



Scholarship Bulletin | December 2020

Emergency Order 07 - Spring Educational Options

The Florida Department of Education issued Emergency Order 2020 -EO-07 that maintains the critical flexibility and assurances [outlined in EO-06](#) for the Spring 2020-21 semester which includes: maintaining a parent's right to choose what educational option best fits the needs of their family, including innovative learning options that benefit students, families and school employees; guaranteeing the fully panoply of services for at-risk students; and progress monitoring for all students, while ensuring financial flexibility and stability for school districts and charter schools. In addition, EO-07 requires educational interventions for students who may be falling behind, especially at-risk students, and rewards school districts and individual charter schools that have exceeded their projected enrollment.

Participating private schools that are implementing an additional innovative learning modality during the Spring semester should have completed the [Educational Plan and Progress Monitoring Survey](#) no later than December 15th.

2021 Scholarship Compliance Renewal

The 2021-22 Compliance season is underway! Private schools currently participating in the state scholarship programs must renew their participation annually by submitting verification of their compliance with program requirements. For existing schools, the 2021-22 Scholarship Compliance Form packet is now available and it must be submitted online and also **printed, signed, notarized and a hardcopy must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2021**. Any outstanding issues must be resolved on or before May 1, 2021 in order for the school to remain eligible to participate in the state scholarship programs for the next school year.

Information on the renewal process is available on our website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. After logging in, you will find our Application and Renewal Instruction Packet under the Scholarship Programs section of the left hand menu. Additional resources are available online through the **Compliance Training link in the Compliance Resources** section.



Compliance Notes: *Teacher Qualifications*

Instructors at private schools participating in state scholarship programs are not required to be state certified, but there are minimum standards set out in statute. **Instructors must meet at least one of three requirements:**

- a bachelor's degree;
- at least 3 years teaching experience at public or private schools (daycare employment does not count toward this requirement);
- or special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to provide instruction in specific subjects.

For more information on all areas of your school's scholarship program eligibility, select **Compliance Training** in the left hand menu when you are logged into our website with your school code and password.

Child Abuse Training for Teachers

Florida school personnel have a duty to report actual or suspected cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect. Reporting can be done by phone, fax or online. The Department of Children and Families, Florida Abuse Hotline and Child Care Regulation has developed additional training on this topic. The optional web-based course, specifically designed for teachers in grades 1-12, is titled [Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

Update Contact Info

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 complete the [Update Notification Form](#) and contact your Regional Manager as soon as possible.

Changing Locations?

If your school is expanding to an additional location or is planning to relocate, PLEASE alert our office. Be sure to have all applicable inspections completed before students attend your new location. To avoid delays in scholarship payments, submit the [Update Notification Form](#) to advise our office of your move, and provide the necessary documentation as soon as possible.



McKay and FES Attendance Verification

Attendance verification of McKay and FES Scholarship students is required prior to the November, February, and April payments. **The next verification window is January 4-11 in preparation for the February 1st payment.** When you log into our site at that time, a link will appear at the bottom of your school's Welcome page. Follow the link to confirm that each of the students on your list are still enrolled at your school and are under the direct instruction of a private school teacher at your school's physical location. After confirming the enrollment and regular and direct contact of each student, be sure to click *Finish* to complete the Attendance Verification process. Print the confirmation page and retain for your records.

Remember that newly enrolled students transferring to your school from another private school after the enrollment deadline must have their attendance verified before becoming eligible to receive payment. Once such a student has attended your school for 10 school days, submit a [Scholarship Issue Form](#) and a copy of the student's daily attendance record to your Regional Manager. We will manually enter attendance for the student, and if all other eligibility requirements are met, the student's payment will be processed during the next payment batch.

2020-21 McKay and FES Payment Coverage Deadline Schedule

Parent intent filed by:	Private school must enroll student by:	For the school to receive payment on:	Scholarship percentage:	Payment Period:	Attendance Verification
July 3 rd	August 2	September 1 (100%)	100%	July 1 - Sept 30	N/A
September 2	October 2	November 1 (75%)	75%	Oct 1 - Dec 31	Oct 5th – 12th
December 3	January 2	February 1 (50%)	50%	Jan 1 - Feb 28	Jan 4th – 11th
January 31	March 2	April 1 (25%)	25%	March 1 - June 30	March 3 rd – 10th

Please email McKay parent affidavits to parentaffidavit@fldoe.org



2020-21 Scholarship Upcoming Deadlines

December 15

Date by which the Spring Education Plan Survey is due.

January 2

Date by which new McKay and FES students with a valid intent must be enrolled to receive the February 1st (3rd quarterly) payment.

January 4 - 11

McKay and FES Attendance Verification week for the third payment period.

January 31

Last day to file a McKay or FES intent to participate for the 2020-21 school year.

February 1

First day for new students to file a McKay intent for the 2021-22 school year.

March 2

Date by which a new McKay and FES student must be enrolled to receive the April 1 (4th quarterly) payment.

March 3 - 10

McKay and FES Attendance Verification week for the final payment period.

Additional Information:

[McKay Deadlines](#)

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Parent Affidavit](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

[Application & Renewal Instructions](#)

[Compliance Resources](#)

[Update Notification Form](#)



Scholarship Resources

Detailed information on all K-12 scholarship programs as well as other types of school choice options is available at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Each section provides links specifically for parents, so it's a good resource to direct families toward when they have questions. Also please feel free to share our toll-free number with parents (800-447-1636). Our call center staff members are trained to assist families with scholarship program concerns.

Other Resources



School choice means giving parents the opportunity to select the best K-12 education environments for their individual kids. Celebrate National School Choice Week January 24 – January 30, 2021!

For more information, visit <http://schoolchoiceweek.com/>



The 2021 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Initiative is scheduled for January 25 – January 29, 2021. For toolkits and other information, visit the [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!](http://CelebrateLiteracyWeekFlorida.com) website or contact the Just Read, Florida! Office at 850-245-0503 or JustRead@fldoe.org.