

# Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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December 2010



## McKay Student List and Withdrawal Procedures

### Special Points of Interest:

- **Attendance Verification** for the February 2011 scholarship payment must be submitted between **January 4-11, 2011**.
- New scholarship students must be **enrolled by January 2, 2011**, to be eligible to receive a February 1st payment (parent must have filed intent by December 3rd).



### Inside:

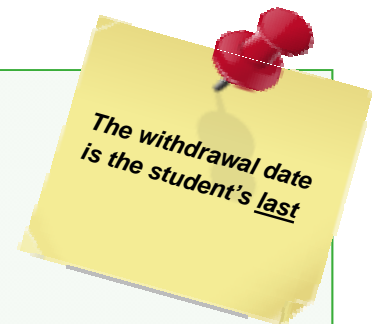
Compliance Workshops	2
Mark Your Calendar	2
School Choice Month	3
In the News	3
Important Deadlines	4
Contact Information	4

As the second half of the school year approaches, please take a moment to ensure your McKay Student List is accurate. Look for any students that are still listed as **registered**. Registered students are not eligible to receive a payment. The student must be **enrolled** by entering an individual student fee schedule and first date of attendance.

If a McKay student is no longer enrolled or attending your school, the student should be immediately **withdrawn** from your McKay Student List on the School Choice Web site. Failure to withdraw a student may result in difficulties transferring his or her scholarship to a new school. Please note that if the parent of a McKay student has unpaid fees or incomplete documentation, the private school **may not** refuse to withdraw the student as collateral for these unresolved obligations.

To withdraw a student, select the **Withdraw** tab on the student's general information page. Then enter the student's withdrawal date (last date of attendance), the name of the person completing the withdrawal, and a brief explanation of the reason for withdrawal. Pursuant to Rule 6A-6.0970, F.A.C., private schools are responsible for the return of all scholarship funds that were received in error, including students that were not in attendance; therefore, timely submission of withdrawal information will save your school the hassle of returning incorrectly issued scholarship payments.

*The withdrawal date must be **on** or **after** the student's first date of attendance; therefore, if a student was enrolled but never attended, the student's first date of attendance should be entered as the withdrawal date. The first date of attendance is provided on the withdrawal tab as a reference.*



## Mark Your Calendar



**December 3**—Date by which students must file intent to receive the February 1 payment.

**January 2**—Date by which students with a valid intent must be enrolled to receive the February 1 payment.

**January 4-11**—Attendance Verification week for the third payment period.

**January 22**—Florida School Choice Expo in Tampa

**January 31**—Last day to file an intent to participate for the 2010-11 school year.

**February 1**—First day to file an intent for the 2011-12 school year.

**March 2**—Date by which students filing intent by January 31 must be enrolled to receive the April 1 payment.

**March 3-16**—Attendance Verification period for the fourth payment period.

**March 1**—Date by which Scholarship Compliance Form must be postmarked, after being submitted online, printed, signed and notarized.

**May 1**—Date by which all Compliance issues must be resolved.

**June 1**—Date by which requests for missing payments must be submitted.

*Please contact your Regional Manager with questions regarding these deadlines.*

### Scholarship Compliance Renewal

**Scholarship Program Compliance Renewal** has begun for private schools that wish to continue participating in the McKay and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship programs for the 2011-12 school year. The Department has notified schools via letter of their status as a full or standard renewal. The 2011-12 Scholarship Compliance Form, Application and Renewal Packets are available on the School Choice Web site .

The Scholarship Compliance Form must be post-marked to the Department by **March 1, 2011**, in order for the school to remain eligible to participate next school year. Please contact your Regional Manager if you have any questions.

## Compliance Workshops Announced

The School Choice Office will host **Scholarship Compliance Workshops** in an effort to provide technical assistance to schools in meeting compliance requirements.

Date	Location
January 20	Tallahassee
January 24	Tampa
January 26	Ft. Lauderdale
January 27	Miami
February 2	Orlando
February 3	Jacksonville

*To register or request more information, please e-mail [amy.gent@fldoe.org](mailto:amy.gent@fldoe.org) with your preferred date and number attending.*

Scholarship staff will present the workshops, which will cover:

- the application and renewal process,
- important deadlines and required forms,
- Level 2 screening,
- registering and enrolling students,
- Ethics in Education Act policies and procedures,
- student records management, and
- payment issues.

The workshops will be held from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Regional Managers will be available to answer questions.

We encourage each school to send a representative, but space is limited, so register early.



