



Registration and Enrollment Tips

Special Points of Interest:

- McKay students not re-enrolled in their current school by **May 31** are now available in the system for other schools to transfer and enroll.
- **To be eligible for the September payment**, new students must have a valid intent filed by July 3rd and be enrolled by August 2. Returning or transferring students must be reenrolled by August 2.



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Statutory deadlines—The McKay Scholarship enrollment deadline is **August 2**. Enrollment includes creating an individual student fee schedule and providing a first date of attendance. All current and new scholarship students must be enrolled by August 2 to be eligible for a September 1st payment.

Please note that any student who filed intent after July 3, 2009, will not be eligible for a September 1st payment regardless of their enrollment date.

Accurate information—It is important to enter accurate information. Please ensure students are enrolled in the correct **grade level** with the correct **parent Social Security Number (SSN)** and contact information. Incorrect parent SSNs may result in delay of scholarship payments.

Dates—As you know, scholarship students must maintain continued attendance in a participating private school to remain eligible for the program; therefore, please be accurate when entering first dates of **attendance** or student **withdrawal** dates.

Withdrawal from public school—We recommend that private schools advise parents of scholarship students, **especially new students**, to notify the public school district that their student is withdrawing from public school to attend a private school. Prior to payment, public school districts are required to verify that scholarship students are not enrolled in public school. If the parent does not notify the district that the student is attending private school, the district may report the student as still enrolled in public school; the scholarship payment then will be delayed until a correction is made.

If you need assistance withdrawing, transferring, or enrolling a scholarship student, **DO NOT WAIT** until after the deadline. Please contact your Regional Manager or the School Choice hotline as soon as possible.

Checking Intent Status



After filing intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program, the parent is provided with a **confirmation number** that may be used to check the status of the intent, including the student's intent date, eligibility, matrix number, and estimated scholarship amount.

Private schools may assist parents in [checking the intent status](#) on the School Choice Web site. Simply enter the student's last name, birth date, and the intent confirmation number provided by the parent. Please note that the School Choice information hotline can provide student status information only to the parent or with the parent's permission.

Scholarship Program News

- **Tax Credit Scholarship Legislation**

Recent legislation has brought several changes to the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship, which starting July 1, will now be titled the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (FTC)**. Student eligibility has changed to include students on the Department of Children and Families' direct certification list, as well as those eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. In addition, at the request of the Scholarship Funding Organization, districts will now notify eligible households of the availability of the scholarship.



- **McKay Parent Information**

Starting with the 2009-10 school year, each parent of a newly enrolled McKay student will receive an 8-page **McKay Scholarships Parent Guide**, covering parent responsibilities, funding and payments, maintaining the scholarship, transferring and other issues. Schools may view the **Parent Guide** online on the Parent Resources page.

- **Compliance Renewal Summary**

Over 1,220 private schools have renewed participation in a scholarship program for the upcoming year. Additionally, 28 new schools applied and demonstrated compliance to participate in one or both of the state scholarship programs. We are also working with applications from another 30 schools that may become eligible in the near future. In summary, over 1,248 private schools throughout the state are currently eligible to accept McKay or Tax Credit Scholarship students for the 2009-10 school year.

ARRA and Private Schools — US DOE Guidance

The **U.S. Department of Education** has issued guidance related to the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA). The guidance includes a number of questions about services to students in private schools. The Guidance may be found at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>.

ARRA Funded Title I, Part A Services Related to Private School Students—Title VIII of ARRA includes provisions related to Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*. The ARRA Title I, Part A provisions require the equitable participation of eligible private school students and teachers. Section D of the [ARRA Title I, Part A guidance](#) focuses on the benefits available to such students and teachers, and includes three questions that address these issues: **D-6**, **D-7**, and **D-8**. This guidance emphasizes the need for timely and meaningful consultation prior to any decisions being made about the provision of equitable services for eligible private school students.

ARRA Funded IDEA Services to Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities—Title VIII of ARRA includes provisions related to the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. The ARRA IDEA, Part B provisions require that equitable services be provided to eligible children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools. Section F of the [ARRA IDEA, Part B guidance](#) focuses on the benefits available to parentally placed children with disabilities and includes three questions, **F-1**, **F-2**, and **F-3**. The consultation process is highlighted in this guidance.

ARRA SFSF and Services to Private School Students—Title XVI of ARRA addresses the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). The [SFSF guidance](#) includes questions related to private school students. Question **III-D-15** states that ARRA does not require an LEA to provide equitable services to private school students with SFSF funds; however, the LEA may provide services for private school students and teachers to the extent that the activities are authorized by the *ESEA*, the *IDEA*, the *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*, or the *Perkins Act*. Question **III-D-2** and **IV-3** clarify that no stabilization funds may be used to provide financial assistance for students to attend private elementary and secondary schools unless the funds are used to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities as authorized under *IDEA*.



Important Program Dates — Mark your calendar

Please be aware of the following important McKay Scholarship dates.

July 3—Deadline for parents to file Intent in order to be eligible for the September 1 payment.

August 1—Date by which McKay Parent Affidavits and Student Data Collection Forms must be submitted.

August 2—Deadline by which current McKay students and students with a valid 2009-10 Intent must be registered and enrolled in order to be eligible for the September 1 payment.

September 1—First quarterly payment for eligible McKay students. This includes new students who have a valid Intent filed on or before July 3, and current students; all students must have enrolled on or before August 2.

September 2—Intent filing deadline for students who missed the July 3 filing, in order to be eligible

for the second quarterly payment.

October 2—Date by which students with a valid 2009-10 intent must be enrolled in order to receive the November 1 payment.

October 5-9—Attendance Verification week for the second payment period.

December 3—Date by which students with a valid 2009-10 intent must be enrolled in order to receive the February 1 payment.

January 2—Date by which students with a valid intent must be enrolled to receive the February 2 payment.

January 4-8—Attendance Verification week for the third payment period.

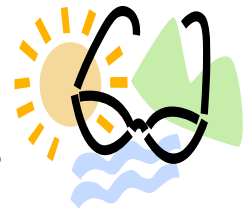
Contact your Regional Manager promptly with any questions regarding these deadlines.

Summer Professional Development Opportunities

Institute on Autism at Florida State University – June 15-19, 2009 in Tallahassee, Florida. The topic for this year's Institute is *Recent Advances in Evidence Based Practice for Autism Spectrum Disorders*. More information about the Institute, including the registration form, can be found by visiting the FSU-CARD's Web site at <http://autism.fsu.edu>.

2009 SACS CASI Summer Conference—The 2009 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) Summer Conference will be held June 15-16, 2009 at the Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando, Fla. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about school improvement, accreditation processes, preparation for the SACS CASI Quality Assurance Review (QAR) team visit, and qualifying for a QAR team. To register or to learn more, visit www.advanc-ed.org/florida.

NEW: What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) practice guide, "Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics: Response to Intervention (RtI) for Elementary and Middle Schools" – The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance has released this new practice guide. The guide provides eight specific recommendations to help teachers, principals, and school administrators use Response to Intervention (RtI) to identify students who need assistance in mathematics, and to address the needs of these students through focused interventions. The guide also describes how to carry out each recommendation, including how to address potential roadblocks in implementing them. Read this new practice guide at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/practiceguides/#rti_math_pg.



Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Michael Kooi, Esq.
Executive Director

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



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MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2009-2010 IMPORTANT DEADLINES*

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 5	October 9
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 4	January 8
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	January 31	March 2	March 3	March 16

*** Please note:**

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

Current and previous newsletters are available in PDF format on the School Choice Web site.