Scholarship Bulletin | January 2016

2016 Legislative Session

The Florida Legislature is in session from January 12—March 11, 2016. Presently, there are bills proposed in both the House and Senate that, if passed by both chambers and approved by the Governor, could affect private schools and families participating in the state scholarship programs. If program changes occur, our office will provide updates in future newsletters.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF

fldoe.org

Apply To Administer the FSA

Florida law provides participating scholarship schools with at least one Florida Tax Credit student the opportunity to apply and participate in administering Florida State Assessments, including End-of-Course Assessments, to all students at the 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 on the <u>Department of Education website</u>. The application window is open thru March 1, 2016, with school eligibility determinations finalized in August 2016.

Intent to Participate for the 2016-17

School Year

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

Filing for the 2015-16 School Year

The last day to file intent for the 2015-16 school year is February 1, 2016. Any new scholarship students who file intent on or before this date must be enrolled by March 2, 2016, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2016.

Filing for the 2016-17 School Year

McKay Upcoming Deadlines

OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

AND PARENTAL CHOICE

February 1

Last day to file an intent to participate for the 2015-16 school year.

February 2

First day for new students to file an intent for the 2016-17 school year.

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.

More Information

Regional Managers McKay Calendar McKay Deadlines Application & Renewal Instructions McKay Student Technical Assistance Compliance Resources McKay Parent Affidavit Update Notification Form

Update Contact Information

Don't let incorrect contact information or typos prevent you from receiving important scholarship program communications from our office. Please log in to the School Choice website and click "View School Info" to **Intents filed after February 1, 2016, will be for the 2016-17 school year.** These students must be enrolled in a participating private school by August 2, 2016, in order to be eligible for a first quarter scholarship payment on September 1, 2016.

Enrollment in the current school year with a 2016-17 Intent

Although an upcoming 2016-17 student is not eligible for payment during the current school year, a parent with a valid intent for 2016-17 may choose to enroll an eligible student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2015-16 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.

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 2015-16 school year, regardless of whether or not they received payment, **must be reenrolled** by August 2, 2016, to be eligible for a first payment next school year. ensure your school's **address**, **telephone number**, **fax number**, **contact names and email address** are up to date. If corrections are necessary, please contact your <u>regional</u> <u>manager</u> as soon as possible.

Other Resources



National School Choice Week, held this year January 24-30, shines a spotlight on effective education options for every child. NSCW features thousands of special events across the country. The Week is a nonpartisan and nonpolitical public awareness effort. For resources and information on events in your area, see <u>www.schoolchoiceweek.com</u>.

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