

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES (FES-UA)

Purchasing Guidelines

Summary of Changes for the 2026-2027 Academic Year



**Florida Center for Students
with Unique Abilities**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

INTRODUCTION:

Note that the revisions are based on survey results and input solicited from the public comments virtual sessions conducted in the spring of 2026.

GENERAL PURCHASING PROVISIONS:

Removed the timeline of when pre-authorization requests are accepted as the deadlines for each scholarship funding organization (SFO) are different.

Added for product safety, items must meet the manufacturer's stated minimum age requirement as indicated on product packaging or the manufacturer's published specifications. Removed note that SFOs make that determination.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Digital Periphery Devices

Added:

- Different types of printers that can be purchased (i.e., regular, 3D, sublimation, photo, etc.)
- Headphones and earbuds

Removed:

- Frequency of purchase provision for this section

Assistive Technology Devices

Revised:

- Frequency of purchase provision to once per year for all items in this section

Physical Education

Added:

- Provision for items designed for shared use can be purchased in cases where the student requires an accompanying adult for safe use
- Sports supplies rentals

Removed:

- Requirement for a pre-authorization request for adaptive exercise equipment

Musical Instruments and Equipment

Added:

- Musical equipment rentals

Electives

Added in Elective Courses:

- Animal Husbandry
- Art
- Gardening/Horticultural
- Mechanical lessons
- Programming/Digital Production

Added in Elective Course Supplies:

- Drama: costumes and accessories, except for both costume and fine jewelry
- Trellises, drip irrigation, bulbs, fruit/vegetable plants, fruit trees/shrubs in gardening
- Tripods, microphones, lenses in photography/video

Removed:

- Tripods in equipment

Clarified:

- Prohibited items include large irrigation systems

Field Trips and Other Activities Needed to Enhance Curriculum

Removed:

- Reimbursement requirement that a student's name is visible on the invoice

Learning Manipulatives/Creative Play Items

Added:

- Dress up clothing and accessories, except for both costume and fine jewelry

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition and Fees at an Eligible Private School

Added:

- The private school of enrollment must maintain a physical location in the state at which the students have regular and direct contact with teachers at least two school days per week (s. 1002.421(1)(i), F.S.)

Tuition and Fees for Home Education Programs

Removed:

- Requirement that eligible programs must be operated in a physical location



FEES FOR SPECIALIZED AFTER-SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Removed:

- Pre-authorization requirement for full or half day education programs for students age 16 and up

Appendix A – Summary of Prohibited or Ineligible Items

Added:

- Food and beverage
- Lodging
- Meet and greet events
- Photographs or souvenirs, premium access, and special event tickets outside of basic admission for Field Trips and Theme Parks
- Smart and augmented reality prescription glasses
- Toy weapons

Removed:

- Pool toys/floats

Appendix B – Items requiring Pre-Authorization

Added:

- Exemption for out of state activities for SFO approved military families living outside of Florida

Removed:

- Adaptive exercise equipment