



FLORIDA HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Information for Pinellas County Families

Pinellas County Schools Student Assignment
727-588-6210 • StudentAssignment@pcsb.org

Pinellas County Schools
Vision: 100% Student Success
Mission: Educate and Prepare Each Student for College, Career and Life



Mission:

"Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life."

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

301 Fourth St. SW
P.O. Box 2942
Largo, FL 33779-2942
Ph. (727) 588-6000

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PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Date: _____

Re: Hope Scholarship Opportunity

To the Parent/Guardian of: _____

Pursuant to section 1002.40, Florida Statutes this letter is being sent to notify you that a report has been made regarding a qualifying incident involving your child, and that you may seek a Hope Scholarship as described in the attached packet.

If the incident report was made in writing, we are enclosing a copy. Due to student confidentiality, other involved students' names and information will be redacted.

Please review the enclosed packet and, if you wish to seek a Hope Scholarship, complete, and submit the appropriate form.

Pinellas County Schools is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will respond to all discipline reports. If you have any questions related to this incident, please contact me at

_____.

Sincerely,

Principal, Designee

The Hope Scholarship Program was established by the Florida legislature to provide parents of public-school students (K-12), who allege they were victims of one of the 14 qualifying incidents, the opportunity to:

- transfer the student to another public school with capacity,
- request a scholarship for the student to enroll in and attend an eligible private school, **or**
- apply for a \$750 transportation scholarship to a public school outside of the Pinellas County School district.

Who is eligible for the Hope Scholarship Program?

- Any Pinellas County Schools student who reports they were involved in a qualifying incident occurring at a K-12 public school, any school related or school-sponsored program or activity, riding the bus, or waiting at the bus stop. The accused may be a student or an adult.

What are the qualifying incidents for the Hope Scholarship Program?

- There are 13 qualifying incidents which must be reported during the same school year in which they occurred.

Qualifying Incidents*			
Battery	Sexual Offenses	Sexual Battery	Sexual Harassment
Fighting	Bullying	Threat/Intimidation	*Qualified incidents are subject to State and PCS District classification. Some incidents may require <i>high-level</i> status to be qualified.
Kidnapping	Harassment	Hazing	
Sexual Assault	Physical Attack	Robbery	

How do I apply for the Hope Scholarship?

Step 1

To begin the Hope Scholarship application process, contact your child's school and report the alleged Hope eligible incident to the Principal/Administrator.

- Within 24 hours of the report, you will be mailed or provided the original signed Initial Hope Scholarship Cover Letter and accompanying information packet. This packet contains directions on how to apply for the Hope Scholarship.
- The principal or designated staff member will begin an investigation into the incident and complete it within 10 school days.

Step 2

Determine if you would like your child to change schools. There are four options:

Option A: A different, non-District Application Program (DAP), Pinellas County School

- School transfer requests can only be honored if the school has capacity (available seats).
- Complete and the Hope Scholarship Transfer Form found in Appendix A.

Option B: A Pinellas County School District Application Program

- If you wish to transfer to a magnet or fundamental school/ program, you must apply at <https://reservation.pcsb.org>
 - Please note that depending on the program and its available seats, you may be placed on a wait list and called if and when a seat becomes available.

Option C: A Charter school

- The option to apply to a Charter school is always available. Charter schools manage their own application and registration processes and are to be contacted directly.

Option D: A private school scholarship or transportation funding for a school in a different district

- To apply for a private school scholarship or transportation funding to another public school district, parents will complete the state's Hope Scholarship Notification Form found in Appendix B.
- Submit the completed form to the nonprofit Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) [Step Up for Students](#).
- The SFO is responsible for determining eligibility and awarding funding. The scholarship is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and is contingent upon available funds.

The student will remain at the assigned school if no action is taken by the parent.

Note: Transportation *will not* be provided for students remaining in the district who use a Hope Scholarship.

If awarded the Hope Scholarship, how long will it last?

- A student who uses Hope Scholarship to transfer to another PCS school, may stay there to the highest grade at that school.
- Then, the Hope Scholarship may also be used to attend the next level in the identified feeder pattern on the Hope Scholarship application. Reapplication to attend the next school year or to move up to the next level is not necessary, however, families must contact Student Assignment to ensure placement to the next level school occurs. Student Assignment can be reached at 727.588.6210 or StudentAssignment@pcsb.org.
- A student who uses Hope Scholarship Notification Form to apply for a scholarship to a private school or transportation funding to another public school district, remains with their new school until high school graduation or until they return to Pinellas County Schools.

What is the average scholarship awarded for the private school option?

- Based on previous school years, the average scholarship awards were as follows:
 - Grades K-5 \$6,519.00
 - Grades 6-8 \$6,815.00
 - Grades 9-12 \$7,112.00

Where can I find a list of eligible private schools?

- The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice maintains a [directory of private schools](#).

Where can I learn more about the Hope Scholarship?

- Visit the Florida Department of Education School Choice Office at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/> or the Hope Scholarship website at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/hope/>



Appendix A

FLORIDA HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Transfer Form

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS
HOPE SCHOLARSHIP TRANSFER FORM
(TO ATTEND A DIFFERENT PCS SCHOOL)

The Hope Scholarship Program was established by the Florida Legislature to provide parents of public-school students (K-12), who allege they were victims of one of 13 qualifying incidents.

Note:

- School transfers can only be honored if the school has capacity (available seats).
- Transportation **will not** be provided to students using a Hope Scholarship.

If you wish to transfer to a charter, magnet, or fundamental school program, you must apply using a different method.

- To apply for a magnet or fundamental program go to <https://reservation.pcsb.org>
- To apply for a charter school, contact the school directly as Charter schools manage their own application and registration processes.

To transfer the student to another PCS school with capacity, please complete the information below and submit your Hope Scholarship Transfer Request to the Student Assignment Office.

REQUESTED SCHOOL TRANSFER (non-charter, non-magnet/fundamental)		
1st Choice: _____	2nd Choice: _____	3rd Choice: _____
STUDENT INFORMATION		
Student Name: _____	Date of Birth: _____	
Student ID #: _____	Current School: _____	
Address: _____		
PARENT/ GUARDIAN INFORMATION		
Name: _____		
Email Address: _____	Phone Number: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____	

Principal/Assistant Principal: _____ Printed Name _____
Signature

Please fax this form to 727.588.5171 or scan and send this form to the Student Assignment Office at:
StudentAssignment@pcsb.org or 301 4th St. SW, Largo, FL 33770.



Appendix B

FLORIDA HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Notification Form

Hope Scholarship Notification Form

Pursuant to section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, the Hope Scholarship Program provides a public school student who was subjected to a qualifying incident with 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 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 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 Location:

- School Grounds/On Campus
- School-Sponsored Activity/Off Campus
- School-Sponsored Transportation (Including Bus Stops)
- Other School Location (please specify):

Incident Type as defined in Rule 6A-1.0017 SESIR or Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C.*:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aggravated Battery | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Battery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Offenses-Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Threat or Intimidation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple Battery | <input type="checkbox"/> Fighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robbery | |

*Includes substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents

Confirmation of Hope Scholarship Notification and Reporting

Principal or Designee Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Schools: Please report the number of Hope Scholarship Notification Forms provided to parents for substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents in your Student Information System.

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. The maximum amount awarded to a student enrolled in a public school located outside of the district the student resides shall be \$750. Parents are required to inform the school district when the parent withdraws a student to attend a private school under this program.