

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN PINELLAS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

A: You have a 2 year plus (2yr+) Florida Prepaid (FPP) Take Stock in Children (TSIC) scholarship, which is a 60 college level credit scholarship. This is not considered to be a 'full ride' scholarship.

2. **Q: What is the value of a 2yr+ Florida Prepaid scholarship?**

A: Each Florida college credit hour has a value of approximately \$95.21 per credit hour applied toward tuition. **Depending on when your scholarship was purchased by the Pinellas Education Foundation, local fees may be bundled with tuition.**

With this scholarship, you will receive 60 Florida college credit hours with the opportunity of requesting additional college credit hours once your first 60 credits have been depleted.

3. **Q: After I use my first 60 credits, can I apply for more credit hours?**

A: Yes, you may qualify to apply for an additional scholarship if you are meeting the following criteria:

- earned your AA or enrolled in a bachelor's program
- are current with your annual requirements
- maintain a GPA above a 2.0
- Must request within 4 years after high school graduation
 - ❖ *Request is subject to committee approval*

4. **Q: What if I do not want to attend a Florida college first but I do want to go straight to a public 4-year Florida university? A:** If

you choose to attend a 4 - year public Florida university for your first 2 years of college, your TSIC FPP college tuition credit hours will be depleted at a faster pace because of the higher tuition cost of attending a university. You will need additional funding to pay for tuition, as early as, your 3rd or 4th semester at the university. The average in - state university rate is \$116.66 for tuition only.

5. **Q: What college or technical schools can I attend with my FPP TSIC scholarship?**

A: You can attend any school that accepts the FAFSA/Federal Aid and offers financial aid for that program.

7. **Q: Can I attend an out-of-state public or private university, college or technical school?**

A: Yes. When you signed your Take Stock in Children contract, the Pinellas Education Foundation bought a FPP account for you. The FPP scholarship is accepted anywhere that the FAFSA is accepted. However, using your TSIC FPP scholarship in this circumstance **will cause additional financial burden on you.**

At a private or out of state college/university, you may use up to 15 credit hours per semester or 30 credit hours per academic year. **The average rate payable for a Florida state college plan is approximately \$106.29 (tuition and local fees).** A private or out of state college/university will cost a great deal more money than attending a public in-state school, which may require you to take out student loans to help cover expenses. ***You are responsible for the difference in tuition cost between a public university and a private or out-of-state university.***

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

A: Yes. The Pinellas Education Foundation is the account owner, which will allow us to submit a FPP transfer form on your behalf. Please e-mail our Florida Prepaid Specialist at tsic.grad@pinellaseducation.org to request a transfer form be sent to FPP. This process can take 3-4 weeks, so make sure you give us ample notice before your semester begins.

We will need your college name and address of where you will be attending so we can fill out the transfer form.

The Pinellas Education Foundation does not approve the use of unrestricted funds for a private or out of state school. Unrestricted funds means the school has the ability to ask for 100% of your scholarship at one time.

We only approve restricted funds.

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

A: Yes, but it must accept Federal Aid/FAFSA for that program and appear on the school code search on <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

10. **Q: What do I need to provide to my college so that they are aware I have a FPP scholarship?**

A: Take your FPP Student ID letter that you will receive towards the end of your senior year. Provide a copy to either your financial aid, business, bursar, or cashier's office. Each school is different, so you will need to ask where to provide your FPP information. Most Florida schools will only need your SSN to invoice FPP. Some schools will ask that you provide them a new FPP letter each semester so be sure to email tsic.grad@pinellaseducation.org so we can provide you with an updated letter.

- **HELPFUL TIP:** Make sure you check your college student portal to make sure each semester your TSIC FPP scholarship is being invoiced and paid on your student account. Do this in the beginning, middle, and end of the semester because the scholarship information can change due to your school's accounting practices.
- If your school has not received payment from FPP, it is possible your account is not in good standing or your school is unaware you have a FPP account. **You will need to make sure you are completing your annual update requirements to stay in good standing with the Foundation and FPP. Make sure to add those dates to your calendar and set a yearly reminder!**

11. **Q: What expenses are not paid for with the Florida Prepaid scholarship?**

A: The costs of books, housing, meals, lab fees, parking fees, etc. are not covered by the Florida Prepaid scholarship. *Your TSIC Florida Prepaid scholarship will only pay toward tuition.*

HELPFUL TIP: We advise that you apply for additional scholarships, such www.scholarships.com or www.fastweb.com. When completing your profile, it is advisable to click **"NO"** to all advertisers that pop up on each of those pages.

