



## Office of Student Assignment Hope Scholarship Program Questions and Answers

### What is the Hope Scholarship Program?

The Hope Scholarship allows parents/guardians of children in public school to find a new learning environment when they believe their child is being bullied or a victim of violence. Students who have reported a qualified incident that took place at a K-12 public school/event may be eligible.

### Who is eligible?

Any student who has been a victim of any of the incidents listed below at a K-12 public school any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity, and riding on a school bus, including waiting at a school bus stop.

### Qualified Incidents:

Battery	Harassment	Hazing	Bullying	Kidnapping
Physical Attack	Sexual Offenses	Threat/Intimidation	Fighting	Robbery

### Can parents/guardians choose any Manatee County public school through the Hope Scholarship Program?

Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to choose another district school that has available (allocation and physical) space capacity. Special programs such as AICE and IB have specific admissions requirements and deadlines and are not available through the Hope Scholarship Program.

### How do I apply for my student to enroll in another Manatee County School under the Hope Scholarship Program?

1. Report the incident to the Principal/Administrative Office of your child's current school.
2. The Principal or designee will begin an investigation into the incident.
3. Eligible Students will receive a Hope Scholarship Program Notification Form from the school Principal or Designee.
4. To apply for a school within the School District of Manatee County, parents/guardians must obtain and submit a Hope Scholarship Program School Transfer Application from the Office of Student Assignment online at [manateeschools.net](http://manateeschools.net) or at 1400 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E Palmetto, FL 34221.

### How do I apply for funding through the Hope Scholarship Program?

Funding from the Hope Scholarship can be used towards paying for the cost of private school tuition or transportation to a public school outside of Manatee County. To apply for scholarship funding towards the cost of transportation to a public school outside of Manatee County or private school tuition, parents/guardians must contact an eligible nonprofit Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) by going to the Florida Department of Education website, <http://www.flodoe.org>. Hope Scholarships are awarded on a first-come first-served basis based upon available funds. The SFO will determine if a student is eligible to receive scholarship funding. Parents/Guardians are required to follow all guidelines, procedures and deadlines set by the SFO when applying for scholarship funding.

### Can student with a disability apply for a Hope Scholarship Program?

Yes. Hope Scholarship transfers for students with disabilities (ESE and Section 504 students) may be granted to a district school having available space and the programs and services necessary to access a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) as specified on the student's Individual Education Plan or Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

### How long is the scholarship?

Upon approval of Hope Scholarship, your child will be permitted to remain at the school of choice until he/she completes the highest-grade level available at the school.

*The student is required to follow the District's published school rules and/or the Code of Student Conduct. Violation of District published rules and/or the Code of Student Conduct may result in the student being assigned to another School District of Manatee County school selected by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.*

### How long does it take to receive the scholarship?

Once the Hope Scholarship Program School Transfer Application is submitted and received by the Office of Student Assignment, the application will be processed, and parents will be notified within 5-10 business days of receipt.

### Who should I contact at the School District of Manatee County if there are additional questions?

If there are any additional questions, contact the Office of Student Assignment at 941.708.4971, Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.