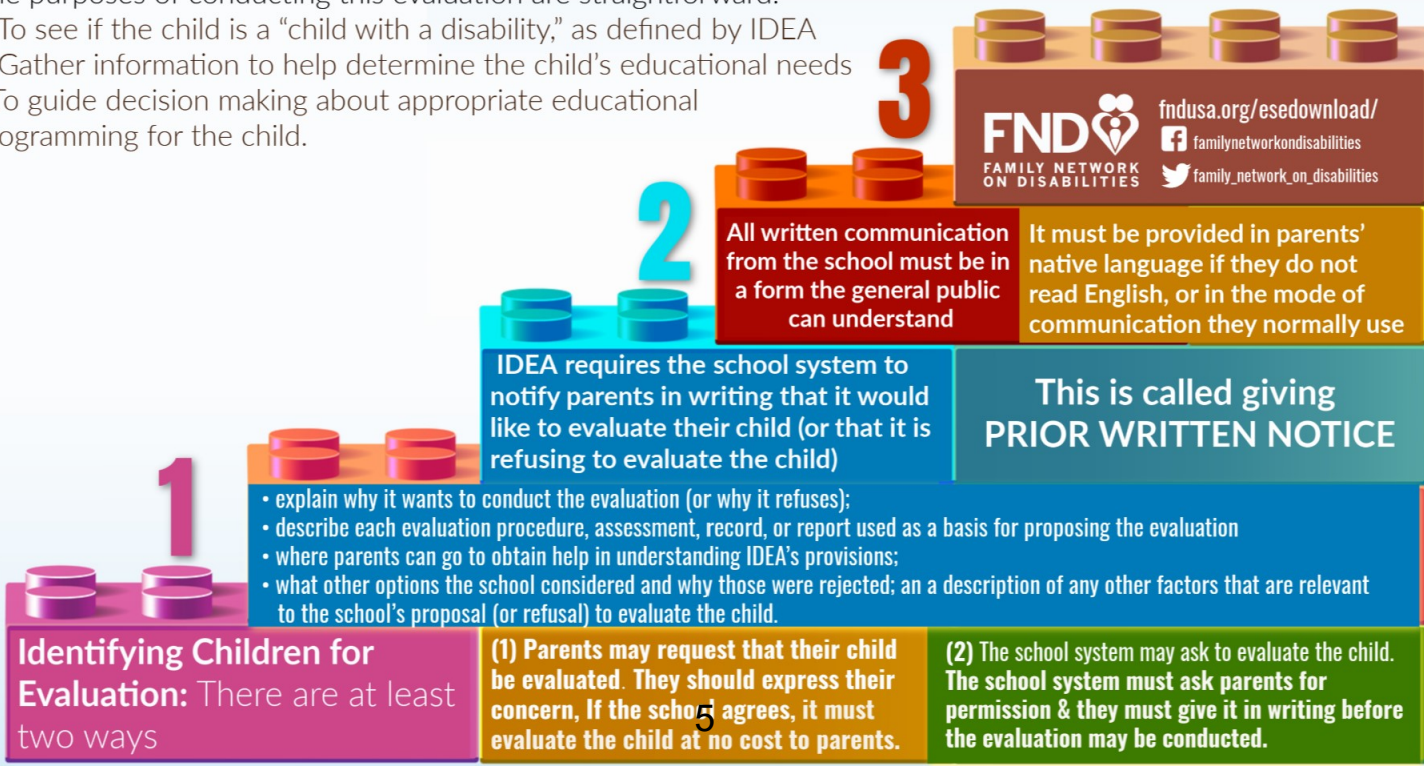
Informed parent consent must be obtained before this evaluation may be conducted.

The initial evaluation of a child is required by IDEA before any special education and related services can be provided to that child.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/evaluation/>

The purposes of conducting this evaluation are straightforward:

