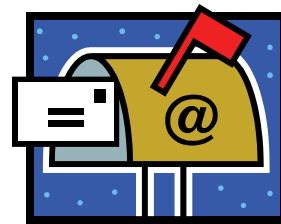


Contact Information

Special points of interest:

- The Scholarship Compliance Renewal Process for the 2007-2008 school year will begin in December.
- Scholarship Program Rules will be presented to the State Board of Education on December 12, 2006.

Thank you for taking the time to review the new and improved Florida Scholarship Program Newsletter. The newsletter contains important information regarding your school's participation in the state scholarship programs and is distributed monthly via email. The Department only distributes hard copies of the newsletter in the quarterly scholarship payment packets; therefore, **it is extremely important that your school's contact information is accurate in our system.** This includes a valid email address for your school's director and contact person. In order to verify the accuracy of your school's information, please log-in as a private school and click on the link on the Quick Navigation bar titled "View School Info." You may change the information in the "Contact Information" section by typing in the appropriate field and clicking "Update" when you are finished. To change your



Please verify your school's contact information today!

Without a valid email address, you may be missing important deadline reminders!

school's address or director information, you must contact your Regional Manager directly, or via our School Choice information hotline at (800) 447-1636. Thank you for your help in ensuring that you always get the latest news and updates.

Inside this issue:

Private School Annual Survey	2
Cato Institute Private School Survey	2
Scholarship Program Rules	2
Private School Director or Location Changes	3
Fingerprinting Requirement	3
2007-2008 Compliance Renewal Process	3
Contact Information	4
2006-2007 Program Deadlines	4

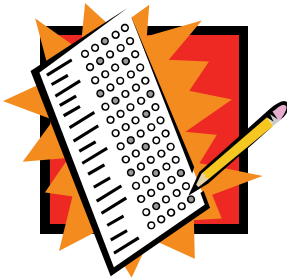
Scholarship Program Rules

The Department has been working diligently for almost a year to develop administrative rules related to scholarship program compliance and the McKay and Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Programs. At last, we will be presenting the rules to

the Florida State Board of Education on December 12, 2006. The meeting location is yet to be announced by the State Board of Education, but we will update the School Choice website with more information as it becomes available.

Final rule drafts, when officially noticed, will also be available on the Rule Development section of the School Choice website at <https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/events/ScholarshipWS.asp>.

Private School Annual Survey



The 2006-2007 Private School Annual Survey is available for submission on the School Choice website. Please log in as a private school as soon as possible and complete the survey if you have not already done

so. Once submitted online, the survey must be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Department. This is required by Section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, for all private schools in Florida. It is also a compliance requirement to participate in the scholarship programs.

Required By Law

The information submitted is organized, maintained, and displayed in the Florida Private School Directory located on the School Choice website at

<https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/directory/schoolreport.asp>.

To verify that your school has submitted a survey online and that the department has received the hard-copy, please check "Section One" of the private school administrator homepage. If you have any questions, please call the School Choice information hotline at (800) 447-1636.

Technical Assistance

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will be hosting another round of Technical Assistance Meetings in conjunction with the Scholarship Funding Organizations, Florida PRIDE and Children First Florida. The meetings will be held in November and December and specific dates and locations will

soon be posted on the School Choice website on the News and Upcoming Events page at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/news.asp>.

In addition, the presentations from the September Technical Assistance Meetings have been posted on the School Choice website. You may access the

PowerPoint presentations from the Technical Assistance tab of the Quick Navigation bar on either the McKay or Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship homepage. We encourage you to review the presentations and contact your Regional Manager directly if you have any questions.

Cato Institute Private School Survey

The Cato Institute, a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C., is conducting a survey of private schools across the nation to gather information for their future research. The Cato Institute was founded in 1977 by Edward H. Crane and seeks to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual

liberty, free markets and peace. If your school is interested in participating in this national private school research endeavor, you may submit a survey online at www.cato.org/survey.

Please note that **this is not a department requirement**, but all private schools are encouraged

to participate. If you have any questions related to the survey, please contact:

Adam B. Schaeffer, Policy Analyst
Center for Educational Freedom
Cato Institute
Phone: 202-789-5246
Email: aschaeffer@cato.org

www.cato.org/survey

Private School Director or Location Changes

Due to changes in scholarship program legislation, the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice has developed a standard procedure for updating compliance documentation when a participating private school experiences a change in location or director.

Section 1002.421(2)(c), Florida Statutes, requires a private school to notify the department of any change in the school's name, school director, mailing address, or physical location within 15 days of the change. Once you

notify the department of a change in director or physical location, you will be mailed a Notice of Noncompliance acknowledging the reported changes and granting your school sixty (60) days to submit updated compliance documentation to demonstrate your compliance with scholarship program requirements. Please note that a Notice of Noncompliance does not affect your school's participation status in the scholarship programs. It is simply a formal notice of the documentation you are required to submit

and provides a clear timeframe for doing so. Failure to submit the documentation in the specified timeframe will result in a Notice of Proposed Action at which time your school's eligibility may be jeopardized. We encourage all participating private schools to contact and work with the Regional Manager for their area when any changes occur that may affect your school's compliance. Thank you for your continued participation.

Fingerprinting Requirement

All employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact must be fingerprinted

Section 1002.421 (2)(i), Florida Statutes, related to accountability of private schools participating in the scholarship programs



requires all employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact to provide a set of fingerprints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for a state and national background screening. More information is available on the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Click on the News and Upcoming Events link on the Quick Navigation bar, then on the link titled

"Fingerprinting of Private School Employees Participating in a State Scholarship Program." Here you will find detailed information on applying for the VECHS program, which is the first step in meeting this new requirement. We have also included a list of fingerprinting service providers for your convenience. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager directly. Please get started today!

Private School Compliance Renewal

The Scholarship Compliance Renewal Process for participating private schools will begin in December 2006. We are starting earlier than last time because there has been a proposed change to the renewal deadlines for the 2007-2008 school year. If the proposed changes are adopted, the new Scholarship Compliance Form will be available in mid-December and must be submitted by March 1, 2007.

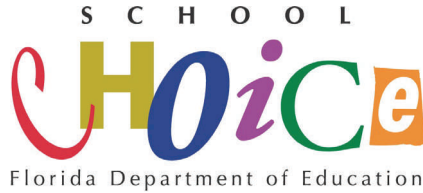
Supporting documentation must be correct and received by the department by May 1, 2007. A renewal packet with detailed instructions and sample documentation will be sent to all participating private schools in the mail. This is another reason to ensure your school's contact information is accurate and you have submitted a current Annual Survey.

**Compliance
Renewal
Packets will
be mailed in
December**

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Toll-Free: (800) 447-1636
Fax: (850) 245-0875
E-mail: schoolchoice@fldoe.org



"Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Education Options"

ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

**2006-2007 MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
IMPORTANT DEADLINES***

2006-2007 Payment Period	Payment Date	Parental Intent Deadline	Private School Enrollment Deadline	Attendance Verification Available Online	Attendance Verification Deadline
July 1 – Sept 30	September 1	July 3	August 2	N/A	N/A
Oct 1 – Dec 31	November 1	September 2	October 2	October 9	October 13
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 8	January 12
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	January 31	March 2	March 7	March 20

*Private schools participating in the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program must meet the deadlines set by the Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.

Please note that the deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines; therefore, the department cannot make exceptions if these deadlines are missed.

Failure to complete attendance verification will result in a postponement of scholarship payments until the next scheduled payment period.