



Scholarship Bulletin | Summer 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - Florida Preparedness Updates

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is working closely with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor COVID-19 and is actively working to ensure that the most up-to-date guidance is quickly and accurately disseminated. FDOE understands that concerns about health and safety are paramount for all education communities. For continued updates, please visit the Department's [COVID-19 Response website](#) for information such as: resources for families and teachers, best practices for distance learning, and important documents & webinars.

Family Empowerment Scholarship Legislation

Governor Ron DeSantis has signed House Bill 7067 in to law which provides more educational opportunities for children from low income families by expanding the Family Empowerment Scholarship program's annual growth of participating students and ensures the educational continuity of students in the program.

Highlights of House Bill 7067, K-12 Scholarship Programs include:

- Maintained priority for low-income students.
- Continuity of educational choice for students with scholarships.
- Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, the maximum number of students participating in the FES program will annually increase by 1.0% of the state's total public school enrollment, an increase from 0.25% and equating to nearly 29,000 additional students.

NEW FES STUDENTS – Schools will receive further notice on when enrollment for these students will begin in July! Types of students that fall under this category include:

- **Siblings** of currently enrolled FES students, including students **entering KG**
- Students that were **initially awarded the FTC Scholarship**, but are now showing FES "Conditionally Eligible"
- **New applicants** that applied recently (coming from public school)

Parents will receive an eligibility confirmation notice from Step Up for Students at a later date in July. **Note:** If a parent does not wish for a child to be transferred over to FES, they should notify Step Up directly to request to remain on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship.



Recap: Guide to McKay and FES Enrollment for 2020-21

Open enrollment for the 2020-21 school year has begun! Your school's fee schedule must be submitted online prior to enrolling any McKay or FES scholarship students. Login to the School Choice website as a private school administrator to copy your fee schedule over to the 2020-21 online portal and update your fee amounts. The fee schedule link is located at the bottom of the private school welcome page. **Private schools will be able to update school fee item dollar amounts until August 2.** If there are any new fee items to add to a current fee schedule, then a private school must submit a request of the updated fee schedule to your Regional Manager.

Please know that if there are no new fee items you wish to add to your school's fee schedule, then you do not need to issue a copy of your fee schedule to the School Choice Office.

STATUTORY DEADLINES— The McKay Scholarship enrollment deadline is August 2nd. Enrollment includes creating a student fee schedule and providing a first date of attendance. **All current and new scholarship students must be enrolled by August 2nd to be eligible for a September 1st payment.**

Your school's McKay and FES Student List displays information for each type of student associated with your school:

- **LAST YEAR STUDENTS**—This is a list of McKay Scholarship students who were enrolled in your school at the end of the 2019-20 school year. You may choose to **Re-Enroll** a student on this list for the 2020-21 school year, or **Withdraw** a student who is not returning. Re-enrollment includes confirming the student's grade level, parent contact information, entering a student fee schedule, and a first date of attendance by **August 2nd** in order for a student to be eligible to receive a first quarter scholarship payment on September 1st.

Grade Correction – For any student (grades KG – 11th) that will be repeating a grade, you must submit a **Scholarship Issue Form and supporting documentation** to our office.

12th Grade Re-enrollment - Please be aware that in order to retain a 12th grade student at your school, you must submit a **Scholarship Issue Form along with a signed statement from the parent** attesting to the fact that the student is re-enrolling in order to obtain a diploma or high school equivalency certification. Students turning 22 during the school year are able to complete the school year as a scholarship student.

- **REGISTERED STUDENT LIST** —Any student on this list is new to the scholarship program or has been transferred from another school. ***Because they are not yet enrolled, they are not eligible for payment.*** To enroll registered students, click on the student's name and select the **Enroll** tab.



Recap: Guide to McKay and FES Enrollment for 2020-21 (continued)

- **ENROLLED STUDENT LIST** —Any student on this list has a student fee schedule and a first date of attendance entered for the 2020-21 school year. **Only enrolled students with an eligible status will receive a scholarship payment.**
- **PARENT AFFIDAVIT (MCKAY ONLY)** - A [Parent Affidavit Form](#) must be filed with our office for each McKay student. Parents affidavits can be emailed to ParentAffidavit@fldoe.org.
- **VERIFY PARENT INFORMATION** - Be careful when entering the correct parent Social Security Number (SSN) for new students and reenrolling current students. **SSN discrepancies may cause a delay in payment.**

Handling Transfers and Withdrawn McKay and FES Students

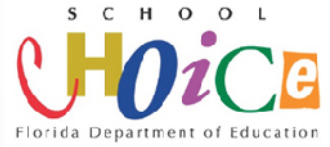
In order to make the process less troublesome over the summer, **any scholarship student enrolled during the 2019-20 school year who has not already been re-enrolled by May 31st, is available in the system to be transferred, registered, and enrolled by a new private school, even if the student was not officially withdrawn from their current school between June 1st – August 2nd.** The new private school will be required to complete the withdrawal as part of the transfer process. This will allow students to transfer smoothly to a new school in the event that the previous school is closed or cannot be reached during the summer months.

If a scholarship student is not returning to your school next year, or if the student is graduating, then that student should be withdrawn from your McKay or FES Student List. Any student listed as **WITHDRAWN** on your Student List means that the student was enrolled in your school for the 2019-20 school year and later withdrawn. When entering the withdrawal date for a student that has already been re-enrolled for the 2020-21 school year, the system will not allow a private school to enter a withdrawal date **prior to the first date of attendance**, and **withdrawn students cannot be re-enrolled by the same private school without a proper Scholarship Issue Form submitted.** If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Regional Manager.

Additional Resources

Star Early Literacy®

The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) is administered through The Star Early Literacy® assessment - an online, adaptive instrument that students complete independently in approximately 15-20 minutes. For the 2020-21 school year, the statewide screening window for FLKRS begins on **July 13** and ends on **October 16, 2020**. Private schools interested in implementing the assessment for their Kindergarten students can find more information [here](#).



Upcoming Deadlines

July 3

McKay 2020-21 application of intent filing deadline for the September 1 McKay payment.

August 2

McKay and FES 2020-21 Enrollment deadline for the September 1 payment.

September 2

McKay 2020-21 application of Intent filing deadline for the November 1 McKay payment.

September 15

Agreed Upon Procedures Reports submission deadline.

More Information

[Regional Managers](#)

[Application & Renewal Instructions](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

[Compliance Resources](#)

[McKay Parent Affidavit](#)

[Update Notification Form](#)