

Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 5, Issue 7

February 2011



Happy Valentines Day!

Special Points of Interest:

- **January 31st** is the intent deadline for the fourth quarter, and the last date to file for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Students filing intent on or after **February 1** will be considered for the 2011-2012 school year.

Compliance Renewal Due - March 1st Deadline Approaching

Participating private schools have approximately one month left to submit a Scholarship Compliance Form in order to renew participation in the state scholarship programs. The forms must be submitted online **and** a signed and a notarized hard copy must be **postmarked by March 1, 2011.**



If the compliance form is submitted by the deadline, renewing private schools will have to resolve any outstanding compliance issues and submit any additional compliance documentation **on or before May 1, 2011.**

Schools missing either of these deadlines will not be eligible to participate in the scholarship programs for the 2011-2012 school year.

Your regional manager will assist you with any questions. But please contact them as early as possible, as the increasing volume of calls and email may delay their response as deadlines approach.

Regular and Direct Contact

Private schools that participate in the McKay and Florida Tax Credit Scholarships are required to maintain a physical location in Florida where scholarship students regularly attend classes and have **regular and direct contact** with private school teachers. "Regular and direct contact" is defined as:

A program of instruction that provides for a minimum of 170 actual school instruction days with the required instructional hours (determined by grade level per [State Board Rule 6A-1.09512](#)) under direct instruction of the private school teacher at the school's physical location with occasional off-site activities under the supervision of the private school teacher.

For compulsory attendance purposes, net instructional hours per grade level are: (a) Kindergarten: 540 hours, (b) Grades 1-3: 720 hours, (c) Grades 4-12: 900 hours.

If the school does not comply with these requirements, it will not be allowed to participate in the state School Choice Scholarship programs.



Inside:

Minimum Attendance	2
Mark Your Calendar	2
FTC Testing	2
In the News	3
Important Deadlines	4
Contact Information	4

FTC Norm-referenced Testing Reminder

As a reminder, private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program must **annually** administer or make provisions for FTC students in grades 3-10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education. A complete list of approved tests is available on the School Choice Web site at: www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/ctc/files/norm_CTC.pdf.

Once the test is administered and the scores are received by the school, copies of the scores must be reported to the Project Director, Professor David Figlio. When sending the assessments to be scored, please be sure to **request national percentile rankings** (not just the number correct) from the scoring company. As in previous years, Professor Figlio will be collecting copies of each FTC student's test scores for the 2010-11 school year. Send copies of score sheets with the student's name, testing date, and national percentile ranking to: David Figlio, School Reporting Compliance Center, Department of Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7140.

Minimum Attendance for Payment



In order for a McKay student to be eligible for a quarterly payment, the student must have attended for at least ten school days during that payment period. Rule 6A-6.0970 (5)(d) and (e), F.A.C., requires

private schools participating in the McKay Scholarship Program to return to the Department any scholarship funds issued for a student that did not attend the private school for ten or more school days during the payment period.

Sometimes a student withdraws from a private school after payment is issued, but before being in attendance for 10 school days (based on the student's last date of attendance entered by the private school).

If your school receives a payment for a student who did not attend for at least 10 school days within the payment period, **the warrant must be immediately returned** to the following address:

*Florida Department of Education
Independent Education and Parental
Choice
Attn: Rajani Karri
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400*

Mark Your Calendar



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 by January 31 must be enrolled to receive the April 1 payment.

March 3-16—Attendance Verification period for the April 1 payment.

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

April 30—Date on which a 2010-11 intent expires if unused.

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

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

July 3—Intent filing deadline to be eligible for the first 2011-12 payment on September 1.

August 2—Date by which new and renewing McKay students must be registered and enrolled in order to receive the September 1 payment.

September 2—Intent filing deadline to be eligible for the November 1 payment.

Please contact your Regional Manager with questions regarding these deadlines.



In the News

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION UPDATES

The Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Immunization has released the following updates:

Immunization Guidelines. The Bureau of Immunization is delaying release of the revised Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities, and Family Daycare Homes, effective July 2010, which was incorporated by reference in amended Rule 64D-3.046, Florida Administrative Code. A revised update has been submitted and is awaiting its approval. However, the rule process has been temporarily delayed due to the Governor's Executive Order. Until further notice, schools and healthcare providers may continue to use the July 2008 version, which is available at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/immune/parents/imm_requirements.html.

2011-2012 Immunization Requirement for Kindergarten. Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, a fifth dose of poliovirus vaccine is required if the fourth dose was administered prior to the fourth birthday. The Certificate of Immunization Form (DH 680) has been updated to provide a space to document a fifth dose of poliovirus.