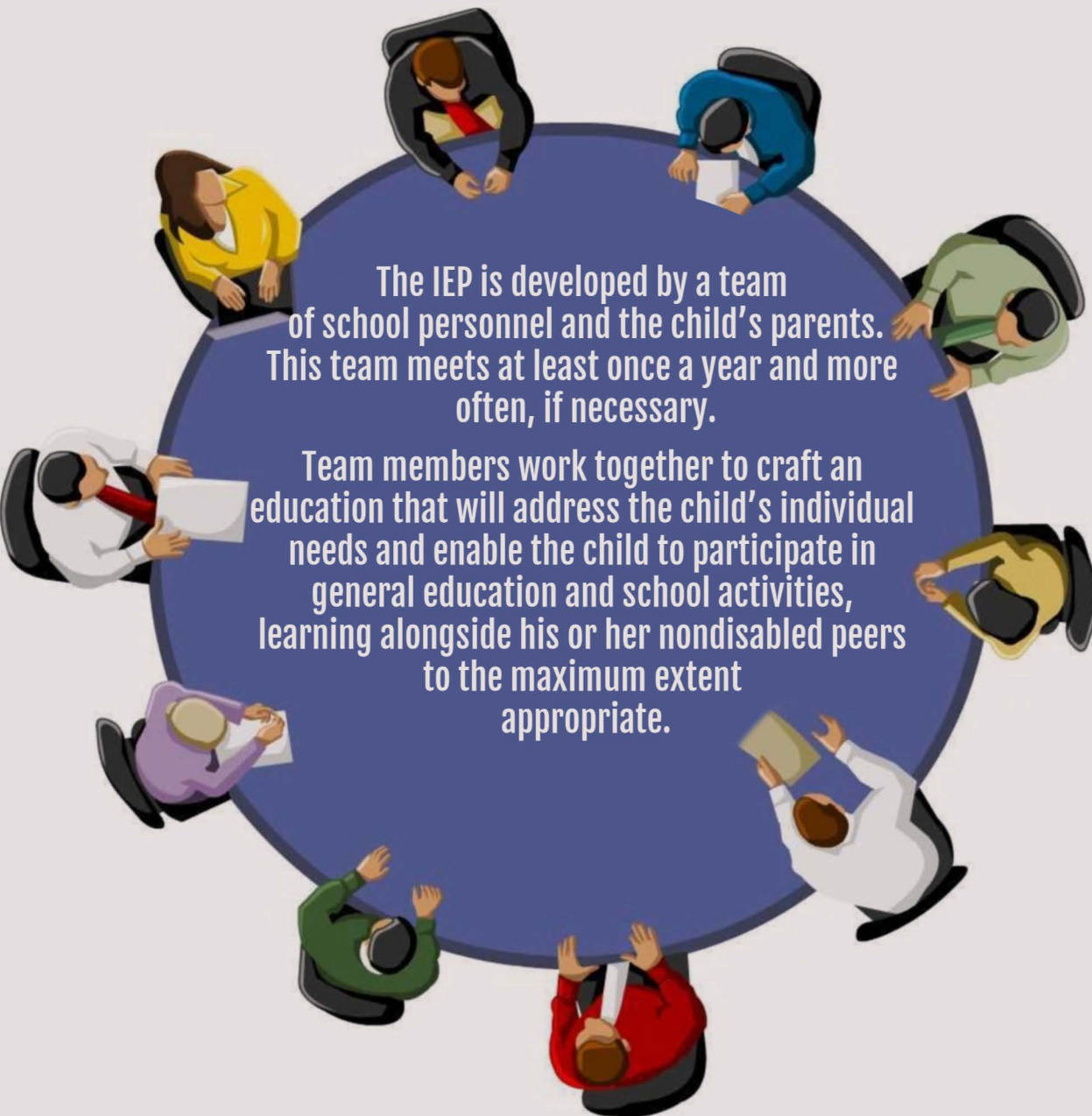
- To see if the child is a “child with a disability,” as defined by IDEA
- Gather information to help determine the child’s educational needs
- To guide decision making about appropriate educational programming for the child.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S IEP

Individualized Education Plan

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/iep-team/>



The IEP is developed by a team of school personnel and the child's parents. This team meets at least once a year and more often, if necessary.

Team members work together to craft an education that will address the child's individual needs and enable the child to participate in general education and school activities, learning alongside his or her nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

MEMBERS OF THE IEP TEAM

IDEA (at §300.321) describes the **IEP team** as including the following members:

- **the parents of the child;**
- not less than one **regular education teacher** of the child (if the child is, or may be, participating in the regular education environment);
- not less than one **special education teacher** of the child, or where appropriate, not less than one special education provider of the child;
- a **representative of the public agency** who is qualified to provide, or supervise the provision of, specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities; is knowledgeable about the general education curriculum; and is knowledgeable about the availability of resources of the public agency;
- an **individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results;**
- **other individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child,** including related services personnel as appropriate (invited at the discretion of the parent or the agency); and
- **the child with a disability** (when appropriate).

Access to Inclusive High-quality Early Childhood Programs

The **LRE**, Least Restrictive Environment, requirements under **Part B of the IDEA** states a strong preference for educating children with disabilities in regular classes alongside their peers without disabilities.

Many LEAs don't offer, or offer only a **limited range of public preschool programs**, particularly for three-years-old. In these cases, they must explore alternative methods to ensure the LRE requirements are met.

These methods may include:

- 1) providing opportunities for the participation of preschool children with disabilities in **preschool programs operated by public agencies other than LEA's** (such as Head Start or community-based child care)
- 2) enrolling preschool children with disabilities in **private preschool programs** for nondisabled preschool children.
- 3) locating classes for preschool kids w/disabilities in **regular public elementary schools**, or 4) providing home-based services

Regular Early Childhood Program

The Department of Education defines **Regular Early Childhood Program** as one that includes a majority (at least 50 percent) of nondisabled children (i.e., children who don't have IEP's).

