

HOUSE BILL 7067 – K-12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

BILL SPONSOR(S)	Representative Sullivan and Education Committee
EFFECTIVE DATE(S)	July 1, 2020
STATUTE(S)	Amends sections 1002.394, 1002.395, 1002.40 and 1011.62, Florida Statutes

SUMMARY

Revises scholarship eligibility for both the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) program and the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarship program. The bill also increases the maximum student participation in the FES and provides additional requirements for Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO). The bill provides more educational opportunities for children from low income families to get a great education, by putting more parents in the driver’s seat to determine the best education environments for their children.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Amends eligibility requirements, along with establishing a priority order for award of FES, as following:
 - A student who received an FES during the previous school year.
 - A student who received an FTC scholarship in the previous school year but did not receive a renewal scholarship because of a lack of funds, and whose household income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level.
 - A student whose household income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or is placed in foster care or in-home care; and spent the prior year in full-time attendance at a Florida public school.
 - A student whose household income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or is placed in foster care or in-home care; and is eligible to enroll in kindergarten.
 - A student who is in a household with an income level that does not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or an “adjusted maximum;” and, in priority order, spent the prior year in full-time attendance at a Florida public school; or is eligible to enroll in kindergarten
- Provides more high-quality education options for low-income families by annually increasing FES by 1.0 percent of the state’s total public school enrollment, rather than 0.25% under the original law, resulting in nearly 29,000 scholarships being available to students in 2020-2021.
- Students who initially qualified for an FTC scholarship due to their household income may continue to receive scholarship funds even if their household income level increases, matching this program with the requirements for FES and ensuring instructional continuity for these students.



2020 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

- **Adjusted Maximum:** in future fiscal years a student is eligible for FES if the student's household income level does not exceed an adjusted maximum percent of the federal poverty level that is increased by 25 percent in the fiscal year following any fiscal year in which more than 5 percent of the available scholarships authorized have not been awarded.
- Each eligible SFO must exhaust all FTC and Hope Scholarship Program (HSP) funds for renewal scholarships before awarding initial scholarships. Each eligible SFO must also refer any student eligible for an FTC or HSP scholarship who did not receive a renewal or initial scholarship based solely on the lack of available funds to another eligible SFO that may have funds available.
- The bill also provides full-time equivalent (FTE) add-on bonus funding amounts in the Florida Education Finance Program to school districts for each student who completes a general education core course or associate degree, with a specified letter grade or GPA, through dual enrollment.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

JULY 1, 2020	The bill becomes effective
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