



Doorways Scholarship Program  
*In Cooperation with Take Stock in Children*

## Graduating Seniors Questions and Answers

**Q: What do I need to do during my senior year to receive my scholarship?**

**A:** To receive your Doorways scholarship you need to:

1. Log on to the Pinellas Education website at [www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org) and write a thank you letter to your sponsor between 8/1 and 10/15.
2. Provide the Pinellas Education Foundation with a recent headshot photograph by:
  - a. U.S. Mail (12090 Starkey Rd., Largo FL 33773)
  - b. E-mail ([fastingl@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:fastingl@pinellaseducation.org))
  - c. Via your Doorways Ambassador
  - d. Getting your picture taken at the senior meeting at your school
3. Fill out the Florida Prepaid Student Information Form and return it to the Foundation or give it to your Doorways Ambassador.
4. Graduate on time with a high school diploma.

**Q: What happens if I don't provide the Pinellas Education Foundation with one or more of the items listed above?**

**A:** You will not receive your Doorways Scholarship until we receive all of the items listed.

**Q: What type of scholarship do I have?**

**A:** You have either a 2 year scholarship or a 2 + 2 (4 year) scholarship. Please refer to the initial agreement or the information provided to you at the meeting at your school.

**Q: What is the value of a 2 year scholarship?**

**A:** The current value is sixty (60) community college credit hours. Each credit hour has a value of approximately \$62 per credit hour. You may use up to fifteen credit hours per semester.

**Q: What is the value of a 4 year scholarship?**

**A:** The current value is sixty (60) community college credit hours and sixty (60) university credit hours. Each community credit hour has a value of approximately \$62 per credit hour. Each university credit hour has a value of approximately \$82 per credit hour. You may use up to fifteen credit hours per semester.

**Q: What college or technical schools can I attend with my Doorways Scholarship?**

**A:** You can attend any school that is listed on the Florida Prepaid (FPP) website.

( [www.florida529plans.com](http://www.florida529plans.com) )

**Q: What if I don't want to attend a community college? I would like to attend a public 4-year Florida university.**

**A:** If you choose to attend a 4 - year public Florida university your first 2 years of college instead of a community college, your tuition ***will not*** be paid for in full.

**EXAMPLE (approximate values):**

University Tuition Cost Per Credit Hour:  $\$82.15 \times 120 \text{ credit hours} = \$9,858.00$

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Community College Tuition Cost Per Credit Hour:  $\$62.04 \times 60 \text{ credit hours} = \$3,772.40$

University Tuition Cost Per Credit Hour:  $\$82.15 \times 60 \text{ credit hours} = \$4,929.00$

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Additional money **YOU** will need to pay:  $\$1,856.60$

Therefore, you will need to obtain additional funding from another source. If you would like to explore the option of advancing your education only at a 4 year public Florida university you should talk with the guidance counselors at your high school and the financial aid office at your chosen public Florida university.

**Q: Can I attend a community college or university in a state other than Florida?**

**A:** Yes. When you signed your Doorways contract, the Pinellas Education Foundation bought a FPP account for you. The FPP card is accepted in most states at most colleges. Check the FPP website for a list of out of state colleges that are approved. However, using your FPP card outside the state of Florida significantly reduces the value of your scholarship. In addition, you must request that the Pinellas Education Foundation fills out a FPP transfer form for you.

**Q: Can I attend a private college?**

**A:** Yes. Any private college must be an approved college on the FPP website. In addition, you must request that the Pinellas Education Foundation fills out a FPP transfer form for you.

**Q: If I choose to attend an out of state college or a private college, is my tuition paid for in full?**

**A:** No, your tuition will not be paid for in full. Although other colleges recognize the FPP card, the value of the card is based on Florida community college and Florida university credit hours. **You are responsible for the difference in cost between a public university and a private university.**

**Q: If I decide to attend an out of state or private college, are there any additional forms I must fill out?**

**A:** The Pinellas Education Foundation, as the account owner, will submit a FPP transfer form on your behalf. Please call Colby at the Foundation (727-588-4816 ext. 2104) or e-mail her at [woodyc@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:woodyc@pinellaseducation.org) to request a transfer form be sent to FPP.