Before a child with a disability can be placed outside the regular educational environment, **the group of people making the placement decision**, including the parents, must consider whether:

Supplementary aids & services could be provided that would enable the education of the child, including a preschool child with a disability, in the regular education setting to be achieved satisfactorily. 34 CFR S300.114(a)(2)

Because the availability of regular public preschool programs varies across States, the use of State and local funds will also differ across States and LEAs based on the specific circumstances in each State and LEA.

For example, If an LEA provides universal preschool to all children ages three to five using State & Local Funds, the LEA must use IDEA Part B funds only to pay the excess costs of providing special education & related services to kids w/disabilities in those preschool programs.

fndusa.org/esedownload/
(800)825-5736

familynetworkondisabilities 
family_network_on_disabilities 



Filing a State Complaint with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Alternative Dispute Resolution

MEDIATION

01

- Addresses issues related to special education involving the student
- Voluntary in Mutual Agreement
- Facilitated by third-party assigned by the bureau
- Resolution Achieved Through Written Mediation Agreement
- Implemented in good faith but enforceable in court

FACILITATION

02

- Addresses issues related to the process of the IEP development
- Voluntary in Mutual Agreement
- Facilitated by third-party assigned by the bureau
- Collaborative problem-solving process for decisions that are best for the student
- Parties reach consensus, when possible, with a goal of developing a revised IEP

LOCAL RESOLUTIONS

03

- Public agencies have the discretion to submit a proposal to the bureau to resolve the state complaint
- The complainant will be provided the opportunity to review the proposal and provide voluntary written agreement to withdraw the complaint
- Absent the voluntary written agreement of the complainant to withdraw the complaint, the bureau will adhere to its 60-day time limit to resolve the state complaint

With Agreement of All Parties, Some Complaints May be Resolved Through Different Means: Mediation, Facilitation, and Local Resolutions.

UNDERSTANDING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES In Florida through Early Steps

There is no income requirement to qualify for the program and although families may choose to allow access to insurance or Medicaid benefits, families are not charged for services.

Each child receives an Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) that meets their unique needs. Families receive support to develop the skills and confidence needed in helping their children learn and develop in their natural environment.

To be enrolled in Early Steps, your child must first be found eligible. Infants and toddlers are assessed in the following developmental domains to determine eligibility: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional and adaptive

Early Steps is Florida's early intervention system that offers services to eligible infants and toddlers (0 to 36 months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay, under IDEA, PART C.

After age 36 months, your child is no longer eligible for Early Steps but may be eligible for a school district Pre-K Program for Children with Disabilities under IDEA, Part B, or for other early learning services in your community. Early Steps will help you.

Each child grows at an individual pace, but research shows that a child's first three years are the most important time for learning. Getting help early puts your child on the right path to learn and develop at their full potential.



<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/early-steps/index.html>

Florida's Early Steps Directory provides information and referral services to families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. Resource specialists provide answers and/or possible choices of services within your community, education on disability-related services and provides advocacy roles for families. For more information or to make a referral, please call (800) 218-0001.

FND
fndusa.org
**FAMILY NETWORK
ON DISABILITIES**



@FamilyNetworkonDisabilitiesEspanol

@family_network_on_disabilities

@FND_USA



FIGURE OF SPEECH, LLC

Speech Therapy



LIDYA M.ED., SLP

LICENSED

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

School Aged

- Sound Pronunciation
- Reading Comprehension
- Reasoning Skills
- Following Directions
- Using Details

Helping Your Child Communicate

Early Language

- Combining Sounds
- Following Routines
- Playing with Others
- Requesting
- Forming Words

850-629-9105

contact@figureofspeechservices.com
figureofspeechservices.com

Tallahassee, FL

Accepted Insurances: Family Empowerment-Unique Abilities, CMS, Ambetter, Humana, Sunshine under 3 years old, self-pay



Child Care Resource and Referral

YOUR FREE, FAMILY-FOCUSED SERVICES

This free and confidential service bridges resources and information for the entire family. Contact us today - no eligibility required.



Child Care Listings

CCR&R provides customized lists of child care options based on the needs of the family. This includes facility hours, programming, and rates.



Financial Assistance

CCR&R can provide information and assist in applying for child care assistance and exploring other financial assistance options.



Consumer Education

CCR&R can provide information on a range of topics, including how to locate quality early learning programs and the importance of family engagement.



Community Resources

CCR&R can connect families with local resources that may be able to assist with other needs, such as housing, food, or utility assistance.



Child Care Resource and Referral

CONTAMOS CON RECURSOS GRATUITOS PARA LA FAMILIA

Brindamos recursos gratuitos y confidenciales sin requisitos de elegibilidad.
Contáctenos hoy para encontrar apoyo.



