

FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 6, Issue 5

December 2011



Special Points of Interest:

- The 2011-12 **Private School Annual Survey** is now available. Please submit online.
- **December 3rd** is the intent deadline for the third quarter. Students must be enrolled by January 2, 2012 to receive payment.
- **Attendance Verification** for the February 2012 payment must be submitted between **January 3-9, 2012**.



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McKay Student List and Withdrawal Procedures

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If a McKay student is no longer enrolled or attending your school, the student should be immediately **withdrawn** from your McKay Student List on the School Choice Website. Failure to withdraw a student may result in difficulties transferring his or her scholarship to a new school.

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. *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.*

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 who were not in attendance; therefore, timely submission of withdrawal information will save your school the inconvenience of returning incorrectly issued scholarship payments.

Please note that even if the parent of a McKay student has unpaid fees or incomplete documentation, the private school may not refuse to withdraw the student for these unresolved obligations.



Mark Your Calendar



December 3—Date by which a new student must file intent in order to be eligible for the February 1 payment.

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

January 3-9—Attendance Verification week for the third payment period.

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

February 2—First day for new students to file an intent for the 2012-13 school year.

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

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

March 5-14—Attendance Verification week for the final payment period.

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

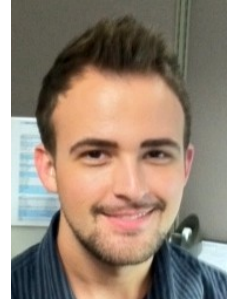
June 1—Date by which requests for missing payments must be submitted.

Questions? Please contact your Regional Manager.



Spotlight on — New Web Specialist, Stephen Bochnia

The School Choice Office is pleased to introduce our new Web Specialist, Stephen Bochnia. Stephen joins our staff with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design from FSU and considerable experience as a web design consultant. In addition to Stephen's responsibilities in working with the School Choice website and making sure all forms and pages are up to date, he will also be the backup to David Girtman, our Payment Specialist.



*Stephen Bochnia,
School Choice Web
Specialist*

A native of north Florida, Stephen grew up in Madison County where he completed his Associate degree at North Florida Community College before relocating to Tallahassee to complete his education. In his spare time, he pursues his interests in music and digital art.

Stephen is pleased to be part of the School Choice team. "I am very aware of the gamut of needs out there, with my mom working with ESE students," Stephen recalls. "I think students obviously need and deserve choices."

Reminder - FTC Norm-referenced Testing

This is a reminder to private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program to 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. The approved assessments and specific instructions are available on the School Choice Web Site at www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/CTC/norm_referenced_assessment.asp.

Participating private schools must make arrangements to administer one of the approved listed tests during the 2011-12 school year, unless the private school has requested and received approval to use an alternate assessment. If you have any questions related to this requirement, please review the [Technical Assistance Paper](#) posted on the School Choice website, or contact your Regional Manager.



In the News

Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities: Career Education and Adult General Education Guide and Brochure

The Division of Career and Adult Education and the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services have released a memorandum announcing the revised 2011 guide, *Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities: Career Education and Adult General Education*, and the companion brochure. These documents replace resources published in 2001. Links to the online documents, available electronically for duplication, are as follows:

[Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities in Career Education and Adult General Education Brochure](#) (revised 2011) (PDF, 292KB)

[Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities in Career Education and Adult General Education Guide](#) (revised 2011) (PDF, 6MB)

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 2012-13 school year. The Department has notified schools via letter of their status as a full or standard renewal. The 2012-13 Scholarship Compliance Form, Application and Renewal Packets are available on the School Choice Website .

The Scholarship Compliance Form must be post-marked to the Department by **March 1, 2012**, in order for the school to remain eligible to participate next school year. Please contact your Regional Manager if you have any questions.

New Website for Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)

Florida's first choice for autism support is now easier to access. The Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) are pleased to announce their new website. You can access this one website <http://florida-card.org/> to link to each center's website. Check back for future access to various online training modules available on this site.

White House Internship Program Accepting Applications

The White House has opened the application for the Summer 2012 White House Internship Program, which runs from May 29, 2012 through August 10, 2012. The application deadline is **January 22, 2012**.

Students can be part of a program where there's no typical day, and where young people from across the country dedicate their time, talents, and energy to better the White House, the community, and the nation. Encourage young leaders who are interested in public service to apply. For more information, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships>.

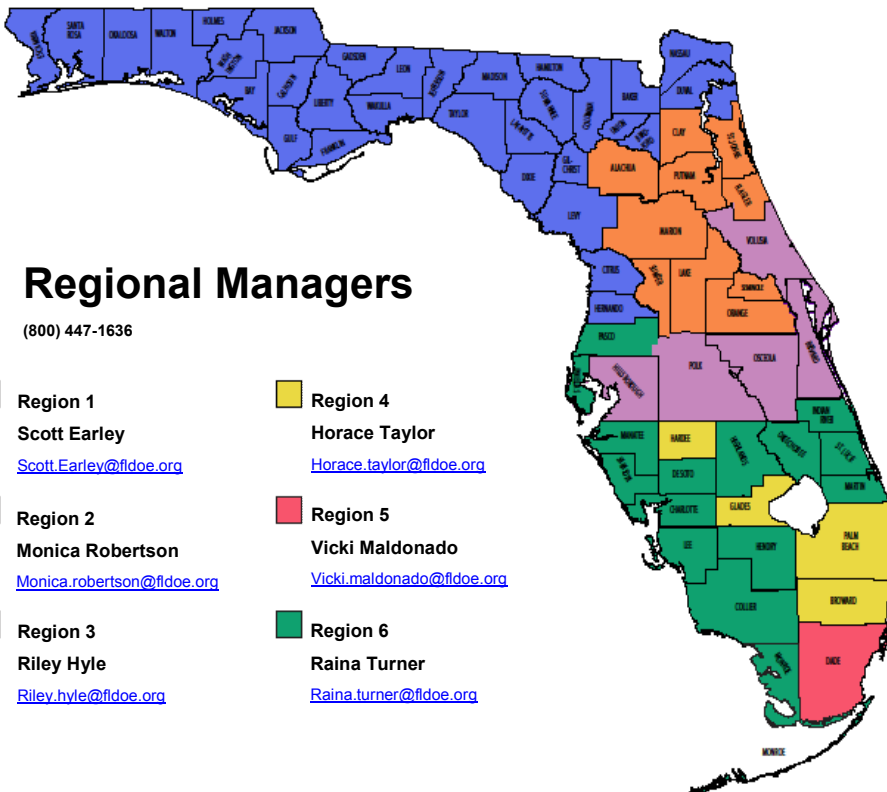


Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

McKay Scholarship Program					
2011 - 2012 IMPORTANT DEADLINES					
Payment Periods	Payment Date	Parental Intent Deadline	Private School Enrollment Deadline	Attendance Verification	
				Available Online	Submission 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 3	October 10
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 3	January 9
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	February 1	March 2	March 5	March 14

Please note:

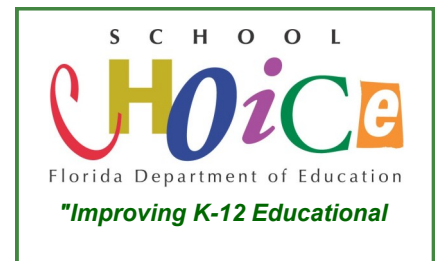
- Private schools participating in the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** must meet the deadlines set by their Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.
- The deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines. Therefore, the Department cannot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



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Current and previous newsletters are available on the School Choice Website.