



Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter



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Contact Us

Florida Department of
Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite
1044
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Compliance Renewal—60 Days to Resolve Outstanding Issues

March 1st is the deadline for submission of the Compliance Form. On or before March 1st, the form must be:

1. submitted online,
2. printed, signed and notarized, and
3. mailed to the School Choice Office.

Compliance forms must be postmarked by the deadline to be eligible to participate in the Scholarships Program for the 2013-14 school year.

May 1st is the deadline for resolving any outstanding issues. Following the timely submission of the Scholarship Compliance Form, renewing schools must resolve any outstanding compliance issues, including the submission of inspection reports and fiscal soundness documentation (if applicable), on or before May 1st. Schools unable to resolve compliance issues by May 1st will not be eligible to participate in the scholarship programs for the 2013-14 school year.

Upon demonstration of compliance for the 2013-14 school year, the Department will send the private school a letter confirming compliance. Please also note that compliance information for your school can be seen by logging into our website using your school code and password. If you have any questions related to your school's compliance status, please contact your regional manager.

McKay Payment Discrepancies

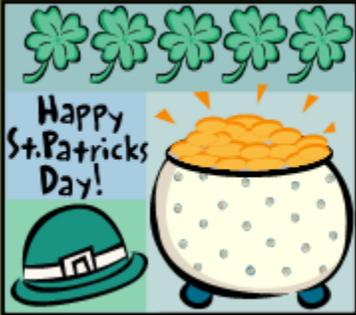
As you know, three of the four quarterly McKay Scholarship payments for the 2012-13 school year have been distributed. Please take time now to review payment records from throughout the school year for any discrepancies.

Discrepancies must be submitted to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice using the correct documentation by **Monday, March 4, 2013** for corrections to be reflected in the final payment of the school year that is scheduled for April 1.

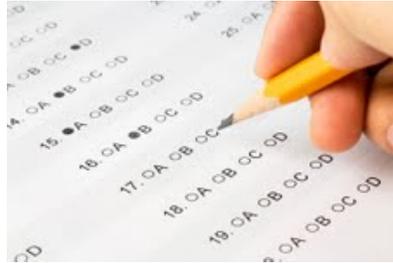
If you have any questions, please contact your regional manager.

Toll-Free: (800) 447-1636
Fax: (850) 245-0875
E-mail:
schoolchoice@fldoe.org

On the Web at:
floridaschoolchoice.org



FTC Norm-referenced Testing



Private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program are reminded of the requirement 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 website 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 2012-13 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.

Pursuant to House Bill 859, passed during the 2012 Legislative Session, any participating scholarship school with at least one Florida Tax Credit student enrolled may have the opportunity to apply and participate in administering FCAT 2.0 and Florida End-of-Course Assessments to all students at your private school, for the **2013-14 school year**. The links for the application to participate and Frequently Asked Questions are now available via your secured log-in. The application window will be January 2-March 1, 2013, with school eligibility determinations finalized in August 2013.

Private School Employee Fingerprinting



As private schools continue to resolve compliance related issues, it is important for both renewing schools and new participants to understand the employee fingerprinting requirements. Every employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact must electronically submit a set of fingerprints through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for a state and national background screening. The screening results must be securely stored

at the school's location and be available for inspection by the Department of Education should your school be selected for a site visit.

Please note that Department of Children and Families (DCF) background checks do not meet the statutory screening requirements for participation in the state scholarship programs because DCF does not provide the results to the private school for screening against [s.435.04](#) and [1012.315, F.S.](#) Only teachers with a valid Florida teaching certificate are exempt per [s.1002.421\(2\)\(i\), F.S.](#)

If you have any questions about these requirements, please review the related [Technical Assistance Paper](#) on the School Choice website.

Spotlight—Two new Regional Managers

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice is pleased to announce Cherlen Bien-Aime and Eric Pate as the new Regional Managers for regions 2 and 4, respectively.

Cherlen is a former Staff Assistant in our office, and chances are you have spoken with her before as she transferred your call to the right individual. She completed her B.S. in Social Work from FAMU and will complete her Master's in Social Work in the spring, also from FAMU. Cherlen aspires to be a licensed social worker and to start a non-profit organization for adolescents. If your school is in Alachua, Clay, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, or Sumter, then she is your new contact. She is driven, goal-oriented, and excited to assist her region with compliance issues.

Eric previously worked in the IEPC call center, so he has experience dealing with student scholarship issues. A Tallahassee native, Eric received a B.S. in Social Sciences from FSU, and enjoys any chance to travel and experience new places. If your school is in Broward, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, or Palm Beach, then he is your new contact (please note the move of Hendry from Region 6 to Eric's region). Eric is looking forward to helping schools with their compliance process.

Mark Your Calendar

March 1—Scholarship Compliance Forms due for 2013-14 participation.

March 2—Date by which a new student must be enrolled to receive the fourth quarterly payment.

March 4-11—McKay 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.

July 3—Intent filing deadline for the September 1 payment.

August 2— Enrollment deadline for the September 1 payment.
