

January 2008



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice  
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## Private School Newsletter

### Private School Annual Survey

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2007-2008 school year! If you have not already completed the Annual Survey, please visit the School Choice website as soon as possible. Submitting a Private School Annual Survey is one of the requirements outlined in Section 1002.42(2)(b), Florida Statutes, which states in part:

**"Each private school shall annually execute and file a database survey form on a date designated by the Department of Education."**

Private schools that do not submit a current annual survey will be removed from the Directory of Private Schools. Please visit the School Choice website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org> click on "Private School Annual Survey" in the green section, log-in using your four-digit school code and password, and complete your Annual Survey. The surveys must then be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

To verify that the Department of Education has received your annual survey, please login as a private school administrator on the School Choice website. Under *Step One: Annual Private School Survey*, a date will appear after the bolded text stating "Hard-Copy Received." If there is no date, the Department has not received a hard-copy of the survey.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our toll-free School Choice Information Hotline at (800) 447-1636.

### Office of Safe Schools – Hazardous Weather Awareness Week

Hazardous Weather Awareness Week will be February 2-9, 2008 and will include the annual Statewide Tornado Drill on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. As in years past, the poster and essay contests are open to Florida students and the prizes are wonderful! Please share the information below and encourage your students to participate in these important preparedness activities:

The essay contest is open to 9-12 graders:

<http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-4742/jrf-hwaw-memo2008.pdf>

The poster contest is open to 4-5 graders:

<http://redcross.tallytown.com/hwaw.html>

### U.S. Department of Education - Blue Ribbon Schools

Congratulations to three private schools in Florida which have been recognized as 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools:

- ❖ Cathedral Parish School – St. Augustine, FL
- ❖ Naples Christian Academy – Naples, FL

❖ St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School – Orlando, FL

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private K-12 schools that either dramatically improve performance on state assessments and have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds or score in the top 10 percent on state assessments.

### **U.S. Department of Education – American Stars of Teaching**

Martha Adams, a high school science teacher at St. Brendan School in Miami, was recently recognized as one of four American Stars of Teaching by the U.S. Department of Education. The American Stars of Teaching program honors teachers for improving student achievement, using innovative instructional strategies, and making a difference in the lives of their students.

The U.S. Department of Education will begin receiving nominations for the 2008 American Stars of Teaching in early 2008. Announcements will be made on the American Stars of Teaching website at <http://www.t2tweb.us/AmStar/About.asp>.

### **IDEA Technical Assistance Paper**

The Division of K-12 Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, has released a technical assistance paper entitled “[Students with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools](#).” This paper is intended to provide guidance on parentally placed private school students with disabilities under the IDEA. Students who have been parentally-placed in a private school no longer have an individual entitlement to free appropriate public education. However, the school district where the student’s private school is located has an obligation to ensure that the private school students with disabilities have an opportunity to participate in programs assisted by or carried out under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.

The technical assistance paper is available on the School Choice website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>. Click on [Private School Information for Administrators](#), and then click on the link for [Technical Assistance](#).

### **Supplemental Educational Services**

The Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Public School Options, will soon announce the Request for Applications (RFA) to become a state-approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) provider for the 2008-2009 school year. Private schools may apply to become SES providers. Private schools that are approved as SES providers receive funding for supplemental educational services provided to public school students.

The 2008-2009 Request for Applications (RFA) Technical Assistance meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2008, at the Florida Mall Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando, Florida. There is no registration deadline or fee to attend. Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/flbpso/meeting.asp> for more information.

Announcements regarding the application deadlines for the SES Program will be made via the Department’s Paperless Communication System. Private schools that are interested may sign up to receive paperless communications online at <http://data.fldoe.org/communications/>.

### **2008 Florida Legislative Session**

The 2008 Florida Legislature will be in session from March 4—May 2, 2008. Presently, there are bills proposed in both the House and the Senate that, if passed by both chambers and approved by the Governor, could affect Florida private schools. A list of proposed legislation affecting private schools and schools participating in the school choice scholarship programs is available on the School Choice website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>. Click on [News and Upcoming Events](#), and then click on the link for the [2008 Legislative Session: Summary of Bills Related to Scholarship Programs and Private Schools](#).

The list of proposed legislation will be updated periodically as the 2008 legislative session approaches. If you are interested in tracking the progress of these bills during the legislative session, there are search functions available on the Senate website at <http://www.flsenate.gov> and the House of Representatives website at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>.