Listados de Cuidado Infantil

CCR&R proporciona listas personalizadas de opciones de cuidado infantil según las necesidades de la familia. Esto incluye horarios, programación y tarifas de las instalaciones.



Ayuda Financiera

CCR&R puede brindarle información y ayudarlo a solicitar asistencia para el cuidado de niños y explorar otras opciones de asistencia financiera.



Educación del Consumidor

Podemos proporcionar información sobre una variedad de temas, que incluyen cómo ubicar programas de aprendizaje temprano y la importancia de la participación familiar.



Recursos de la Comunidad

CCR&R puede conectar a las familias con los recursos locales que pueden ayudarlo con la vivienda, los alimentos o la asistencia con los servicios públicos.





CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE AND MORE



WHAT IS SCHOOL READINESS?

Florida's School Readiness Program (SR) offers financial assistance to help children age 0-12 from low-income families receive high-quality child care so parents can work or participate in job training.

The program takes into account a child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development and provides resources and assistance to families.


Parents can choose from private centers, public schools, and family childcare homes.


ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Parent(s)/guardians(s) must be working or participating in an educational activity, such as attending college or trade school at least 20 hours per week.
- Gross income must be at or below 150% of federal poverty level for family size.
- Families must pay a copayment for child care based on income and family size.

APPLY NOW

You can apply online from a computer, laptop, or cellphone. Visit our website, **elcbigbend.org**, under School Readiness.

 familyservices@elcbigbend.org

 (850) 385-0504



ASISTENCIA PARA EL CUIDADO DE NIÑOS Y MÁS



¿QUÉ ES SCHOOL READINESS?

El Programa de Preparación Escolar (“School Readiness”) de Florida ofrece asistencia financiera para ayudar a los niños de familias de bajos ingresos a recibir cuidado infantil de alta calidad para que los padres puedan trabajar o participar en capacitación laboral.


El programa tiene en cuenta el desarrollo físico, social, emocional e intelectual del niño y proporciona recursos y asistencia a las familias. Los padres pueden elegir entre centros privados, escuelas públicas y hogares de cuidado infantil familiar.


REQUISITOS DE ELEGIBILIDAD

- Los padres/tutores deben estar trabajando o participando en una actividad educativa, como asistir a la universidad o escuela de oficios, al menos 20 horas por semana.
- El ingreso bruto debe ser igual o inferior al 150 % del nivel federal de pobreza para el tamaño de la familia.
- Las familias deben pagar un copago por el cuidado de niños según los ingresos y el tamaño de la familia.

APLICA YA

Puede solicitar en línea desde una computadora, computadora portátil o teléfono celular. Visite nuestro sitio web, **elcbigbend.org**.

 familyservices@elcbigbend.org

 (850) 385-0504

Thinking About



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten?

VPK is free. And it matters.

Research shows children who participate in high-quality VPK programs perform better academically and socially in school.

ELIGIBILITY

Children must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1 of the current year to be eligible. If their birthday falls from Feb. 2 through Sept. 1, you may wait to enroll your child the following year when they're 5.

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply online from a computer or mobile phone by visiting

familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com

You will need:

- an email address
- proof of Florida residency
- proof of your child's age

Your local early learning coalition will review your application and email you with further instructions. Once your application is approved, the coalition will provide you with a Certificate of Eligibility you can take to any VPK provider. **Questions?** Call us at **(850) 385-0504**.



¿Estás pensando



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

en pre kínder voluntario?

VPK es gratis y es muy importante.

A los niños que son parte de un programa VPK les va mejor en la escuela.

ELEGIBILIDAD

Los niños deben vivir en Florida y tener 4 años cumplidos el 1 de septiembre de 2022 o antes.

CÓMO APLICAR

Puede presentar su solicitud en línea desde una computadora o teléfono móvil visitando **familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com**

Necesitará:

- Una dirección de correo electrónico
- prueba de residencia en Florida
- prueba de la edad de su hijo

Su coalición local de aprendizaje temprano revisará su solicitud y le enviará un correo electrónico con más instrucciones. Una vez que se apruebe su solicitud, la coalición le proporcionará un Certificado de elegibilidad que puede llevar a cualquier proveedor de VPK. ¿Preguntas? Llámenos al **(850) 385-0504**.





Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region



EARLY DETECTION. LASTING RESULTS.

Do you have a concern about a child’s development, behavior, or overall health? If so, contact the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region, Inc. (ELC). The ELC provides a complimentary service to address and appropriately handle these types of concerns. We are here to help: our WarmLine telephone number is **850-385-0504**.

DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS

ELC performs developmental screenings and observations for children with developmental concerns. We will connect families to community resources who can provide additional developmental evaluations and services.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CONCERNS

ELC supports teachers and parents by providing:

- Strategies that modify challenging behaviors
- Social Emotional health screenings
- Behavioral Health and counseling community resources

HEALTH CONCERNS

ELC provides information and support on child health/medical conditions. We will coordinate with healthcare professionals to create Individual Health Plans for children with asthma, seizures, allergies, and other medical conditions. We perform hearing, vision, and dental (functional) screenings.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ELC provides information and support on the inclusion of children with special health and developmental needs.

