

Change in Physical Location

Special Points of Interest:

- Attendance Verification for the April 2008 Scholarship Payments will be available from **March 3-14, 2008**.
- Parent Newsletters are included in the February payment packets. Please provide a newsletter to parents of scholarship students when they come to endorse the payment.

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With a new year underway and a new school year quickly approaching, we would like to ensure participating private schools are aware of the requirements for maintaining compliance with scholarship program laws in the event that the school location changes.

A private school that changes location must notify the Department of Education within 15 days after a change. However, it is important to note the distinction between notifying the department of your move and maintaining compliance with scholarship program participation requirements.

By signing and notarizing the Scholarship Compliance Form, a private school is certifying that it is currently in compliance with all scholarship program rules and reporting requirements **and will remain in compliance** throughout the school year. Therefore, when a private school changes locations and **before scholarship students begin attending classes at any private school's physical location where regular and direct contact occurs, the location must comply with the applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare, laws, codes, and rules discussed above.**

If a physical location where regular and direct contact occurs does not comply with the health, safety, and welfare requirements applicable to all private schools, the private school must bring that physical location into compliance or



move to a compliant physical location; otherwise, the private school will not be eligible to participate in the state school choice scholarship programs. Likewise, private schools in these scholarship programs must ensure that their physical location, where regular and direct contact occurs, continues to comply with these requirements, or the Commissioner of Education may deny, suspend, or revoke the private school's participation in the scholarship programs pursuant to [ss. 220.187\(10\)](#) and [1002.39\(7\), F.S.](#)

The Department has developed a detailed Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) to address this requirement and provide answers to related questions. The [Physical Location of Private Schools TAP](#) is available on the School Choice website under the Technical Assistance tab of both the McKay and CTC page.

We appreciate your assistance in ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of scholarship students. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager.

Scholarship Program Conference Calls



The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will continue to hold monthly conference calls to update participating private schools, district

staff, and interested coalition organizations on the operations of the scholarship programs. During the calls, we will provide information on the scholarship payments, participation data, updates to policies and procedures, and upcoming events.

The monthly conference calls will take place from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

The phone number for the call is **(888) 808-6959** and the conference code is **2459620**.

Please mark your calendars if you wish to participate. The dates for 2008 will be:

January 8, 2008	July 8, 2008
February 12, 2008	August 12, 2008
March 11, 2008	September 9, 2008
April 8, 2008	October 14, 2008
May 13, 2008	November 11, 2008
June 10, 2008	December 9, 2008

This information is also available on the News and Upcoming Events section of the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

McKay Scholarship — Intent to Participate

The parent of a public school student who wishes to apply for a McKay Scholarship may do so by filing intent to participate on the School Choice website. Private school, school district, and department personnel may assist parents in filing intent; however, they may not file intent for a student without the expressed consent of the parent.

The last date to file intent for a fourth quarter McKay Scholarship payment is February 1, 2008. After this date, parents will be able to file intent for the 2008-09 school year. Please note that McKay Scholarship students currently enrolled in your private school do not need to file a new intent for next school year.

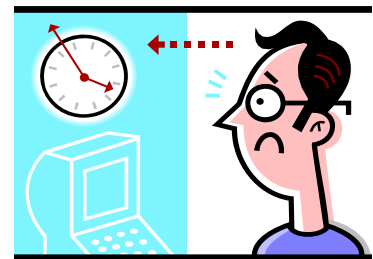
Upcoming Deadlines—Enrollment and Attendance Verification

The final enrollment deadline for the 2007-08 school year is **March 2, 2008**. Any student with a valid intent filed prior to February 1, 2008, must be enrolled and have a fee schedule created by March 2, 2008, in order to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment.

In addition, the final attendance verification for the 2007-08 school year will be open for submission from **March 3-14, 2008**. Please note that the final attendance verification for the April 1st payments occurs while many schools are closed for spring break; therefore, the verification will be open for two weeks instead of the usual one week.

Please ensure the verification is completed during this timeframe because failure to submit attendance verification will result in a postponement of scholarship payments.

If you have any questions or experience difficulties, please contact the School Choice information hotline at (800) 447-1636.



Scholarship Programs Director—Chad Aldis



It was only two months ago that we featured our Scholarship Programs Director, Chad Aldis, in the newsletter's Employee Spotlight article. Sadly, this time we must announce his departure from the Department of Education and from Florida.

Chad recently accepted the position of the Executive Director of [School Choice Ohio](#) and has relocated to Columbus, Ohio. He hopes to continue his efforts to increase the quantity and improve the quality of school choice, only now in Ohio. His contribution to Florida's scholarship programs in the past two and half years has been invaluable and we wish him only the best in all future endeavors.

A message from Chad:

It has been a pleasure to learn from the parents, private schools, scholarship funding organizations, and school districts that all work together and make possible the success of the McKay and Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Programs. I feel fortunate to have been a part of an office that placed a high priority on Florida's students. I am most proud of how by coordinating our efforts with those of both private schools and school districts we have been able to increase accountability each year, while at the same time, increasing the number of students and private schools that participate. I truly thank all of you for the support and many words of encouragement you have given me over the years.

Arrangements have been made for the continued administration of all aspects of the scholarship programs during this time of transition. Please be assured that we will continue to strive to provide quality customer service.

Reevaluation of McKay Scholarship Students

As you know, a student must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) written by the public school district in order to be eligible for the McKay Scholarship Program. Once a student is determined eligible and enters the program by enrolling in a participating private school, the public school district is no longer required to implement the student's IEP. However, we would like private schools and parents to understand the district's requirement to offer all ESE students, including those participating in the McKay Scholarship Program at a private school, a reevaluation at least once every 3 years ([s.1002.39\(5\)\(c\), F.S.](#)).

A reevaluation may consist of similar tests and reported observations from the child's parents and teachers, or may also be as simple as an interview with the parents and review of private school reports. The parent is not required to accept a

reevaluation; however, accepting the offer for a reevaluation will not affect a student's McKay Scholarship status, funding, or matrix number. In addition, reevaluation does **not** require reenrollment in public school and will **not** result in services being provided to the McKay student by the district (known as a "return to public school").

This information has also been included in the February Newsletter for McKay Scholarship parents. Our goal is to aid parents in making the most informed decisions about their student's education.

Additional information about the reevaluation requirement and related services for parentally placed private school students can be found in the Technical Assistance Paper released by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services entitled [Students with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools](#).

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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.