

September 2008



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice  
325 West Gaines Street • Suite 522 • Tallahassee, FL • 32399-0400 • 1-800-447-1636 • [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)

## Private School Newsletter

### Private School Annual Survey

The new Private School Annual Survey for the 2008-2009 school year is available on the School Choice Web site at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org). Completing the Annual Survey is one of the requirements outlined in Section 1002.42, 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 must submit the Annual Survey for the 2008-2009 school year by **November 30, 2008**, in order to have the school's information included in the mid-year Private School Report that will be released by the Department in December 2008. Additionally, private schools that do not submit the Annual Survey for the 2008-2009 school year by **May 1, 2009**, will be removed from the Directory of Private Schools.

We encourage you to complete the Annual Survey as soon as possible and take advantage of benefits such as:

- Being listed in the Directory of Private Schools, where parents can access and view your school's information;
- Serving as the first step in applying to participate in the McKay and Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Programs;
- Receiving timely updates on federal initiatives or changes affecting private schools;
- Allowing eligible students in your school to qualify for a Bright Future's Scholarship; and
- Receiving information from the Florida Department of Education on issues or requirements affecting private schools including IDEA, Title I, attendance requirements, records retention, and student immunizations.

Please visit the School Choice Web site at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org), click on "Private School Annual Survey," log-in using your four-digit school code and password, and complete your Annual Survey. Your completed survey must be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our toll-free School Choice Information Hotline at (800) 447-1636.

### U.S. Department of Education- Nonpublic Schools to Receive NOAA Public Alert Radios

The U.S. Department of Education has announced a joint initiative with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to distribute over 182,000 NOAA Public Alert Weather Radios at no cost to nonpublic schools, nonpublic school central offices, public school district offices, institutions of higher education, and preschools across the country. The radios monitor the National Weather Services' warnings, watches, and forecasts, as well as send alerts about hazards in the community from other agencies. The radios will be distributed to nonpublic schools during September 2008.

For additional information or to view a list of nonpublic schools scheduled to receive NOAA Alert Radios, please visit the NOAA Radio Web site at <http://public-alert-radio.nws.noaa.gov/>. Nonpublic schools that accept placement of NOAA radios are required to complete and submit a license agreement. Each radio must be registered on the NOAA Radio Web site to confirm receipt.

A series of Question and Answer conference calls with representatives of NOAA and DHS have been scheduled over the coming weeks to answer any questions regarding the programming or use of the radios. Conference call details and dates are as follows:

**Dial-in Number: (888) 390-0980**

**Pass code: 8723261**

Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 1:00 pm (ET)

Monday, September 29, 2008 at 11:00 am (ET)

### **Financial Aid Training Workshops for Counselors and Mentors**

#### **Program Description**

The National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) is a program that provides **free** training and support for counselors and mentors who assist students and their families in preparing financially for college. Professional trainers provide comprehensive up-to-date information regarding federal and state student aid programs, early awareness/planning for college and financial aid, the FAFSA, and conducting a financial aid night for students and their families. Participants learn how to access free resources such as fact sheets, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations to help them assist their students. After the training, participants will receive ongoing information and support.

#### **Participants and Training Dates**

Attendance at an NT4CM workshop is open to any individual who advises students and their families on how to fund education beyond high school. The program contents are applicable to Middle through High School.

NT4CM workshops are approximately 6 hours in length and will be held from October through December across the state of Florida. Specific dates and locations for each workshop will be available in mid-September. Participants can register online for these **free** workshops at <https://ffelpreports.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/osfatraining/>, once the specific dates and locations have been finalized.

#### **For information on NT4CM workshops in Florida, please contact:**

Kelly Harrison, [Kelly.Harrison@fldoe.org](mailto:Kelly.Harrison@fldoe.org) or (850) 410-6820

Florida Dept. of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

#### **NT4CM Program and Workshops brought to you by:**

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)

National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHHELP)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA)

U.S. Dept. of Education - Federal Student Aid (FSA)

Florida Dept. of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (FASFAA)

### **Health Education - Revision of Sunshine State Standards**

Private schools that choose to offer a curriculum similar to the Sunshine State Standards may be interested in noting that the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Health Education will be on the State Board of Education's October 2008 agenda for approval. Once the new standards have been approved, the next step will be to revise the course descriptions for public schools. If you have questions regarding the Health Education standards, please contact Antionette Meeks at [antionette.meeks@fldoe.org](mailto:antionette.meeks@fldoe.org). For more information regarding the revision process for the Sunshine State Standards, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/BII/curriculum/SSS/>.