While FastWeb.com, and Scholarships.com are excellent resources to find money for school, it is not uncommon for advertisers help support scholarship search engines. If you click **"YES"** to any advertisement, you may receive an abundance of unwanted solicited calls, emails, and letters to your home.

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

A: Do your Annual Update Requirements

Annual update with transcripts

DUE: May 15th - June 30th

<https://www.pinellaseducation.org/tsic>

To be completed online and thank you letter to be submitted within online form:

The following 5 items **MUST** appear on your **unofficial** transcript submission..

1. Student Name
2. School Name
2. All Courses Taken
3. Total Amount of Credits Earned
4. Fall / Spring Terms, GPAs, & Cumulative GPA

If you did not attend school, a Letter of Explanation will be required to be uploaded if you did not attend Fall or Spring semester. You will need to state why you were not in college and when you plan on returning.

Florida Prepaid survey link

DUE: January 30th- June 30th

<https://www.floridaprepaidcollegefoundation.com/survey/>

(If graduating high school in 2021, you will not be required to submit your survey until Summer 2022)

For questions or concerns, please contact us at: (727) 588-4816 or tsic.grad@pinellaseducation.org

12. Q. Will I get reminders of what I need to do to keep my scholarship in good standing?

A. It is your responsibility to remember your deadlines. We suggest creating a reminder on your phone calendar, so you know when something is due. Otherwise, you may have an interruption of payment to your school, which may result in you not being able to register for the following semester or risk losing your scholarship.

- ❖ The Foundation will send out friendly reminders, however, if you do not update your email or home address with us, the reminders may not make it to you. In addition, the email spam filter may not deliver the message to you, which is why it is important that you set reminders for yourself to complete your Annual Update Requirement by June 30th every year.

13. Q: What happens if I don't complete the Annual Update Requirement?

A: The Foundation will assume you are choosing to forfeit your Florida Prepaid scholarship and your tuition expenses will no longer be paid through your TSIC FPP account.

We will make every effort to reach out to you via email and phone; however, it is up to **YOU** to notify the TSIC program of any changes in your contact information, including mailing address, email address, and telephone numbers immediately. Notification will need to be emailed to tsic.grad@pinellaseducation.org.

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

A: You have 15 months after high school graduation to begin using your FPP scholarship.

For example, if you graduate high school in May 2021, you will need to be enrolled in at least one college/university class by Fall 2022 otherwise you will be **forfeiting your scholarship**. Even if you only take a 1 credit class, that will keep you from forfeiting your scholarship.

15. Q. What if I plan to join the military and I don't know where I will be living and may want to postpone college?

A: You will need to contact someone at tsic.grad@pinellaseducation.org and request a **Military Deferment** to keep your scholarship active. You will still need to complete your Annual Update Requirements.

16. Q. Can I take a semester off from school?

A. You may take a semester off, however, if you do not have transcripts to show attendance for either Fall or Spring, you will need to notify the Pinellas Education Foundation in writing that you are choosing not to attend college at this time and let us know when you plan on returning. You will do this through your Annual Update Requirement link.

17. Q: When does my scholarship expire?

A: Your 2yr+ 60 credit hour scholarship expires 4 years after high school graduation. If you need more time, you may apply for a 12 month **Extension** by contacting the Foundation or emailing us. Extension requests are subject to committee approval.

18. Q: Does my scholarship pay year round?

A: Yes. We will pay for Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. You may take as little as 1 credit to keep your scholarship active.

19. Q: How can I contact the Pinellas Education Foundation?

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

Address: Pinellas Education Foundation
12090 Starkey Road
Largo, FL 33773
tsic.grad@pinellaseducation.org

Phone: 727-588-4816
Fax: 727-588-4822