**Q: Can I attend a technical school?**

**A:** Yes, but it must be listed on the FPP website.

**Q: What if the institution is not listed on the FPP website, but the institution I choose to attend tells me they accept the FPP card?**

**A:** Call FPP customer service (1-800-552-4723). Ask the customer service department if the institution you have chosen is an approved institution but has not been posted on its website. If the answer is 'No', then even though the institution will accept the FPP card, FPP will not pay the invoice, therefore your tuition will not be paid for.

**Q: I have heard that with a FPP card you have an option to redeem (“cash out”) the card for the dollar value it was originally purchased for. Is that true?**

**A:** Yes it is true. However, the Pinellas Education Foundation’s policy is it does not allow students to redeem a Doorways Scholarship for its cash value. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy.

**Q: When do I receive my FPP card?**

**A:** The Pinellas Education Foundation requests the FPP cards from FPP in February. Typically, the cards are received by the Pinellas Education Foundation and mailed to the recipients by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Q: What should I do if I don’t receive the FPP card by the July 15<sup>th</sup>?**

**A:** Call Colby at the Foundation. (727-588-4816 ext. 2104) or e-mail Colby @ [woodyc@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:woodyc@pinellaseducation.org) .

**Q: What do I need to provide to my selected institution so that the tuition is paid for?**

**A:** Take your FPP card to the financial aid office at the institution.

**Q: What expenses are not paid for with the Doorways Scholarship?**

**A:** The costs of books, housing, meals, lab fees, parking fees, etc. are not covered by the Doorways Scholarship. The Doorways Scholarship will only pay for tuition.

**Q: How does the Doorways Scholarship work with other scholarships?**

**A:** The Foundation can only provide you with information about the Doorways Scholarship or other scholarships listed on our website. Inquiries regarding scholarships that we do not advertise or maintain will need to be directed to the source of those scholarships. Your high school guidance counselor is a good resource to utilize when trying to navigate multiple scholarship opportunities.

**Q: Are there other scholarships for which I can apply?**

**A:** Yes. Go to our website ([www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org)). Fill out one application and you may be eligible for many scholarships. The Pinellas Education Foundation advertises approximately \$475,000 in scholarship money annually. In addition, ask you high school guidance counselor or meet with the financial aid office at the college you are choosing to attend.

**Q: When should I start to apply for other scholarships?**

**A:** Right now! The Pinellas Education Foundation suggests you obtain as many scholarship funds as possible. If you do not receive additional scholarships other possibilities for additional monies exist in the form of grants and student loans. Speak with your high school guidance counselor and / or your potential college financial aid offices.

**Q: What do I need to do to keep my scholarship once I have graduated from high school?**

**A:** To maintain your scholarship once you have graduated you will need to:

1. Log on to the Pinellas Education Foundation website at [www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org) and complete a graduate/college update form every fall between 8/1 and 10/15.
2. Maintain a 2.0 in college.
3. Mail us a copy of your college transcripts at the end of every spring semester.
4. When you receive notification from Florida Prepaid complete the requested Florida Prepaid survey.

**Q: What happens if I don't send the Pinellas Education Foundation my transcripts or fill out the online graduate update form?**

**A:** The Foundation will assume you are choosing to forfeit your Doorways Scholarship and your tuition expenses will no longer be paid through your FPP account.

**Q: What if I choose to postpone attending college or technical school?**

**A:** Each spring (instead of sending transcripts) you will need to notify the Pinellas Education Foundation in writing that you are choosing not to attend college at this time. You will also need to log on to the Pinellas Education Foundation website and fill out the graduate/college update form in order to maintain your scholarship for use at a later date.

**Q: When does my scholarship expire?**

**A:** Your Doorways scholarship will expire 6 years after you graduate from high school. If you are entering the military you can request a deferral for the years in which you will be serving.

**Q: How can I contact the Pinellas Education Foundation?**

**A:** You can reach the Pinellas Education Foundation in the following ways:

Address: 12090 Starkey Road

Largo, FL 33773

Phone: 727-588-4816

Fax: 727-588-4822

Email: [woodyc@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:woodyc@pinellaseducation.org)

Website: [www.pinellaseducation.org](http://www.pinellaseducation.org)