



2018 Legislative Session

The 2018 session of the Florida Legislature is almost finished. Some of the bills that have been filed and passed will impact state scholarship programs. Watch for updates on the outcome of the session in future bulletins from our office.

All Scholarship Programs

March 1st Deadline Approaching

Participating private schools are required to submit a Scholarship Compliance Form in order to renew participation in the Florida Tax Credit, McKay, and/or Gardiner Scholarship programs. The form must be submitted online, and a signed and notarized hard copy must be mailed to our office postmarked no later than March 1.

2018-19 Compliance Renewal

Renewing private schools that meet the March 1 Scholarship Compliance Form deadline are to resolve any outstanding compliance issues no later than May 1 in order to renew eligibility to participate in the state scholarship programs for the upcoming school year. Schools having unresolved issues after May 1 may not be able to participate in the state scholarship programs for the upcoming school year. Please contact your Regional Manager if you have any questions.

Norm-Referenced Testing

Private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and/or the Gardiner Scholarship Program are reminded of

McKay Upcoming Deadlines

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.

More Information

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Deadlines](#)

[Application & Renewal Instructions](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

[Compliance Resources](#)

[McKay Parent Affidavit](#)

[Update Notification Form](#)

Compliance Notes:

the requirement to administer, or make provisions for scholarship 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: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/ftc/annual-assessment-requirement.stml>. Participating private schools must make arrangements to administer one of the approved listed tests unless they have requested and received approval to use an alternate assessment. If you have any questions related to this requirement, please review the information on the page linked above or contact your Regional Manager.

Scholarship Students and Virtual Schools

A McKay Scholarship or Florida Tax Credit Scholarship student may complete up to two state-funded virtual school courses each school year without jeopardizing scholarship eligibility. This includes courses from Florida Virtual School as well as district virtual instruction programs and district franchises of FLVS. However, parents of Gardiner Scholarship students must contract to pay for any virtual courses from these providers. Parents of Gardiner Scholarship students should contact their scholarship funding organization for more information.

McKay Student Payments

The final regular payment for the McKay Scholarship Program for the 2017-18 school year is due to schools by April 1. Remember that each McKay student must have a Parent Affidavit on file with our office, completed by the parent who will endorse scholarship payments. To ensure that you receive payments for all eligible students, please review your McKay Student List and submit any missing Affidavits as soon as possible. To request payments missed for other reasons, submit a [Scholarship Issue Form](#) along with all documents noted on page 2 of the form. If you are unsure why a student hasn't received a payment, please contact your Regional Manager.

McKay Student Attendance Verification

March 5-12 is the time during which private schools can submit their online Attendance Verification in order to qualify for the April 1

Fingerprint Retention

In this compliance renewal season, 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.

Once the criminal history report has been received, it is the private school's responsibility to ensure each employee and contracted personnel meets the background screening standards described in Section 1002.421, Florida Statutes. More information and links to applicable standards are available on our website on the [Employee Compliance Resources](#) page.

After initial processing, the electronic fingerprint submissions are retained by the FDLE in the Applicant Fingerprint Retention and Notification Program. The retained fingerprints are searched against all incoming in-state arrest fingerprint submissions, and any matches will be reported to the private school. In addition, schools are required to instruct FDLE to re-run the FBI screening every five years. Private schools are invoiced by FDLE for the annual fee of \$6 charged per fingerprint submission retained. To remain in compliance with program requirements, promptly pay FDLE invoices related to

McKay Scholarship payment. The Attendance Verification link will appear at the bottom of the school's Welcome page starting on March 5 and will remain available through March 12. Once a school has completed their Attendance Verification, the link will be replaced by a note indicating that the Attendance Verification has been completed.

personnel still working with scholarship students at your school.

Other Resources



Created by the Florida Legislature and housed at the University of Central Florida, the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities provides financial support so students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences and employment opportunities through degree, certificate, or non-degree programs. Support provided by the Center includes scholarship funding for students and grant funding to support postsecondary institutions as they develop new opportunities. For more information, see fcsua.org.

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