CONTACT US

 resources@elcbigbend.org

 www.elcbigbend.org





¿ESTÁS PREOCUPADO POR TU HIJO? ELC PUEDE AYUDAR - GRATIS

Servicios Gratuitos



DE DESARROLLO

ELC evalúa y observa a los niños con problemas de desarrollo. Conectaremos a las familias con los recursos de la comunidad para proporcionar evaluaciones y servicios adicionales.



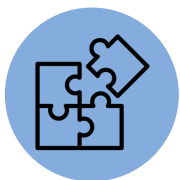
SOCIOEMOCIONAL

ELC brinda consejos para modificar comportamientos desafiantes y puede ayudar con recursos de asesoramiento.



SALUD

ELC se coordinará con los profesionales de la salud para crear planes de salud para el asma, las convulsiones, las alergias u otras afecciones médicas. Realizamos exámenes de audición, visión y dentales.



ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA

Brindamos monitoreo continuo de las habilidades motoras finas y gruesas, la resolución de problemas, las preocupaciones personales/sociales y de comunicación.

WARMLINE

¿Tiene alguna preocupación sobre el desarrollo, el comportamiento o la salud general de un niño?

La Coalición de Aprendizaje Temprano de Big Bend Region, Inc. (ELC) brinda servicios GRATUITOS para abordar y manejar adecuadamente este tipo de inquietudes. Estamos aquí para ayudar: nuestro número de teléfono WarmLine es 1-866-973-9030.

-  **1-866-973-9030**
-  **elcbigbend.org**
-  **ccrr@elcbigbend.org**

Empowered Parenting:



Parenting All Abilities

September 19, 2024

Developing an IEP

This comprehensive training covers everything from understanding the key components of the IEP process to strategies for collaborating with educators.

12:30 - 1:30 pm



November 21, 2024

Math for Struggling Learners

Unlock the secrets to helping your child excel in math with our hands-on training session designed specifically for parents.

5:30 - 6:30 pm



January 23, 2025

Reading For Struggling Learners

Learn strategies and activities to support your child's reading journey to become successful in the classroom.

12:30 - 1:30 pm

February 20, 2025

Universal Design for Learning

Discover how to create a supportive home environment that caters to diverse learning needs, and gain tools to collaborate effectively with educators.

5:30 - 6:30 pm



April 24, 2025

How to be an Advocate for Your Child

This workshop will equip you with the essential tools and strategies to effectively champion your child's needs within the school system.

12:30 - 1:30 pm

To Register:



<https://bit.ly/fdlrsempoweredparentng>

CARD Can...

- ❖ Provide short-term [consultation](#) to individuals and families to help with autism-related issues at home, in the community, at work, upon request.
- ❖ Help develop and create [visual supports](#) (schedules, social narratives, etc.) for registered CARD clients. Contact the CARD office to request assistance.
- ❖ Provide [Professional and Programmatic Assistance](#) to schools, agencies, employers and providers in a variety of areas including instructional strategies, behavior management, communication, social skills...
- ❖ Provide a free [e-library](#) with books on autism, communication, behavior, educational issues and more.
- ❖ Participate in community-based [autism awareness events](#) to enhance public education about autism and CARD.
- ❖ Provide [training](#) for families, teachers, caregivers, clients, other related providers, community organizations and employers on a variety of topics.
- ❖ Provide an **electronic newsletter** listing upcoming **events** and **trainings** in your area. If you would like to be added to our email list, visit fsucard.com or send an email to autism@med.fsu.edu.
- ❖ Maintain a **website** that describes upcoming trainings, conferences, and provides current resources and information. View our website at fsucard.com.
- ❖ Work with local businesses to expand their customer base and provide opportunities to employ individuals with autism with our [Autism-Friendly Business Initiative](#).

While CARD can provide a variety of supports to clients and families, CARD does **NOT** provide evaluations, diagnoses, therapies, or respite care.

For more information about **FSU CARD**, contact us, or visit our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

Phone: (850) 644-4367
Toll Free: (800) 769-7926
Fax: (850) 644-3644
Email: autism@med.fsu.edu



All CARD services are **FREE** of charge!



FSU Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

Meet-Up Mondays - Fall Series

Discussion and Strategies for Adult CARD Clients



Join CARD Consultants for weekly one-hour virtual meet-ups to discuss topics affecting adults with autism. Activities will include engaging presentations by CARD consultants and guest speakers, open topic chats, and playing games to get to know one another better. Participants will also have a chance to chat with other adults on the spectrum about their successes and challenges. This series is for adults (18 and up) who are registered with FSU CARD.