New Functions in Florida SHOTS & Certification of Immunization (DH 680). Effective January 18, 2011, Florida State Health Online Tracking System (Florida SHOTS) installed a new release to allow healthcare providers to issue parent retrieval PINS so that the parent may print their child's updated official DH 680 as a PDF via the Florida SHOTS Website at www.flshots.com. The electronic DH 680 form may now be printed on plain white paper rather than blue paper. School registrars should be advised of what to look for in terms of accepting legitimate DH 680s with the Florida state seal and DOH logo to meet student enrollment requirements.

Contact Susan Lincicome regarding Florida SHOTS or Laura Rutledge, RN, regarding vaccine recommendations at (850) 245-4342.

APPLICATION EXTENSION FOR 2011 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The deadline for first-time applicants to participate in the 2011 **Florida Youth Leadership Forum** has been extended. Completed applications are now due on Friday, **February 18**.

The Florida Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is an annual career and leadership training program sponsored by The Able Trust. The YLF brings together rising high school juniors and seniors each summer to learn about community and academic resources, disability history, career options and personal leadership. They also take part in social activities which enable them to network, learn from each other and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

The YLF is one of three youth programs of The Able Trust that work to reduce the dropout rate of youth with disabilities and improve their participation in employment-related activities. These programs focus on building self-esteem, developing personal leadership skills and preparing young adults with disabilities for life beyond high school. For more information, or to fill out an application online, go to www.floridaylf.org.



LDA'S 48TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Learning Disabilities Association of America will be hosting their 48th Annual International Conference on **February 23-26**, in Jacksonville at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. There will be numerous speakers including, Bambi Lockman of FL DOE Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, on a wide range of topics. For more information, go to the pre-conference book at <http://www.lदानatl.org/conference/2011/Jacksonville-2011-Pre-book.pdf>.

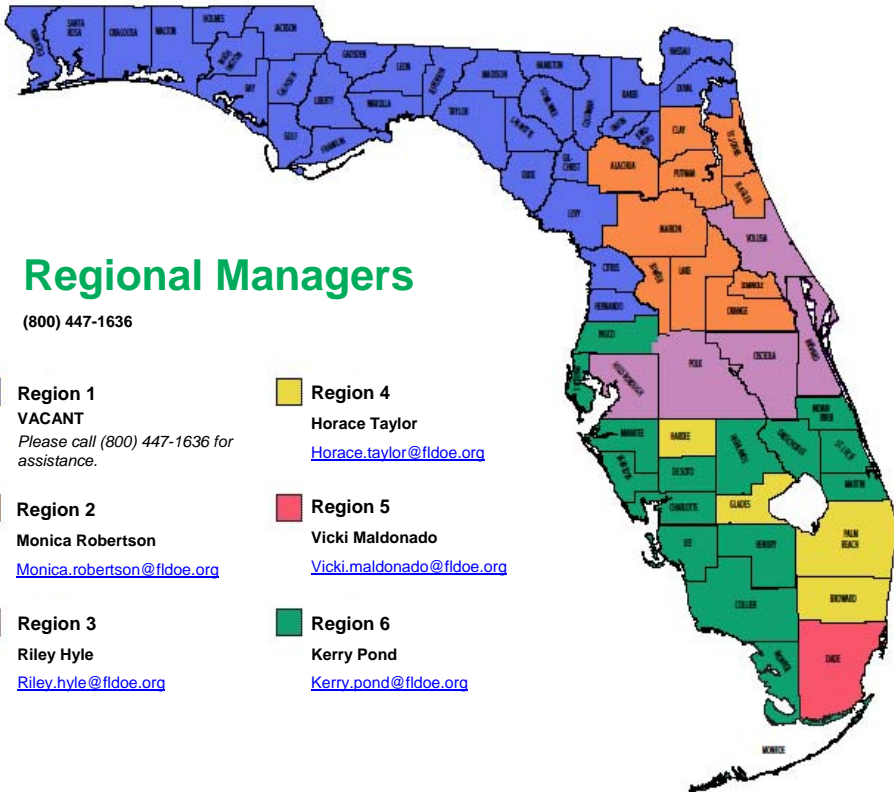
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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:**

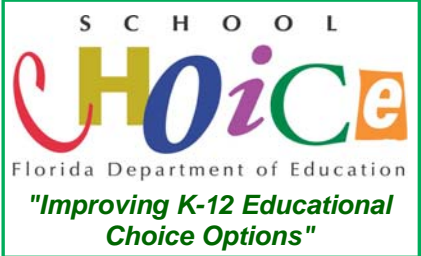
- Private schools participating in the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** must meet the deadlines set by their Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.
- The deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines. Therefore, the Department cannot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



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