



How to Apply for a Step Up Scholarship

A guide for families of Emma Dessa Music students | emmadessamusic.com

Scholarships We Accept

FES-UA Unique Abilities	For students with a qualifying disability (autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, ADHD, learning disabilities, and more). Funds an education savings account (ESA) that works like a flexible account you use to pay for piano lessons, therapies, curriculum, and more. Available for students in Pre-K3 through 12th grade.
FES-ED / FTC Private School	Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options (FES-ED) and Florida Tax Credit (FTC). For students enrolled in or transitioning to a private school. Covers full private school tuition and fees, with remaining funds available for approved elective services like piano lessons. Available for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.
PEP Personalized Education	Personalized Education Program. For students being homeschooled or withdrawing from public school. Works like an ESA, giving families flexible funds to pay for tutors, online curriculum, elective courses like music lessons, and more. The student cap was removed for 2026-27, opening this program to more families than ever.

Piano lessons with Emma Dessa Music qualify as an **Elective Course under Music Lessons** (In Person & Virtual). You'll need a **School & Personal** or **Business & Personal** EMA account to use your scholarship with us.

Step-by-Step: How to Apply

- 1 Create Your EMA Account**
Go to stepupforstudents.org and create your parent/guardian profile in EMA (Education Market Assistant). You need a **School & Personal** account or a **Business & Personal** account to use your scholarship with a service provider like us.
- 2 Apply for Your Scholarship**
From your EMA Dashboard, go to **Available Scholarships** and choose the program that fits your family: FES-UA, FES-ED/FTC, or PEP. New students can apply through **November 15, 2026**. Apply early since scholarships are first-come, first-served.
- 3 Upload Required Documents**
You'll need two different document types to verify eligibility (proof of age and residency). FES-UA applicants also need a diagnosis from a licensed doctor. Have digital copies ready before you start.
- 4 Wait for Approval & Funding**
Track your application status in EMA. Once your student is marked **Eligible**, scholarship funds are deposited quarterly. Renewal students receive Quarter 1 funds in July; new students receive funds starting in September 2026.
- 5 Reach Out to Emma**
Before booking in EMA, email us at emmadessamusic@gmail.com or visit emmadessamusic.com to get in touch. We'll work with you to build a music lesson schedule that fits your child's goals, availability, and learning style.
- 6 Find Emma Dessa Music in EMA & Book**
Log into EMA and go to **Marketplace > Find Providers**. Search **Emma Dessa Music**, select the tuition model that matches your lesson plan, and add it to your cart. We bill the scholarship directly, so no upfront payment is needed from your family.

Questions? We're here to help.

Email: emmadessamusic@gmail.com | Phone: 754-757-5425 | Web: emmadessamusic.com

Step Up For Students helpline: 1 (877) 735-7837, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm EST