FSU CARD is dedicated to providing individuals with autism or related disabilities, their families, and professionals who work with them, free consultation, resources, and educational support to build knowledge, confidence, infrastructure, and sustainability within the community.

November 4, 18, 25, 2024

6:30 p.m. EST / 5:30 p.m. CST

Zoom Video Conference

Email Allison Leatzow: aleatzow@fsu.edu

Register <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1b11e1e-0ca55472299e4983871c71a1a>

FSU Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

Parents' Place for Elementary School: Making the Holidays Bright!



Join us as we start the holiday season with tips on
“Making the Holidays Bright”!

We will discuss how to identify and decrease stressors for individuals with autism, as well as use strategies to increase preparedness and joy this season.



FSU CARD is dedicated to providing individuals with autism or related disabilities, their families, and professionals who work with them, free consultation, resources, and educational support to build knowledge, confidence, infrastructure, and sustainability within the community.

Tuesday: November 5, 2024

12:30-1:30 EST / 11:30-12:30 CST

Online via Zoom

[Click here to register](#)



22

Presented by:
Audra Burch, M.S. CCC-SLP
Dawn Merrix, M.C.D. CCC-SLP

FSU Center for Autism & Related Disabilities Stress Management



Join us as we discuss the stressors common to teens and young adults on the spectrum, and work on ways to help our children learn how to best manage stress and develop a healthy tendency toward resilience.



FSU CARD is dedicated to providing individuals with autism or related disabilities, their families, and professionals who work with them, free consultation, resources, and educational support to build knowledge, confidence, infrastructure, and sustainability within the community.

December 11th, 2024

4:30-5:30 PM CST/5:30-6:30 PM EST

Zoom Video Conference

Email Crystal at crystal.grey-hewett@med.fsu.edu

[Register Here](#)

How Does Help Me Grow Work?

1. Contact Help Me Grow through your local 2-1-1 for resources that address concerns about health, development, behavior and learning.



2. If Help Me Grow is offered in your area, a care coordinator will listen, provide support, and assess the needs of your child and family.

3. Help Me Grow will offer free screenings to help provide insight on your child's developmental and behavioral skills.

4. A care coordinator will communicate the screening results with your family, and appropriate referrals to local services and supports will be provided.

5. Scheduled follow-ups will occur to inquire about previous referrals given and any additional concerns that your family may have.



FREE LEGAL HELP






LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA

WHAT CAN WE HELP WITH?

- ◊ Evictions
- ◊ Landlord-Tenant Issues
- ◊ Foreclosures/Mortgage
- ◊ Subsidized Housing
- ◊ IRS/Property Tax Issues
- ◊ COVID-19 Stimulus Check
- ◊ Business Benefit, like SBA Loans, Bridge Loans, etc.
- ◊ Public Benefits, like SNAP, TANF, etc.
- ◊ Unemployment Assistance
- ◊ Estate Planning/Probate
- ◊ Advanced Directives
- ◊ Custody/Visitation
- ◊ Family Law
- ◊ Domestic Abuse & Victims Rights
- ◊ Sexual Assault & Victims Rights
- ◊ Human Trafficking & Victims Rights
- And more...

WHO DO WE HELP?

Legal Services of North Florida (LSNF) provides no cost civil legal help to those who qualify in North Florida. We serve 16 counties with the help of our 5 offices.

- 
Pensacola Office
 Escambia & Santa Rosa
- 
Ft. Walton Office
 Okaloosa & Walton
- 
Panama City Office
 Bay, Gulf, Holmes, & Washington
- 
Tallahassee Office
 Franklin, Jefferson, Leon, & Wakulla
- 
Quincy Office
 Calhoun, Gadsden, Jackson, & Liberty

HOW TO CONTACT US?

GO ONLINE!



ONLINE INTAKE IS OPEN

WWW.LSNF.ORG



PHONES ARE OPEN

850-385-9007

8:30 A.M. – 5:15 P.M.

(LOCAL TIME)

MONDAY – THURSDAY



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Critical Legal Needs After a Disaster

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Legal Services of North Florida
MORE JUSTICE FOR ALL

Civil Legal Aid Organizations

in Florida work to help individuals and families recover from the effects of a major disaster by providing free civil legal assistance to low income and vulnerable populations. The aftermath of a disaster can be staggering, leaving survivors overwhelmed by the process of recovery. Legal aid programs work closely with disaster survivors to put them on the path to recovery. Attorneys may provide legal counseling, advice, and full representation to eligible clients in disaster cases.

