The Hope Scholarship Program.

1. Eligibility of nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations. A nonprofit scholarship-funding organization (SFO) that is approved pursuant to section 1002.395, F.S., may establish Hope Scholarships for eligible students.

2. Eligibility of private schools. A private school is eligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program if it complies with all requirements for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs pursuant to sections 1002.40, and 1002.421, F.S., and State Board of Education rule 6A-6.03315, F.A.C.


4. Hope Scholarship application procedure. To receive a Hope Scholarship a parent must apply to an eligible and participating SFO according to the SFO’s application procedures and deadlines. The application submitted by a parent must include, at a minimum, the following information:
   - Student’s name, student’s Florida Education Identifier (FLEID), date of birth, gender, race, current public school district, current public school attended, grade level, parent’s name, telephone number, mailing address and email address.
   - A completed Form IEPC-HS1 must be included with the application and submitted to the scholarship funding organization to which the application is made.

5. The nonprofit scholarship-funding organization shall confirm eligibility for each student and award all scholarships consistent with the requirements of section 1002.40, F.S. The process used to confirm the eligibility of students and award scholarships is subject to the annual financial and compliance audit required by law.

6. Public school Hope Scholarship option. Pursuant to section 1002.40(6), F.S., a student meeting the Hope Scholarship eligibility requirements may choose to attend another public school in the student’s school district or in another school district. Public school options are subject to the receiving school’s capacity.

7. Quarterly and annual reports. Participating eligible SFOs shall provide quarterly reports no later than August 10, October 10, January 10, and March 10, and an annual report no later than July 15 of each fiscal year the SFO received any contributions, as defined in section 1002.40(2), F.S. The quarterly and annual reports must be submitted in a format to be specified by the Department and must include an electronic list of all participating scholarship students. The list shall include the following information:
   - Demographic information for each student, including name, date of birth, Florida Education Identifier, grade level, gender, race, parent’s name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number;
   - The name and Master School ID of the public school and district in which the student was enrolled when the incident was reported;
   - Information on the student’s school of attendance, including tuition, fees, and transportation amounts;
   - The amount and type of each student’s scholarship;
   - The incident type as reported on Form IEPC-HS1; and,
   - Year-to-date information on the amount paid for each scholarship student during the school year and the school attended, including the first data of attendance and withdraw date. If a student attended more than one school, the summary shall detail the amount of the scholarship payments that the student generated by each school.

8. School District Reporting Requirements. Each school district must report during the survey periods and using the elements set forth in Rule 6A-1.0014, Comprehensive Management Information System, the following information: For each substantiated and unsubstantiated incident listed in s. 1002.40(3), F.S., the number of Hope Scholarship Notification Forms provided to parents.

9. Nothing in this rule shall limit the Department’s authority to request any other information related to the scholarship program.

Hope Scholarship Notification Form

Pursuant to section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, the Hope Scholarship Program provides a public school student who was subjected to an incident of violence or bullying at school the opportunity to transfer to another public school with capacity (within the school district or another school district) or request a scholarship to attend an eligible private school. Upon receipt of a report of an incident, the school principal or his or her designee, is required to notify the parents of the reported incident and to investigate the incident to determine if it must be reported in SESIR, as required by s. 1006.09(6), F.S. After the investigation is completed, or within 15 days after the incident was reported to the principal, whichever comes first, the school district must notify the parent of opportunity to transfer to another school under the Hope Scholarship Program.

By completing and signing this form, the principal is confirming that the incident was reported and that the parent was provided the form within the required timeframe and was notified of the educational opportunities under the Hope Scholarship Program. The school should retain a copy and provide original document to the parent.

Student Information

Student Name: ____________________________ Date of Birth: ____________________________

FLEID: ____________________________ Grade Level: ____________________________

School of Enrollment and MSID: ____________________________

School District: ____________________________

Incident Information

Date and Time of Incident: ____________________________

Date Incident Reported: ____________________________

Incident Type as defined in Rule 6A-1.0017 SESIR*:

- Aggravated Battery
- Harassment
- Hazing
- Bullying
- Kidnapping
- Physical Attack
- Robbery
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Battery
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Offenses-Other
- Threat or Intimidation
- Fighting

*Includes substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents

Confirmation of Hope Scholarship Notification and Reporting

Principal or Designee Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Email Address: ____________________________ Phone Number: ____________________________

Schools: Please enter the date of this Hope Scholarship Notification in your student information system for the eligible student.

Parents: To transfer your student to another public school please contact your school district office. For more information on how to apply for the private school option, please visit www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Parents are required to inform the school district when the parent withdraws a student to attend a private school under this program.