



## 2021-2022 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

The information below outlines the school's financial assistance program and the income based Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) also known as Step Up for Students, a program available from the State of Florida, as well as a program offered by the State of Florida and the Florida Department of Education called the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES). The first step is to complete re enrollment/enrollment through FACTS Family Portal. You will be asked to select a payment plan through and can access the BRCS financial assistance program through FACTS Family Portal. It is recommended that you first apply for the FTC Scholarship. You can simultaneously apply for BRCS financial assistance, while you are waiting to see if you qualify for FTC.

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

#### 1. STATE OF FLORIDA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for GRADES K5-12<sup>th</sup> -

**“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), which are income-based. See the back of this document for the eligibility guidelines. To apply go to <https://www.stepupforstudents.org>, under apply/login, click GO in the Income Based Scholarship box. From there it will prompt you if you are new or a renewal family. If you have any questions, call Step Up at 877-735-7837. This scholarship along with FES are both “once in always in”. However, both require annual renewal. **Please note: FULL tuition payments are due until any scholarships are awarded.**

**“Family Empowerment Scholarship” (FES)** - The FES scholarship is available from the State of Florida.. It is an income-based and first-come, first-served basis. 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. Eligibility is awarded through your application to the SUFS - Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. SUFS determines if you qualify for either scholarship program.

**RENEWAL applications for Step Up for Student and FES recipients opened in February 2021. *In order to receive priority, your application must be received by February 28, 2021.***

2. **NEW families may apply in early March. You should login and enroll 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 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 or FES award letter immediately (approval or non-approval) to the BRCS Business Office.

\* 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 K5-12<sup>th</sup>**

After enrollment/re-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 scholarship, 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. 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE RETURNING BRCS FAMILIES** with Step Up or FES and also applying for financial aid must meet the following guidelines and **deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
  - Students must be re-enrolled 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A \$350 administrative fee will be charged per student to any family who does not complete the above process by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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## **How to qualify for a Step Up K5-12<sup>th</sup> Grade 2021-2022 Scholarship**

**Is your household income\* at or below these levels? If so, visit [www.stepupforstudents.org](http://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).*

### **Household Income Eligibility Chart**

**Annual Maximum Gross Income Cap**

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual Household Gross Income Cap</b>
1	\$48,300
2	\$65,325
3	\$82,350
4	\$99,375
5	\$116,400
6	\$133,425