DISASTER BENEFITS

- FEMA Appeals
 - Small Business Administration Loans (SBA)
- Disputing FEMA Debt Letters
- Rebuild Florida
- Other Government Benefits

HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE BENEFITS

- Insurance Denials & Underpayments
- Assignment of Benefits
- FEMA Flood Insurance Claims

HOUSING & FORECLOSURE MATTERS

- Landlord/Tenant Disputes
- Mortgage & Foreclosure Issues
- Eligibility for Disaster Housing
- Proof of Ownership Problems

CONSUMER MATTERS

- Contractor & Other Disaster Related Fraud
- Financial & Debt Counseling
- Bankruptcy & Credit Problems

REPLACING LOST LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- Driver's License or I.D.
- Social Security Card
- Other Critical Documents, such as Immigration, Wills, Deeds, Legal Documents

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Disaster Food Assistance
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance



Find the local legal aid in your county at [Florida Legal Aid Programs](#)



Apply online for any county in Florida at [Florida Online Intake](#)



If you are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf/Blind, or Speech-Disabled, please dial 7-1-1 for the Florida Relay (<https://www.ftri.org/relay>) to connect with Legal Services of North Florida.

Florida Students with Unique Abilities



The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) allows parents of students with unique abilities to personalize the education of their children by directing scholarship dollars toward a combination of programs and services offered by approved providers.



Who is eligible?

- Students 3 years old to high school graduation or age 22, whichever comes first
- Children with one of 23 diagnoses including, but not limited to: autism spectrum disorder, emotional, behavioral or intellectual disabilities and rare diseases

What is available?

A scholarship worth on average \$10,400 to cover the cost of private school tuition, pre-K tuition, instructional materials, home education, tutoring and more



Learn More



How to Apply?

To apply online, or for more information, visit **StepUpForStudents.org**

 (877) 735-7837

 StepUpForStudents.org

   @StepUp4Students

Estudiantes de Florida con Necesidades Especiales



La Beca Family Empowerment para Estudiantes con Necesidades Especiales (FES-UA) permite a los padres de estudiantes con necesidades especiales personalizar la educación de sus hijos dirigiendo el dinero de la beca a una combinación de programas y servicios ofrecidos por proveedores aprobados.



¿Quién es elegible?

- Estudiantes de 3 años hasta graduación de escuela secundaria o que cumplan 22, lo que ocurre primero
- Niños con uno de los 23 diagnósticos que incluyen, pero no se limitan a: trastorno del espectro autista, discapacidades emocionales, conductuales o intelectuales y enfermedades raras

¿Que está disponible?

Una beca con un valor promedio de \$10,400 para cubrir el costo de la matrícula de la escuela privada, Matrícula de pre-K, materiales instructivos, educación en el hogar, tutoría y más.

¿Como Solicitar?

Para solicitar en línea, o para más información, visite StepUpForStudents.org/es

 (877) 735-7837

 StepUpForStudents.org/es

 @StepUp4Students

Aprende más



Scholarships for Florida Schoolchildren



Did you know with the help of a Step Up For Students Scholarship, you could send your child to a private school near you?

Scholarships for K-12 Students to Attend Private School

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-EO) and the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program offer scholarships worth on average \$8,000 and cover the cost of private school tuition and fees, tutoring, books and more.

Who is eligible?

- All K-12* students, regardless of household income, who are residents of Florida are eligible

Who has priority?

Priority will be given to families who meet the following criteria:

- Students whose household income is at or below 400% of the federal poverty level. For example, a family of four could have an income of up to \$120,000 annually and receive priority.
- Students currently in foster or out-of-home care
- Homeless children

* Students entering kindergarten must be 5 on or before September 1

Scholarships for Students with Unique Abilities

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) is worth an average of \$10,400 and covers the cost of private school tuition, pre-K tuition, instructional materials, home education, tutoring and more.


Who is eligible?

- Students 3 years old to high school graduation or age 22, whichever comes first
- Children with one of 23 diagnoses including, but not limited to: autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, spina bifida and emotional, behavioral or intellectual disabilities



How to Apply?

To apply online, or for more information, visit StepUpForStudents.org

 (877) 735-7837

   @StepUp4Students



Program funds for each scholarship are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Becas para Niños Escolares de la Florida



¿Sabía usted que con la ayuda de una beca de Step Up For Students, podría enviar a su hijo a una escuela privada cerca de usted?

Becas para Estudiantes de K-12 para Asistir a Escuelas Privadas

La Beca de Family Empowerment para Opciones Educativas (FES-EO) y el Programa de Becas Florida Tax Credit (FTC) ofrecen becas con un valor promedio de \$8,000 y cubren el costo de matrícula y cuotas de escuelas privadas, tutoría, libros y más.

¿Quién es elegible?

- Todos los estudiantes de K-12*, independientemente del ingreso familiar, que sean residentes de Florida son elegibles.

¿Quién tiene prioridad?

Se dará prioridad a las familias que cumplan con los siguientes criterios:

- Estudiantes con un ingreso familiar que sea igual o inferior al 400% del nivel federal de pobreza. Por ejemplo, una familia de cuatro podría tener un ingreso de hasta \$120,000 al año y recibir estado de prioridad.
- Estudiantes actualmente en cuidado de crianza o fuera del hogar
- Niños sin hogar

*Los estudiantes que ingresan a Kindergarten deben tener 5 años el 1 de septiembre o antes.

