



Annual Survey

The 2018 Annual Survey of Private Schools is now available online. By law, all private schools in Florida are required to submit the Annual Survey. It is also a requirement for participation in the state scholarship programs and must be completed as part of the Compliance process. To submit the survey, log into our website as a private school, complete the information and submit it online. The survey must also be printed, signed by the owner/chief administrative officer, notarized, and mailed to our office.

By submitting the survey, your school will be included in the private school directory available on our website, your students will be able to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, and you will receive updates from our office on federal initiatives and other issues affecting private schools.

Please complete this important requirement promptly.

Fingerprint Retention Requirement

Private schools participating in state scholarship programs must ensure that all staff having contact with students pass a Level 2 background check through FDLE, and 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, and an additional fee will be assessed. For more information about the fingerprint retention process, contact the

Upcoming Deadlines

September 15

Date by which requests for use of alternate NRTs must be submitted.

October 2

Enrollment deadline for the November 1st McKay payment.

October 3-9

McKay Attendance Verification for the 2nd 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](#)

FortifyFL

The Florida Legislature recently passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School Public Safety Act. One of the provisions in the MSD Act directed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, to develop a mobile suspicious activity reporting tool.

FDLE's VECHS program at PublicRecords_VECHS@fdle.state.fl.us or 850-410-8161.

Regular Student Attendance

Remember that private school students participating in the state scholarship programs must have regular and direct contact with their private school teachers at your school's physical location. That means your school must provide a program of instruction that meets for a minimum of 170 actual school instruction days with the instructional hours required for each grade level. Previous legislation passed allows private schools to establish a Transition To Work program for high school students participating in the McKay Scholarship Program which allows students to earn high school credits while working off-site. For more information on Transition To Work programs, contact your Regional Manager.

FTC Norm-Referenced Testing

Private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) or Gardiner Scholarship Programs must make provisions for scholarship students in grades 3-10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education. Approved assessments and specific instructions are available on our website at: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/ftc/annual-assessment-requirement.stml>.

McKay Payment Problems

As you know, warrants for the first McKay payment were mailed last week. Now that you have had the chance to determine if any enrolled and eligible McKay students have not been paid, review the [Resolving Payment Issues](#) page on our website for assistance in determining how to remedy issues. For students marked Enrolled in Public School (EPS) in error, check our website for [McKay district contact](#) details.

Any payments you received for students not in attendance at your school should be returned to our office at the address below. If you have questions, please contact your Regional Manager.

Hope Scholarship Program

FortifyFL is the suspicious activity reporting application required in section 943.082, F.S. It will allow students and the community to report anonymously on threats or actual dangerous/criminal activity. Tips from the application will be reported to local law enforcement and school officials. The FortifyFL application will be available on both Android and Apple devices.

Non-public schools will be included in the FortifyFL application. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement will use the information from the Florida Department of Education's Private School Directory to build the list of private schools in Florida, including school name and address as well as the name of the Principal/Administrator and their contact information.

For more information, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/>.

NEFEC

The Northeast Florida Educational Consortium offers free private school teacher professional learning. Face-to-face and online learning opportunities are available. For more information, visit <http://www2.nefec.org/elearning/title2-parta>.

Other Resources



September 15-October 15 is Florida's Hispanic Heritage Month. Florida K-12 students are invited to participate in the essay and art contests. Parents, students, teachers and principals are also invited to nominate full-

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, a student enrolled in a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade 12 who has been subjected to an incident of battery; harassment; hazing; bullying; kidnapping; physical attack; robbery; sexual offenses, harassment, assault, or battery; threat or intimidation; or fighting at school the opportunity to transfer to another public school with capacity or enroll in an approved private school under the Hope Scholarship.

The law provides for eligible sales tax contributions from the purchase of a motor vehicle to eligible nonprofit [scholarship funding organizations](#) (SFOs). Contingent upon available funds, the SFOs then award the scholarships to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis. For the 2018-19 school year, Step Up For Students will be the only Scholarship Funding Organization administering this scholarship program.

Already approved private schools can request to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program by logging in as a private school and by clicking on the "Request to Participate" link.

time, outstanding educators for the Hispanic Heritage Month Excellence in Education Award. More information is available at FloridaHispanicHeritage.com

Take Your Child to School

Dads Take Your Child to School Day is being observed Wednesday, September 26, 2018.

Dads and male role models can make a significant difference when they take an active role in the life of a child. A [toolkit of resources](#) about the initiative is available on the FDOE website.

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