



2020-2021 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION**

Thank you for your commitment to Boca Christian as we work together to encourage students to know, love and serve Jesus Christ. This letter contains information regarding the school's financial assistance program and Step Up for Students, a program available from the State of Florida, Florida Tax Credit. After reading, please call us if you have any questions.

The **first step** is to complete reenrollment/enrollment and submit payment through FACTS Family Portal (formerly called RenWeb). You will be asked to select a payment plan through FACTS. There is a Boca Raton Christian School financial assistance program through FACTS Family Portal. However, you first need to see if you qualify for Step Up. You can do so by completing the Income-Based Florida Tax Credit Scholarship application located at www.stepupforstudents.org. **Please use Google Chrome when creating or logging in to your Step Up For Students account.**

Step Up for Students

1. **STATE OF FLORIDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for GRADES K5-12th - "Step Up for Students" (SUFS)**
The SUFS scholarship is available from the State of Florida under the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program. Boca Christian accepts **only** FTC, which is completely income-based. For 2019-2020, the Step Up award was \$6,519 for K5-5th grade, \$6,815 for 6-8th grade, and \$7,111 for 9-12th grade for qualifying families. See the back of this document for the eligibility guidelines.

At the site, <https://www.stepupforstudents.org> there are several ways to select the income-based scholarship: Join Interest List, Apply, Login, For Parents, Apply for a Scholarship. You will select the "Income Based Scholarship (FTC)." If you have any questions, call Step Up at 877-735-7837. **You will add your name to the interest list, if not able to apply right away.** Please note: **FULL tuition payments are due until any scholarships are awarded.**

2. **RENEWAL applications for PREVIOUS Step Up for Students recipients will open in January 2020. A renewal student is one using Step Up for the 2019-20 school year. In order to receive priority processing, your application must be received before February 29, 2020. If a renewal family applies after February 29th, your family will be placed in NEW status (not renewal).**
3. **NEW FAMILIES TO STEP UP. After FEBRUARY 29th, new families may apply for Step UP (SUFS). However, your name should be enrolled in the interest list to be notified when (SUFS) opens to new applicants.** Please note that SUFS funds then are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis for NEW and RENEWAL families. Be sure to fill out the "apply now" section that applies to you. Funding of SUFS is completely independent of Boca Christian. Grants from SUFS will be taken into consideration in determining any additional BRCS financial aid that may be awarded. Upon renewal or acceptance **bring your Step Up letter immediately** (approval or non-approval) **to the BRCS Business Office.**
4. **Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis in the order of all documents are received. Scholarship funding is limited.**
5. **There is a new scholarship from the State of Florida, under the Department of Education (not FTC). You cannot apply directly for this scholarship. It is not a Step Up Florida Tax Credit Scholarship.** It is called the "Family Empowerment Scholarship" (FES). **FES is only available if you are contacted by them.** It is completely income-based, but differs from Step Up. If you receive notice from SUFS that you student may be eligible for FES, please be sure to contact the BRCS Business Office **immediately.** FES has different deadline requirements and payment schedules than SUFS.

**Subject to change by the State of Florida

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Financial Assistance Program – 2020-2021 - Boca Raton Christian School K5-12th

After reenrollment/enrollment through FACTS Family Portal (formerly called RenWeb), parents can apply for BRCS financial assistance by clicking the FINANCIAL (Grant and Aid) tab. Under Financial Links, click Apply for Grant and Aid (last year's fee was \$30). Complete the information requested. Be sure you have applied for the Step Up For Students Scholarship first at: www.stepupforstudents.org.

1. **KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS** with a Step Up for Students certificate or a McKay scholarship **are NOT eligible** for financial aid. Students without either of the above may apply for financial aid.
2. **1st - 12th GRADE RETURNING BRCS FAMILIES** with Step Up and also applying for financial aid must meet the following guidelines and **deadline of April 15th, 2020**.
 - Students must be reenrolled with BRCS.
 - BRCS must receive Step Up renewal letter or evidence that they are “on hold” for a specific reason.
 - BRCS financial aid application must be completed in full and submitted in FACTS Grant and Aid, including tax returns of both parents (if applicable or filed separately). If the financial aid application is still in the FACTS verification process, **it must be verified by FACTS by April 30th, 2020**. A \$350 administrative fee will be charged per student to any family who does not complete the above process by April 30th, 2020. This fee will be deducted from the financial aid grant, if awarded.
3. **NEW FAMILIES Enrolling with Step Up and Requesting Financial Aid.** ONCE ACCEPTED to BRCS, the application for BRCS financial aid through FACTS must be completed within TWO WEEKS (or by April 15th if accepted prior to that date). Your Step Up application must be in process when you apply for BRCS financial aid through FACTS. You do not have to have your Step Up award letter before applying for BRCS financial aid. The assumed Step Up award will be deducted from tuition before considering the financial aid award. (See information above.) New families enrolling after August 1st, who apply for both Step Up and financial aid, will be charged a \$350 administrative fee, which will be deducted from the financial aid grant, if awarded.

How to qualify for a Step Up K5-12th Grade 2020-2021 Scholarship

Is your household income* at or below these levels? If yes, visit www.stepupforstudents.org for current eligibility requirements.**

- *A child entering kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept. 1.*
- *A child entering 1st grade must be 6 on or before Sept. 1.*
- *Previous Florida public school enrollment is no longer required for any grade (K5-12).*

<u>Number of people in household</u>	<u>Total Gross Annual Household Income* (2019)</u>
2	\$43,966
3	\$55,458
4	\$66,950
5	\$78,442

*Add \$11,492 for each additional member

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