Becas para Estudiantes con Necesidades Especiales

La Beca Family Empowerment para Estudiantes con Necesidades Especiales (FES-UA) tiene un valor promedio de \$10,400 y cubre el costo de la matrícula de una escuela privada, matrícula de pre-K, materiales instructivos, educación en el hogar, tutoría y más.

¿Quién es elegible?

- Estudiantes de 3 años a graduación de la escuela secundaria o 22 años, lo que ocurra primero
- Niños con uno de los 23 diagnósticos que incluyen, entre otros: trastorno del espectro autista, síndrome de Down, espina bífida y discapacidades emocionales, conductuales o intelectuales



Los fondos del programa para cada beca son limitados y están disponibles por orden de llegada.

¿Cómo Solicitar?

Para solicitar en línea, o para obtener más información, visite StepUpForStudents.org/es

(877) 735-7837

@StepUp4Students



ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Apply for a transportation stipend or reading/math scholarship for your public school student.

TRANSPORTATION STIPEND

- Provides \$750 to K-8 public school families to help with the cost of transportation to **attend another public school.**

NEW WORLDS SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

- Provides \$1,200 to **VPK and public school students in grades K-5** who struggle with reading and/or math.
- Helps cover the costs related to part-time tutoring, literacy programs, instructional materials, fees for summer education and after-school programs designed to improve mathematics skills, approved technology items and more.



For more information about other scholarship offerings or to apply today visit SUFS.org.



ASISTENCIA PARA ESTUDIANTES DE ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS

Solicite un estipendio de transporte o una beca de lectura/matemáticas para su estudiante de escuela pública.

ESTIPENDIO DE TRANSPORTE

- Proporciona \$750 a las familias de escuela pública K-8 para ayudar con el costo del transporte para **asistir a otra escuela pública.**

CUENTAS DE BECA NEW WORLDS

- Proporciona \$1,200 a **estudiantes de VPK y escuela pública en los grados K-5** que tienen dificultades con lectura y/o matemáticas.
- Ayuda a cubrir los costos relacionados con la tutoría a tiempo parcial, programas de alfabetización, materiales de instrucción, tarifas de educación de verano y programas extracurriculares diseñados para mejorar las habilidades matemáticas, artículos tecnológicos aprobados y más.



Para obtener más información sobre otras ofertas de beca o para solicitar hoy, visite SUFS.org.



GUIDANCE FOR FAMILIES

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES FOR PRE-K STUDENTS

The Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA) is available to students from ages 3 (before December 31) through grade 12 or age 22, whichever comes first, who are residents of the state of Florida and have a qualifying diagnosis.

FES-UA students can spend scholarship funds on a variety of pre-K options including tuition and fees at pre-K programs offered by eligible private schools, provider services, and more.

Enrolling in Pre-K at an Eligible Private School

Beginning the 2024-25 school year, eligible FES-UA students can enroll in pre-K programs offered by an eligible private school. To enroll, the parent/guardian must provide their award ID to the eligible private school of their choice. Once a school enrolls the student, families will receive an email prompting them to log in to EMA to review and approve the enrollment. An FES-UA student can only enroll in an eligible private school with an active EMA account.

Pre-K students have the flexibility to be enrolled Full-Time or Part-Time in EMA for tuition and fees. Part-time enrollment in EMA is only available for pre-K FES-UA students.

*Please Note: the FES-UA scholarship **and** a VPK voucher may be used at an eligible private school at the same time.*

Enrolling in Home Education as a Pre-K Student

FES-UA students may use their scholarship funds to pay for approved items and services for home education. Please see the [FES-UA Purchasing Guide](#) for more information on approved items. While pre-K students do not need to notify their local school district of their intent to participate in a Home Education Program, they will need to enroll with their district as a home education student prior to entering kindergarten.

Submitting a Reimbursement for a VPK or School Readiness Provider

Services from an approved provider that were paid for out-of-pocket may be eligible for reimbursement. A reimbursement request for the service can be submitted in EMA by providing the receipt/invoice and completing the required information. Please follow the directions in the [FES-UA Purchasing Guide](#) or [watch this quick tutorial](#).

Purchasing Direct Pay Services in EMA for VPK or School Readiness Providers

VPK and School Readiness providers can create profiles in the EMA Marketplace to offer their services to families. If the provider has approved services in EMA, the parent can purchase these services from the provider marketplace. To learn how to find providers and services in the Marketplace [click here](#).

For more information, please review the [FES-UA Parent/Guardian Handbook](#).

If you have questions, please visit www.sufs.org or call 1-877-735-7837 to connect with a live agent.



**THANK
YOU!**

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