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Contact Us

FL Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street,
Suite 1044
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Toll-Free: 800-447-1636
Fax: 850-245-0875

Welcome

Everyone at the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Please read over the friendly reminders pertaining to the scholarship programs as we continue with our 2014-2015 school year.

Fingerprint Requirement

Florida statute requires private schools participating in the McKay and FTC Scholarship Programs to ensure that all staff having contact with students undergo a Level 2 background check through FDLE and to retain staff fingerprints in the Applicant Fingerprint Retention Notification Program (AFRNP).

FDLE sends invoices to private schools monthly for the retention of fingerprints in their database. Invoices must be paid as soon as possible.

If the invoice is not paid, the prints are deleted from the AFRNP. Once fingerprints are deleted, they cannot be retrieved. To be in compliance with the law, your school employees will have to again submit their fingerprints for state and national checks and for retention; a fee will be assessed.



E-mail:
schoolchoice@fldoe.org
On the Web
at: www.floridaschoolchoice.org

Please contact [FDLE's Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System \(VECHS\)](#) with any questions.

Intent to Participate for the 2015-16 School Year



Time is running out for students wishing to enter the McKay Scholarship Program for the current school year.

[Filing for the 2014-15 School Year](#)

The last day to file intent for the 2014-15 school year is January 31, 2015. Any new scholarship students who file intent on or before this date must be enrolled by March 2, 2015, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2015.

[Filing for the 2015-16 School Year](#)

Intents filed after January 31, 2015, will be for the 2015-16 school year. These students must be enrolled in a participating private school by August 2, 2015, in order to be eligible for a first quarter scholarship payment on September 1, 2015.

[Enrollment in the current school year with a 2015-16 Intent](#)

Although an upcoming 2015-16 student is not eligible for payment during the current school year, a parent with a valid intent for 2015-16 may choose to enroll an eligible student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year at his or her own expense. Of course, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the current school year.

[Eligibility](#)

We would like to remind private school administrators assisting parents with filing, that all intents to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program **must be filed prior to the student withdrawing from public school**. Additionally, the student must have met prior year public school attendance requirements by

being included for funding in the October and February FTE counts, and must have an active IEP or a 504 Plan that is valid for more than 6 months.

Current McKay Students

Please note that a new intent does not have to be filed for a student already participating in the McKay program in a private school. However, all students currently enrolled for the 2014-15 school year, regardless of whether or not they received payment, **must be re-enrolled** by August 2, 2015, to be eligible for a first payment next school year.

Update Contact Information

A new year often brings changes such as new staff or a new location. Incorrect contact information or typos may prevent you from receiving important scholarship program communications. Please log in to the School Choice website and click "View School Info" to ensure your school's **address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address** are up to date. If corrections are necessary, please contact your [regional manager](#) as soon as possible.

Apply To Administer the FCAT

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. Participating schools enrolling at least one Personal Learning Scholarship Account student may also apply. The application to participate, along with Frequently Asked Questions, is available via your secured log-in. The application window is January 2-March 1, 2015, with school eligibility determinations finalized in August 2015.

McKay and FLVS

Florida statute specifies that scholarship students may take up to two courses from FLVS without jeopardizing scholarship eligibility. However, recent changes to the methodology for reporting and funding FLVS students may affect some students' McKay scholarship amounts. In February 2015, McKay scholarship payments will be reduced for students enrolled in or successfully completing FLVS courses. Please refer to the [memo](#) distributed to private schools for more information about the change to scholarship calculation.

Mark Your Calendar



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

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

January 31—Last day to file an intent to participate for the 2014-15 school year.

February 1—First day for new students to file an intent for the 2015-16 school year.

March 1—Scholarship Compliance Forms due for 2015-16 participation.

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

March 3-10—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.

Questions? Please contact your Regional Manager.
