



Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6

January 2008

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Scholarship Compliance Form Deadline

Special Points of Interest:

- Attendance Verification is open **January 7-11, 2008**. This must be submitted to receive February scholarship payments.
- 2008-09 Scholarship Compliance Forms must be postmarked by **March 1, 2008**, for renewing schools to remain eligible to participate in the state scholarship programs.

Participating private schools must postmark the signed and notarized 2008-09 Scholarship Compliance Form by March 1, 2008, in order to be eligible to participate next school year.

The deadline to submit the Scholarship Compliance Form to renew participation for the 2008-09 school year is quickly approaching. The **signed and notarized** form must be postmarked to the Department by **March 1, 2008**. This deadline is established in State Board Rule; therefore, forms postmarked after the deadline cannot be accepted.

If you are awaiting documentation such as an inspection report or background check results, **do not delay in sending the Scholarship Compliance Form**. Renewing private schools that have submitted a Scholarship Compliance Form by the March 1st deadline, will have until May 1, 2008, to resolve any outstanding compliance issues.

A Regional Manager or Customer Service Representative will contact each private school upon receipt of the Scholarship Compliance Form to inform the school of their status. A letter will also be mailed to each school detailing compliance deficiencies or notifying the school of its full compliance with program requirements. The date your school's compliance form is received can be found on the School Choice website when logged in as a private school administrator. Simply look under **STEP THREE: Scholarship Compliance Form** for a "Hard Copy Received" date.

If you have any questions about the compliance renewal process, please contact your Regional Manager.

A new private school (for purposes of state scholarship program participation) is one that did not have scholarship students during the current or previous school year. A new private school may apply to participate in the McKay or Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program at any time by submitting a Scholarship Compliance Form. The new school will then have 60 days from the date the signed and notarized form is submitted to demonstrate compliance. Please note that if a participating private school opens an additional location, the new location must submit a compliance form and fully demonstrate compliance before any scholarship students can attend there.

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Intent to Participate for the 2008-09 School Year

The last day to file intent for a McKay Scholarship for the current school year is February 1, 2008. Any new scholarship students who file intent by this date must be enrolled by March 2, 2008, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2008.

Intents filed after February 1, 2008, will be for the 2008-09 school year. These students must be enrolled in a participating private school by August 2, 2008, in order to be eligible for a first quarter scholarship payment on September 1, 2008.

Although a student is not eligible for payment if intent is filed after February 1, 2008, a parent may choose to enroll an eligible student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year at his/her own expense. Of course, they also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the 2007-08 school year.

Please note that all students enrolled for the 2007-08 school year, regardless of whether or not they received payment, must be re-enrolled by the private school by August 2, 2008, to be eligible for a first period payment next school year. More information about student enrollment will be included in a future newsletter.

Finally, we would just like to remind private school administrators that all parental intents to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program **must be filed prior to the student withdrawing from public school.**

McKay Scholarship Funding

McKay Scholarship funding is based on the amount of funding a student would have received in public school; therefore, the recent reduction in education funds resulting from a revised state budget will also affect McKay Scholarship funding. The funding per student was reduced by less than 1% so you may notice a small decrease in the expected February scholarship payment amount.

An updated 2007-08 McKay Funding Chart and additional information about the adjustment will be mailed to participating private schools. The updated chart will also replace the previous version on the quick navigation bar of the School Choice website when logged in as a private school.

McKay Attendance Verification

All private schools participating in the McKay Scholarship Program **must complete attendance verification for each scholarship student** in order to receive a third quarter scholarship payment. Failure to complete the attendance verification requirement will result in the postponement of scholarship payments until the next scheduled payment period (April 1, 2008).

Attendance verification is available on the

www.floridaschoolchoice.org website from **January 7-11, 2008**. Please login as a private school administrator in order to fulfill this requirement. If you need assistance or are experiencing technical difficulties, please contact your Regional Manager directly or our Information Hotline **immediately** at (800) 447-1636.

New Regional Manager

Nathan Aker has recently filled the vacant Regional Manager position for North and Northwest Florida (Region 1). Nathan graduated from the Florida State University with a Bachelor's in Criminology. He began as a Customer Service Representative for the School Choice Information Hotline in April

2007. Nathan is originally from North Florida and is greatly looking forward to working with the private school and district administrators in his region.

An updated Regional Manager map has been posted on the School Choice website on the quick navigation bar of the McKay and CTC home page.

Technical Assistance Meetings

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will be joining Children First Florida to bring you a set of winter Technical Assistance Meetings in North, West, and Central Florida.

Scholarship staff will present information on private school requirements for participation in the state scholarship programs and the compliance renewal process. All private schools participating or wishing to participate in the McKay or Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program are welcome. There is no requirement to register.

Meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. on the following dates:

January 28 **Esprit de Corps**

January 29	9840 Wagner Road, Jacksonville Downey Christian School 10201 East Colonial Drive, Orlando
January 31	Innovation School 333 Ausley Road, Tallahassee
February 4	Daytona Beach Christian School 1851 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Daytona Beach
February 5	Friendship Christian Academy 385 S. Burnett Road, Cocoa
February 7	Jubilee Christian Academy 5910 North W Street, Pensacola

Employee Spotlight—Tera Quillen

This month's employee spotlight is on Tera Quillen, our newsletter editor. Tera began working for the Department after moving to Tallahassee in September 2005. She earned a Bachelor's in Sociology from the University of Florida and recently started a Master's Program in Integrated Marketing Communication at the Florida State University. Tera manages the scholarship program communications including the creation and dissemination of scholarship program newsletters, participating private school compliance notifications, and scholarship program accountability documentation. She also works closely with the state's Scholarship Funding Organizations by coordinating student data submissions and the annual renewal process. Should you have any suggestions for improvement or topics you would like to see covered in future newsletters, please send her an email at tera.quillen@fldoe.org.



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"Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Education Options"

ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

Current and previous newsletters are available in PDF format on the School Choice website when logged in as a private school administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link on the Quick Navigation bar on the left hand side of the screen.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES*

2007-2008 Payment Period	Payment Date	Parental Intent Deadline	Private School Enrollment Deadline	Attendance Verification Available Online	Attendance Verification Deadline
July 1 – Sept 30	September 1	July 3	August 2	N/A	N/A
Oct 1 – Dec 31	November 1	September 2	October 2	October 8	October 12
Jan 1 – Feb 29	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 7	January 11
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	February 1 (due to Leap Year)	March 2	March 3	March 14

*Private schools participating in the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program must meet the deadlines set by the Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.

Please note that the deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines; therefore, the department cannot make exceptions if these deadlines are missed.

Failure to complete attendance verification will result in a postponement of scholarship payments until the next scheduled payment period.