

Frequently Asked Questions About Changes to the Utah Fits All (UFA) Scholarship

For Utah State Board of Education updates regarding the Utah Fits All (UFA) Scholarship and current information, please visit:

[Utah State Board of Education UFA Page](#)

For program administration, expenses, and other inquiries, please visit: [UFA Scholarship Program Manager](#)

General Questions

What is H.B. 455 – Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Amendments?

[H.B. 455 – Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Amendments](#) is a bill passed during the 2025 legislative session. It addresses the UFA Scholarship Program and introduces changes to improve efficiency and accountability.

What is the purpose of the changes to the UFA Scholarship Program?

The UFA Scholarship Program is a large-scale initiative with numerous interconnected components designed to support a variety of educational needs. After its first full year of implementation, the state legislature had the opportunity to assess the program's functionality, identify areas of complexity, and address challenges that emerged. H.B. 455 introduces targeted refinements to streamline processes, enhance oversight, and ensure the program operates more efficiently for Utah families while maintaining its intended accessibility and impact.

What is the status of the contract with ACE Scholarships?

The contract with ACE Scholarships, the current UFA program manager, is being terminated for convenience effective May 15, 2025. A new Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released no later than Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to select a program manager/financial administrator to administer the program to the standards and requirements outlined in the new law. The law requires full cooperation on the part of ACE Scholarship to ensure a seamless transition to a program manager on May 16, 2025.

Impact on Families

Will this affect my child's current scholarship eligibility or funding?

As of March 6, 2025, additional eligibility requirements have been put in place, including:

- Stronger residency requirements (additional verification may be needed)
- Updated income verification (if applicable)
- Stricter reporting guidelines for use of funds
- More precise definitions for private schools (not all institutions qualify)
- Requiring specific documentation for non-traditional learners, including homeschoolers taking college courses
- Different amounts of scholarship funds for private school and home school students

With this new bill, will I need to submit a new application for the UFA scholarship?

Any applications for renewal of an existing scholarship or new scholarships received to date will not need to be resubmitted. However, additional documentation may be required for verification under the new guidelines. If the program manager, ACE Scholarships, has an application (either for renewal or a new application) ACE Scholarships may require additional verification or documentation — to the extent necessary — to ensure eligibility criteria are met. ACE Scholarships will not accept a new application for renewal, or as a new recipient, if you already have one on file. For instance, if you have already applied as a private school student, you cannot change your application (as a renewal or as a new application) to become a home school student, or vice versa.

Funding & Reimbursement Questions

Will the changes to the program impact the timeline for scholarship distributions?

Under the new law, the current program manager is required to cooperate to ensure the timeline is followed and that all scholarship renewals and/or new applications are processed in a manner consistent and compliant with state code. After the RFP process, when the new selected entity begins managing the

program, that entity will assume responsibility for the distribution of scholarships in a timely manner, in accordance with the law.

Will there be delays in payments and reimbursements due to the changes?

There may be some delays as adjustments are made to ensure compliance with the law that went into effect on March 6, 2025. For more information, please visit the [Utah State Board of Education UFA Page](#).

If I made a purchase for my child before the changes went into effect, but it wasn't approved until after the law changed, would that purchase still be allowed?

The contracted program manager is responsible for approving reimbursement requests in accordance with the law that was in place at the time of the purchase date within a 30 day window (from February 5-March 6). This is subject to approved items.

Are homeschoolers allowed to use funds for individual college courses?

Yes, and USBE interprets that total funds cannot exceed \$6,000 per student, even if they are not matriculated. This is consistent with the amount per home school student now at \$6,000 for students ages 12-18. Proof of enrollment and use of funds may also be required.

Common Terms and Definitions Related to the UFA Scholarship

How is a Private School Defined?

"Private school" means a full-time, tuition-bearing educational institution where the student receives most of their academic instruction. It is critical applicants are clear on their application that they are enrolling in a private school. The program manager is to ensure controls are in place to verify that applicants who choose home school are not misrepresenting themselves as private school students.

How is a UFA Scholarship Student Defined?

An "eligible student" is defined under Section 53F-6-401 as a student:

- Eligible to participate in public school (grades K-12)
- Who is a primary resident of the state and provides appropriate verification
- Who does not receive a scholarship under the Carson Smith Scholarship Program or the Carson Smith Opportunity Scholarship Program
- Who is not enrolled in an LEA or public school or the Statewide Online Education Program
- Whose eligibility is not suspended or disqualified under the UFA Program
- Who completes, to maintain eligibility, the required portfolio

A “scholarship student” means an eligible student, including a home-based scholarship student, who receives a benefit from UFA scholarship funds

Note: A homeschool student who does not receive a scholarship under the program is not considered a "Home-Based Scholarship Student."

Does a parent of a Utah Fits All Scholarship student need to provide any documentation to the state or local school district so they know their child will not be attending public schools?

According to H.B. 209 (Homeschool Amendments), parents must provide a one-time initial notification, such as a letter of intent, to the local school board of the district of residence that they are choosing to home school their student(s).

With the new changes in place, what constitutes an extracurricular activity?

The changes to the program require extracurricular activities to have clear educational value tied to state-recognized educational standards. Qualifying extracurricular activities are determined by the program manager. The program manager must provide clear definitions in their program handbook.

If we choose a private school and the tuition is less than \$8,000, can we use the remainder for other educational items?

Any remaining funds may only be used for services or materials that are allowable and appropriate under the definition of “scholarship expense” in the amended law and as determined eligible by the program manager.

If we homeschool now but later switch to private school, will the scholarship double to cover tuition?

No. The scholarship amount granted to a student is based on the information provided in the student' application and will not be increased due to a change in circumstances after the scholarship has been granted.

Revised 3/21/25 9:18AM