

Transferable Quality First Scholarships FY18 Information Sheet

What is a transferable Quality First scholarship?

First Things First introduced a limited transferable Quality First scholarship program in state fiscal year 2017 that is continuing for fiscal year 2018. A transferable scholarship differs from the traditional Quality First scholarship in that a transferable scholarship moves with the child when certain conditions are met. Quality First participants are reimbursed for transferable scholarships at the same reimbursement rate as traditional Quality First scholarships. Transferable scholarships awarded for fiscal year 2018 expire June 30, 2018.

How does a child get a transferable scholarship?

For state fiscal year 2018, most Quality First participants will have traditional Quality First scholarships to assign to children. Participants that engage in religious instruction or worship as part of their program as well as all participants licensed under a church, however, will have transferable scholarships instead of the traditional scholarships. Accordingly, children who receive a scholarship from one of these types of faith-based participants will receive a transferable scholarship.

Where can a transferable Quality First scholarship be used?

Transferable scholarships can be used at any scholarship-eligible Quality First participant located in the same First Things First region where the transferable scholarship was received. Eligible Quality First participants are those whose most current Star Rating qualifies them to receive scholarships, who are presently in good standing with their regulating body (e.g., DHS, DES), and, in the case of DES and DHS regulated homes, have not reached their scholarship limits.

Eligible Quality First participants can accept an unlimited number of children with transferable scholarships, as long as they do not exceed enrollment limits set by licensure or certification. Transferring children keep their transferable scholarships even if the new program has traditional scholarship slots available.

How do I know if a child has a transferable scholarship?

The family of a child that receives a transferable scholarship should receive a Family Notification Acknowledgment form at the time of award that identifies the scholarship as a transferable scholarship. First Things First may also send a letter to the family confirming that a child has a transferable scholarship.

If a family seeks to enroll a child at a Quality First participant, the participant may contact First Things First to verify that the child has a transferable scholarship.

What has to happen for a child to use his or her transferable scholarship at a different Quality First participant?

The selected Quality First participant first must have space for the child, and the family needs to be willing to pay the applicable tuition copay. Then, the family must provide First Things First with the name of the selected participant at least 7 days before the start of a month. First Things First will verify that the selected Quality First participant is enrolling the child. The scholarship will be usable at the selected participant beginning on the first day of the month. Scholarships will not be transferred before July 1, 2017 or after May 1, 2018.

The child will be using his or her existing scholarship, so the family does not need to re-apply for a new scholarship.

Who can I contact if I have questions about transferable scholarships?

Please contact a First Things First scholarship specialist at qfscholarships@azftf.gov or (602) 771-5100 with any questions.