



Scholarship Bulletin | March 2022

McKay: Attendance Verification & Payments

The final 2021-22 regular payment disbursement for the McKay Scholarship Program is April 1. March 10 was the deadline for private schools to submit their online Attendance Verification in order to qualify for the April 1 scholarship payment.

Parent Information

Remember that each McKay student must have a valid social security number on file for the parent. For McKay ONLY, a [Parent Affidavit Form](#) must be 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 Affidavit as soon as possible to parentaffidavit@fldoe.org.

Missing Payments

To request payments missed for other reasons, please submit a [Scholarship Issue Form](#) along with all documents noted on page 2 of the form. If you are unsure why a student has not received a payment, please contact your [Regional Manager](#) first. **It is important to keep in mind that the McKay program will cease the end of the 2021-22 school term, and in order to receive McKay funding, all requests (including required documentation) must be submitted by June 1.**

2022 Scholarship Compliance Renewal

Renewing private schools that met the Scholarship Compliance Form submission deadline of March 1 must resolve any outstanding compliance issues by May 1 in order to remain eligible to participate in the state scholarship programs for the 2022-2023 school year. Schools having unresolved issues after that date may not be able to participate in scholarship programs for the upcoming school year.

Please contact your [Regional Manager](#) promptly if you have any questions concerning the review process. Schools are advised to contact them as early as possible, as the increasing volume of calls and e-mails may delay their response as deadlines approach.



Scholarship Compliance Notes: *Fingerprint Retention*

During compliance renewal season, it is important for both renewing schools and new participants to understand the employee fingerprinting requirements. Every employee or contracted personnel must electronically undergo 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 is 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 will be retained by FDLE in the Applicant Fingerprint Retention and Notification Program. The retained fingerprints will be 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 will be invoiced by FDLE for the annual fee of \$6 per fingerprint submission retained. In order to remain in compliance with program requirements, private schools should promptly pay FDLE invoices for any personnel still working with your school.

Requirements for Owners/Operators:

Section 1002.421(p), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires private schools that intend to participate in state scholarship programs have **each owner/chief administrator, operator, officer, and board member** reported to the Division of Corporations (www.sunbiz.org) undergo a level 2 background screening **regardless of direct contact with scholarship students**. The fingerprints must be submitted electronically through the school's **Volunteer and Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) for a level 2 background check**. Further information on the VECHS program can be found [here](#).

Agreed-Upon Procedures Guidelines

FTC, FES, Hope, and McKay

If your school collectively receives more than \$250,000 from the Florida Tax Credit, Family Empowerment, Gardiner, Hope, and McKay Scholarship during a fiscal year, then you must contract with an independent certified public accountant to perform agreed-upon procedures pursuant to section 1002.395(6)(o), F.S. The annual report must be submitted to the scholarship funding organization that awards the majority of your school's scholarship funds. Please contact the scholarship funding organization if you have questions about this requirement.



Agreed Upon Procedures - McKay Only

If your school receives more than \$250,000 in **only** McKay scholarship funds, then the report must be submitted to the Department of Education. Please contact the School Choice Office if you have any questions.

AUP Reports must be submitted by **September 15**.

Norm-Reference Testing

Private schools participating in scholarship Programs are statutorily required to administer, or make provisions for students in grades 3-10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education. Participating private schools must arrange to administer one of the approved tests during the 2021-22 school year, unless the private school has requested and received approval to use an alternate assessment or has been approved to participate in Statewide Standardized Assessments. The approved assessments and specific instructions are available on the [School Choice website](#).

Reporting Assessment Results

Participating private schools must report a student's scores to the parent and must submit both FES and FTC students' scores to the independent research organization selected by the Department of Education by **August 15** of each year. Please send copies of score sheets with name, testing date, and national percentile ranking to:

Melissa Dyehouse
Learning Systems Institute
Florida State University
Suite 4600 University Center Bldg. C
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2540

Participating private schools must report Hope scholarship student scores to the parent.



2021-22 McKay Scholarship & Compliance Upcoming Deadlines

April 1

Fourth quarter McKay Scholarship payments are disbursed for the **2021-22** school year.

May 1

Date by which all **2022** Compliance Renewal issues must be resolved.

June 1

Date by which requests for **2021-22** missing payments must be submitted.

Additional Information:

[McKay Deadlines](#)

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

[Application & Renewal Instructions](#)

[Compliance Resources](#)

[Update Notification Form](#)

2021-22 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

Florida's Guide to COVID-19

The Florida Department of Education has worked closely with the Florida Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor COVID-19. Please review information provided by the Department related to federal funding, guidance, and resources on Florida's response to the pandemic.

COVID-19 section: <https://www.fldoe.org/covid-19/index.stml>

Emergency Response section: <https://www.fldoe.org/em-response/>



Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez announced the launch of the 2022 Florida Space Art Contest. With March being Youth Art Month, students are encouraged to create an art piece inspired by the theme **Florida is the Place for Space: Celebrating Florida's Contributions to Space Travel and Exploration**. Students in grades K-5 are invited to participate in the art contest. All entries must be received by 5 PM on Monday, April 25, 2022. Student contest rules and guidelines can be found online at www.FloridaSpaceArt.com.



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.