



McKay Scholarship News

Newsletter for Families of John M. McKay Scholarship Students

Letter from the Editor

Dear McKay Families,

As we enter the heart of the school year, we hope your young scholars are enjoying their McKay experience and blossoming into active and eager learners. We have received so many wonderful letters from parents, describing the amazing strides their children are making. We are happy this month to share one of those awesome stories with you.

As always, we enjoy hearing from parents. If you have questions or suggestions for upcoming issues, please write to us at SchoolChoice@fldoe.org, and put "Scholarship News" in the subject line.

With best wishes to your whole family for a happy and healthy holiday season—

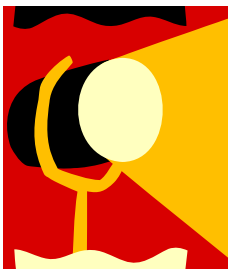
Julia Somers-Arthur
 Customer Service Supervisor



Office of Independent
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Spotlight on Success!

Hello.

My son has been participating in the McKay Scholarship

since 7th grade. That was almost six years ago. J. was found to have "Auditory Processing Disorder." In 6th grade he had speech and language therapy, but was still failing miserably in school. He was recommended for the McKay and we put him into American Academy starting 7th grade.

This year, he is a senior who will graduate in June of 2008, and he is looking very much forward to go to college. This child was reluctant to go to school in the

younger years, and now last week announced to me and rest of the family that his GPA is the #2 in the American Academy.

We are very proud of J. and his accomplishments throughout the middle and high school years. Thanks to the McKay Scholarship, I am certain that J. will be very successful in college and in any career he wishes to follow.

Thank you so much for the opportunity and the help.

Regards,

S.E.

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Your Questions Answered: Maintaining your McKay Scholarship



Ok. Your child's been granted her McKay Scholarship. You have her enrolled in a lovely school where she's happy and learning. The scholarship is good until she graduates, so now, finally, you can relax. Right?

Yes - but. . . . You should be aware that

there are a number of things that could cause a McKay Scholarship to terminate. Here are some questions that parents frequently ask:

Q. My child is doing OK at his McKay school, but his friends are in a public school and he'd like to try it out for a couple of days to see if he'd like it. Would that be a problem?

A. Yes, it would. If your child attends public school, even for one day, he would be considered "returned to public school," and his McKay Scholarship would terminate.

Q. Can my son take summer school classes at the local elementary school?

A. No. Enrollment in an academic public school summer class is regarded as a return to public school and would make your child ineligible for the McKay Scholarship.

Q. If my child is in a private McKay school, and I want her to go to a certain public school, can I switch to the public McKay option and keep the scholarship?

A. You can go from a private McKay placement to the public option under the McKay Program. However, if you later decide to place your child back in a McKay private school, she will need to re-qualify by meeting prior year attendance and other requirements.

Q. We had the McKay Scholarship last year, but this year I have transferred my son to a new private school that is working on

becoming a McKay school. Can his scholarship be reinstated when the new school is accepted into the program?

A. No. Unfortunately, by enrolling in a school that is not currently in the McKay Program, your son's scholarship is no longer valid. Your son must maintain continued enrollment and attendance at an approved McKay school.

Q. Because of a new job, I have to move to another part of the state. Can my child transfer to another private school and keep her scholarship?

A. Yes, you may transfer your child to any participating McKay school in the state. Be aware, however, that your child must be enrolled in the new school promptly. Your child must remain in continued attendance, both to maintain your scholarship and to meet the State of Florida's compulsory attendance laws.



Remember...

The McKay Scholarship could become invalid if your child:

- ◆ does not remain in continued attendance throughout the year
- ◆ becomes home-schooled
- ◆ participates in any district program that is FTE funded
- ◆ re-enters public school
- ◆ takes more than two Florida Virtual School classes per year
- ◆ enters a non-participating private school

The scholarship could also be lost if the parent doesn't sign the scholarship check, or if the child is not re-enrolled from one year to the next.

Money Matters

What is a fee schedule?



As a McKay parent, you are probably aware by now of your child's funding amount and quarterly payments. But where does that money go? How does it get spent?

For answers to those questions, you will want to have a look at your student's **Individual Fee Schedule**. The Individual Fee Schedule is the list of services that your school creates for your particular child when they enroll him or her. The Fee Schedule can be modified throughout the year as needed.


You can view it by logging on, using the password sent to you at the time your child enrolled. (Go to www.floridaschoolchoice.org, and select Parent Login from the blue section. If you do not have your password, please contact us for help.)

The services that you will see on your child's Individual Fee Schedule are selected from the private school's **General Fee Schedule**, which includes all the services and fees offered by the school to all students. Think of the school's General Fee Schedule as a restaurant menu. Your child's Individual Fee Schedule



would be the meal check listing your selections from that menu.

What might be on your child's Individual Fee Schedule? It will, of course, list tuition. But it may also include a number of other academic items or services that relate to your child's education. You may see listed various fees, special programs, tutoring, therapy, or summer school. Schools may also charge for supplies, materials, transportation, uniforms, insurance, field trips, or other items or activities related to the child's education. (Non-academic items such as meals or day care cannot be included on the student's Individual Fee Schedule.)


The Individual Fee Schedule lists the total charges for your child for the school year. If this amount is less than your scholarship, the payment checks will be issued for the lesser amount. If the total comes to more than your scholarship, you will be responsible for coming to an arrangement with the school to deal with the difference. If you have any questions about your child's fee schedule, arrange to discuss them with your school administrator. 

Going through Changes?

Update your info — it's easy!

If you have changes in your contact information, do let us know right away so we can keep you informed on issues involving your child.

You can keep your address, email, and phone number up-to-date through the Parent Login on our main webpage. Once logged in, you'll see: "Click here to Change your Contact Information." Simply enter any changes and click "Save Changes."

If you want to change or correct your name or Social Security Number, though, you'll need to get a **Guardian Change Form** from your school. This is the same form to change the person who will be signing the scholarship payment checks. Don't delay in reporting any changes to this critical information, or you just may miss a quarterly payment! 



Contact us at *Scholarship News*

Editor: *Julia Somers-Arthur*

Email: SchoolChoice@fldoe.org

(Please put "Scholarship News" in the subject line.)

Write to us at:

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Florida Department of Education

325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

For general information about the McKay Scholarship Program, call our

School Choice Information Hotline at

1-800-447-1636, or visit us online at

www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

Scholarship Program Deadlines

If you know a family who is thinking of entering their child in the McKay Scholarship Program for the first time, you may want to remind them that their Intent must be filed by December 3, and the child must be enrolled by January 2, to receive their first scholarship payment on February 1. Families who would like to apply for the 2008-09 school year may do so in March 2008.

The deadlines for intent filing, private school enrollment, and quarterly payments are set by Florida Statute.

For the 2007-08 school year...

If you filed intent by:	July 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 3	Feb. 1
Your child must be enrolled by:	Aug. 2	Oct. 2	Jan. 2	Mar. 2
For the school to receive payment on:	Sept. 1	Nov. 1	Feb. 1	April 1
Maximum scholarship amount for the rest of the school year:	100%	75%	50%	25%
Payment Period:	July 1 – Sept 30	Oct 1 – Dec 31	Jan 1 – Feb 29	March 1 – June 30

The scholarship amount is the state maximum amount or the private school tuition and fees, whichever is less. The scholarship amount is divided into four quarterly payments for the school year. If intent is filed or the student is enrolled after a deadline, the student will not be eligible to receive that quarter's scholarship payment, but the student will have met the deadline to receive payment the next quarter.