

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



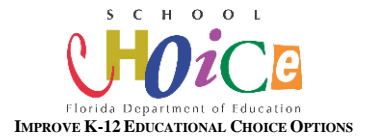
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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
District School Finance Officers

FROM: Mike Kooi, Executive Director
Pam Stewart, Chancellor of Public Schools

DATE: May 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Opportunity Scholarship Program Updates

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During the 2012 legislative session, the Florida legislature passed and Governor Scott signed House Bill 7127, an act relating to school improvement and accountability. Within that bill, the definition of school eligibility as related to the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) was amended to include those schools earning a grade of “F” or three consecutive “Ds” as based on the statewide assessments conducted pursuant to s. 1008.22, F.S. Current statute requires districts to offer the parents of affected students the option to enroll their student(s) in a higher performing public school (receiving a performance grade of “C” or better) in their district **with** transportation or in any other district in the state **without** transportation.

Current law also requires school districts to timely notify parents of their OSP options as soon as the eligibility designation is made and provides the Department of Education with rulemaking authority to implement these requirements and to include penalties for non-compliance.

MICHAEL D. KOOI, ESQ.
Executive Director
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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Opportunity Scholarship Program Updates
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To that end the Department has adopted Rule 6A-6.0950, **Notice Requirements for Opportunity Scholarship Program**, <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-6.0950>. The provisions in the rule will be effective for OSP notifications this summer for the 2012-13 school year.

The Department will provide each district with a list of OSP eligible elementary and middle schools when school grades become accessible. The eligible OSP high schools will follow in late Fall 2012. As provided by statute as well as the new rule referenced herein, parents of students assigned to or in attendance during the previous school year (by way of assignment) at an OSP eligible elementary or middle school must be notified of the options within 15 days of notification by the Department of Education. Parents of students assigned to or in attendance during the previous school year (by way of assignment) at an OSP eligible high school must be notified of the options no later than 30 days prior to the first day of school the next school year.

PS/MK