



Scholarship Bulletin | January 2022

Norm-Referenced Testing

Private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, Family Empowerment Scholarship (Education Option), or Hope Scholarship Program must make provisions for students in grades 3-10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education. Students awarded the Family Empowerment Scholarship (Unique Abilities) option for whom the tests are appropriate are also included in this requirement. Florida Statutes allow participating private schools to offer and administer Florida's statewide assessments to all students who attend the private school in grades 3 through 10. **A list of approved assessments, specific instructions, and deadlines are available on the [School Choice website](#)**

Apply To Administer the FSA

Florida law provides participating scholarship schools with at least one Florida Tax Credit, Family Empowerment, and/or Hope Scholarship 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 FES-UA student may also apply. The application to participate, along with Frequently Asked Questions, is available on the [Department of Education website](#). **The application window for the 2022-23 school year is open thru March 1, 2022, with school eligibility determinations finalized in August 2022.**

2022 Scholarship Compliance Renewal

As we begin the 2022 compliance season, please prepare to contact your county's Department of Health and Fire Department about scheduling inspections well in advance of compliance deadlines if your school's last annual report expired. **Any annual inspections reports dated prior to March 2021 may no longer be valid for submission after March 1, 2022.**



Health Inspection

To participate in state scholarship programs, private schools must have on file with our office a current, satisfactory Department of Health Private School Inspection Report. Once your county Health Department conducts the necessary inspection and provides the results on their DH 4160 form, include a copy of the “Satisfactory” report in the renewal school compliance package. Private schools that store, prepare, or serve food to students must also possess a current and satisfactory Food Service Inspection Report. Furthermore, the Department of Health is now required to also send private school inspection reports to the Department of Education. Depending upon when the inspection is sent, this may cause a delay in your school’s approval.

Fire Inspection

Private schools participating in state scholarship programs must also have on file with our office a current, violation-free Fire Inspection Report. There is no statewide fire inspection form, but the standards for the inspection are to be for an educational facility, private school, and/or life safety inspection as established by the State Fire Marshal’s office. Schools are required to submit a copy of a “Satisfactory” or “Violation Free” inspection with your compliance package. Additionally, the State Fire Marshall is now required to grant the Department of Education access to private school fire inspection reports. This is accomplished by your local fire inspector entering your school’s inspection information into a statewide database called the [Online Reporting System](#). Depending upon when the inspection is sent, this may cause a delay in your school’s approval.

Remember your inspection report must match the school’s name and address listed on file.

Ethics Policy

Florida law requires private schools participating in any state scholarship program to adopt policies that establish certain minimum standards of ethical conduct for teachers and administrators. The policy must specifically mention a **requirement for employee training** on the ethical conduct standards. It must also contain the **duty of school staff to report alleged employee or administrator misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, as well as the procedures for reporting alleged employee or administrator misconduct.**

For more information, please see the [Compliance Resources](#) link available on our website or contact your Regional Manager.



McKay Attendance Verification

Attendance verification for McKay Scholarship students must be completed prior to the November, February, and April payments. **The attendance verification window for pay period 3 closed on January 11th in preparation for the February 1st payment.**

If your school did not submit attendance for a McKay student in the School Choice Portal by the deadline, you may submit a [Scholarship Issue Form](#) and a copy of the student's daily attendance record to your Regional Manager once the student has attended your school at a minimum of 10 school days during the pay period. 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 April payment distribution.

McKay Student Guardian Changes

When a McKay scholarship family needs to change the parent or guardian who is listed on the scholarship checks, please submit a proper [Guardian Issue Form](#) to our office. Be sure to attach the applicable supporting documents, such as legal documentation, new social security number, marriage/death certificate, or power of attorney documentation. A [Parent Affidavit](#) for the new guardian should also be submitted. Scholarship forms are available for download from the [McKay Student Technical Assistance](#) link on our website.

McKay Transition to FES-UA

On May 11, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 7045 into law, resulting in the transition of McKay Scholarship students merging into the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program with Unique Abilities option. Our office is working closely with the scholarship funding organizations, AAA Scholarship Foundation and Step Up For Students, to ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the transitioning process. Please note, these changes will go into effect July 1, 2022 for the 2022-23 school year. Please remind your McKay families if any changes need to be made to the parent's contact information, let us know right away so we can keep parents informed on updates involving the renewal process. Parents can keep their address, email, and phone number up-to-date through the Parent Login Portal on our main webpage at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.



2021-22 McKay Scholarship & Compliance Upcoming Deadlines

January 31

Last day for parents to file a McKay intent to participate for the 2021-22 school year.

March 1

Date by which participating private schools must **mail in an original Scholarship Compliance Form** in order to renew scholarship program participation for the 2022-23 school year.

March 2

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

March 3 - 10

McKay Attendance Verification week for the final payment period.

Additional Information:

[McKay Deadlines](#)

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

[Application & Renewal Instructions](#)

[Compliance Resources](#)

[Update Notification Form](#)

2021 McKay and Payment Coverage Deadline Schedule

Select this link for a printable copy - https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/PDF/McKay_Deadlines.pdf

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	August 2	September 1	100%	July 1 - Sept 30	None
September 2	October 2	November 1	75%	Oct 1 - Dec 31	Oct 4 – Oct 11
December 3	January 2	February 1	50%	Jan 1 - Feb 28	Jan 3 – Jan 11
January 31	March 2	April 1	25%	March 1 - June 30	March 3 – March 10



Other Resources



School choice means giving parents the opportunity to select the best K-12 education environments for their individual kids. National School Choice Week kicks off January 23rd! For more information, visit <http://schoolchoiceweek.com/>



The 2022 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Initiative is scheduled for January 24 – January 28, 2022. For toolkits and other information, visit the [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!](http://celebrateliteracyweek.org/) website or contact the Just Read, Florida! Office at 850-245-0503 or JustRead@fldoe.org.



Florida Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an agency that helps youth and adults with disabilities find, get, or keep jobs leading to meaningful careers. To learn more about VR and see how they can help your students, please go to <http://www.rehabworks.org/>.



First Lady Casey DeSantis has announced the theme for this year's Kindergarten through 12th grade art and essay contests will be *"Celebrating African-American Contributions to Florida's History"*. Information about the contests and Florida's Black History Month is available at <http://www.floridablackhistory.com/>.