## In the News

### Inclusive Schools Week 2010 - Awareness to Action: 10 Years of Celebrating Inclusive Schools

The Inclusive Schools Network is pleased to announce that the **10th Annual Inclusive Schools Week** will be celebrated December 6–10, 2010, in classrooms, schools, and communities throughout the world. Inclusive Schools Week (ISW) highlights and celebrates the progress schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to all students, including those who are marginalized due to disability, gender, ethnicity, geography and language. ISW is sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network and Education Development Center, Inc.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration Kit contains the information, tools and resources needed to plan a successful Inclusive Schools Week celebration. Request the 2010 Celebration Kit at [www.inclusiveschools.org](http://www.inclusiveschools.org) or e-mail [inclusiveschools@edc.org](mailto:inclusiveschools@edc.org). Be sure to sign up for Inclusive Schools Network News for regular updates as well as other news and information related to building schools and communities that are welcoming of all children.

#### Beware Virtual School

*McKay students may take up to two courses per year via Florida Virtual School (FLVS), **BUT** enrollment in **district** virtual school classes that receive FEFP funding or a FLVS **franchise** program will result in forfeiture of the scholarship, as this is a "return to public school."*

## January is School Choice Month!



The School Choice Office is pleased to announce that Governor Crist has proclaimed January as **School Choice Month** in Florida!

During the month of January, School Choice Awareness events will be held throughout the state, culminating in our

very first **School Choice Expo** on January 22, 2011, at the Florida Fairgrounds. Parents, kids, educators, and other stakeholders will enjoy this day-long celebration, featuring choice presentations, school performances, celebrity speakers, food, music and more!



Join us at the **SCHOOL CHOICE EXPO** on **January 22!**

To learn more about the School Choice Expo and to **reserve your booth**, go to [www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com](http://www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com).



*Happy Holidays!!!*

# Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

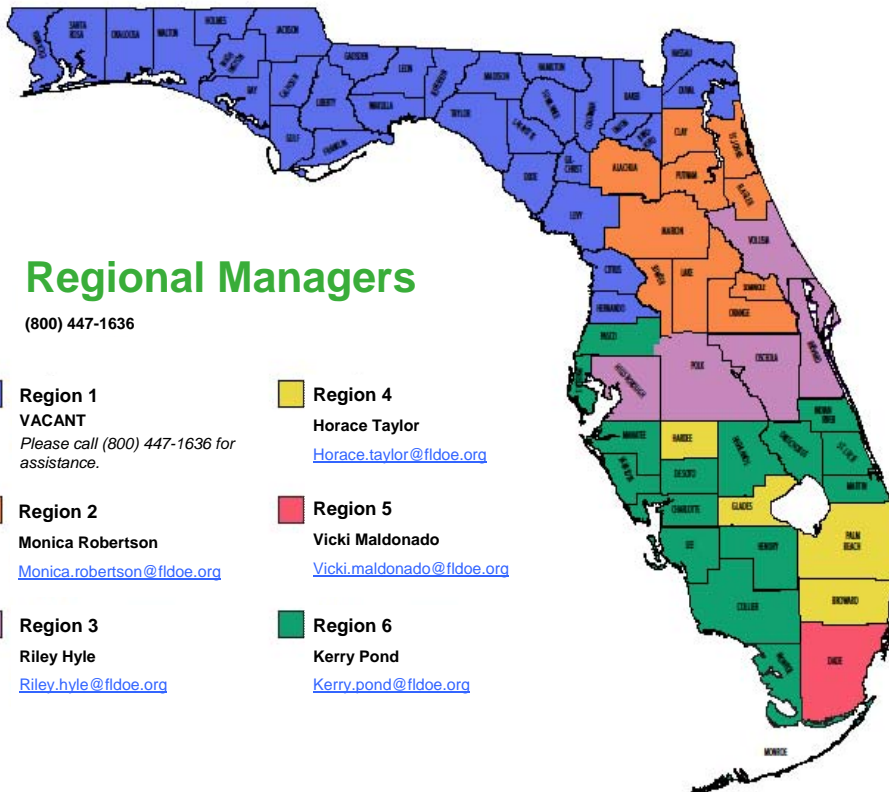
## McKay Scholarship Program

2010 - 2011 IMPORTANT DEADLINES\*

Payment Periods	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 4	October 8
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 4	January 11
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	January 31	March 2	March 3	March 16

**\* Please note:**

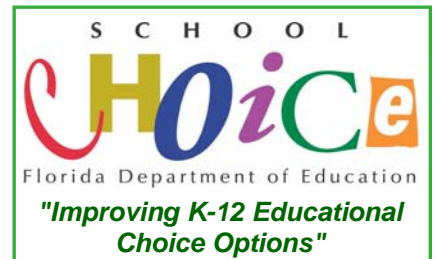
- Private schools participating in the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** must meet the deadlines set by their Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.
- The deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines. Therefore, the Department cannot make exceptions if these deadlines are missed.



### Regional Managers

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Current and previous newsletters are available on the School Choice Web Site.