



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, as well as a new program also offered by the State of Florida and the Florida Department of Education called the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES). After reading, please call us if you have any questions. The first step is to complete reenrollment/enrollment through FACTS Family Portal. You will be asked to select a payment plan through FACTS. You would also access the BRCS financial assistance program through FACTS. However, you first need to see if you qualify for Step Up or FES. Therefore, it is recommended that you FIRST complete the Income-Based Florida Tax Credit Scholarship application.

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (Step Up for Students & Family Empowerment Scholarship)

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** Step Up for Students and Family Empowerment Scholarship (see below). It 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. Partial scholarships for renewal applicants may be available. 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) then “Income-Based Scholarship (FTC)”. If you have any questions, call Step Up at 877-735-7837. **Please note: FULL tuition payments are due until any scholarships are awarded.**

“Family Empowerment Scholarship” (FES) - The FES is a new scholarship available from the State of Florida under the Florida Education Finance Plan. It is also completely income-based and first-come, first-served basis but differs from SUFS in the fact that it is “once-in, always-in” meaning the formal application is not needed for a Family Empowerment Scholarship student **after the first year**. The Department of Education, who administers the FES, will be in touch to share what needs to be done for 2020/2021*. To be eligible for the FES, the student must either be entering kindergarten or have spent the prior year in attendance at a Florida public school during both the October and February student counts. A FES student may not take any state-funded virtual school courses without jeopardizing the scholarship eligibility. The parent must request the scholarship at least 60 days before the date of the first scholarship payment.

RENEWAL applications for PREVIOUS Step Up for Student recipients will open in January 2020. *In order to receive priority, your application must be received by February 29, 2020.*

2. After February 29th, 2020, NEW families may apply in early March. However, your name should be enrolled in the interest list (<https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/income-based/interest-list/>), as soon as possible to be notified when SUFS opens to new applicants. Please note that SUFS funds are then distributed on a first-come, first-served basis for NEW and RENEWING families. Be sure to fill out the “apply now” section that applies to you. Funding of SUFS and FES is completely independent of Boca Christian. Grants from SUFS and FES will be taken into consideration in determining any additional BRCS financial aid that may be awarded. Upon renewal or acceptance, bring your Step Up award letter immediately (approval or non-approval) to the BRCS Business Office.

*The Family Empowerment Scholarship is a **new program**. All information is from the state’s website and is subject to change. Please see <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/for-parents/income-based/how-the-scholarship-works/> for the most up-to-date information.

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

After reenrollment/enrollment through FACTS SIS, parents can apply for BRCS financial assistance through their FACTS Family Portal account by clicking the FINANCIAL tab on the left. Then, on the right 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 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship first.

1. **KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS** with a Step Up for Students certificate, Family Empowerment Scholarship, or a McKay scholarship **are NOT eligible** for financial aid. Students without any of the above may apply for financial aid.

2. **1st - 12th GRADE RETURNING BRCS FAMILIES** with Step Up or FES 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 the 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 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship 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 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship application must be in process when you apply for BRCS financial aid through FACTS. You do not have to have your award letter before applying for BRCS financial aid. The assumed FTC Scholarship will be deducted from tuition before considering the financial aid award. (See information above.) New families enrolling after August 1st who apply for both FTC 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 2020-21 Scholarship

Is your household income* at or below these levels? If so, 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).

Income-Based Scholarship Guidelines - 2020-2021 School Year	
Household Size	Income-Based Scholarships Annual Maximum Gross Income Cap
2	\$51,720
3	\$65,160
4	\$78,600
5	\$92,040
6	\$105,480

Go to sufs.org for scholarship information, additional household sizes and eligibility.