

## McKay Scholarship Funding

Education funds have recently been reduced for a second time this school year as a result of a revised state budget. As you know, 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 will again affect McKay Scholarship funding. The funding per student was reduced by approximately two percent so you will notice a small decrease in the expected April McKay scholarship payment amount.

An updated 2007-08 McKay Funding Chart and additional information about the adjustment was emailed to participating private schools on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. The updated funding amount chart has also replaced the previous version on the quick navigation bar of the School Choice website when logged in as a private school.

If you have any questions about the changes in McKay Scholarship funding, please contact your Regional Manager.

## Fee Schedules & Student Enrollment

As you may know, general fee schedules are required to be submitted each school year, and individual student fee schedules must be submitted upon enrollment of a new scholarship student or re-enrollment of current scholarship students. For the 2008-09 school year, the fee schedule submission and student enrollment process will begin in May after the clean-up payments for the 2007-08 school year have been processed. **Private schools will not be able to enroll any students that have filed intent for the 2008-09 school year or re-enroll any current students until May.**

Please remember that enrollment of a scholarship student is a two-step process. First, the student must be **REGISTERED**. This involves locating the student's information in the Department's database and adding the student to the private school's McKay student list. These students will appear under the "Registered Students" heading of your school's McKay Student List. To complete the process and ensure payment, the student must then be **ENROLLED**. This includes creating and submitting an individual fee schedule for the student. Enrollment must be completed at least 30 days prior to payment; therefore, the 2008-09 enrollment deadline for a first period payment is August 2, 2008. When the fee schedule submission and student enrollment functions are available for the 2008-09 school year, specific notices will be posted on the Private School Administrator home page when you log in with your school code and password. More information will also be included in next month's newsletter.

### Special Points of Interest:

- McKay Scholarship Payment discrepancies from the 2007-08 school year must be submitted by **April 24, 2008**.
- Renewing private schools must resolve any outstanding compliance issues by **May 1, 2008**, in order to be eligible to participate for the 2008-09 school year.

### Inside this issue:

Parent Contact Information	2
National Bullying Conference	2
CTC Norm-Referenced Testing	3
Compliance Reminder	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Contact Information	4
2008-2009 Program Deadlines	4

## Parent Contact Information

The time of year has arrived for private schools to begin accepting students for the new school year. We would like to take this opportunity to remind participating private schools to maintain valid parent contact information in the student's McKay Scholarship record.

It is essential for the Department to have access to current addresses and phone numbers for the parents of McKay Scholarship students in order to notify them of important program information such as changes in the law, changes in a private school's participation status, or upcoming deadlines.

Private school administrators may update parent contact information at any time by selecting a student's name from the McKay Student List.

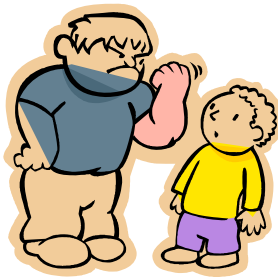
Then click on the link titled **View / Edit Parent Data**.

From this page, you may revise the parent's address, phone numbers, and email address. Click the **Save Changes** button to store the new data.

Please remember that changes to a parent's name or social security number require the submission of a Guardian Change Form because these changes affect the McKay Scholarship payment system.

We appreciate your assistance in updating parent contact information as you register and enroll new students or re-enroll current students for the 2008-09 school year.

## National Bullying Conference



The Florida Department of Education is holding Florida's 3rd Annual Bullying Prevention Conference on April 24-25, 2008, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. The purpose of this conference is to raise awareness about the issue

of bullying and related school safety issues and provide skill-building opportunities to those who work with students.

The conference is open to prevention specialists, school guidance counselors, teachers, principals, Safe and Drug-Free Coordinators, school health educators, school psychologists/social workers, School Resource Officers and law enforcement, staff development directors, deans of discipline, student service directors, PTA members, children and family mental health counselors, school advisory council members, school nurses, school board members, parents, extended day/after school staff, etc.

The Bullying Prevention Conference will offer presentations and important information on:

- Effective bullying prevention programs and strategies
- Cyber bullying and Internet Safety
- Changing school culture/climate to address bullying
- Links between bullying and academics/learning
- Brain research and bullying
- Bullying and Florida law
- Bullying and students with disabilities
- Relationship between gangs and bullying
- School bullying: minimizing risk of harm and liability

Catch the early bird rate to lock in your spot at the conference for a discounted rate of only \$175 (postmarked by 4/10/08). For more information and to register, visit the Office of Safe Schools at <http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/>, or contact them at (850) 245-0416.

## CTC Norm-Referenced Test Scores

Schools participating in the Corporate Tax Credit (CTC) Scholarship Program should be receiving a packet in the mail from Professor David Figlio of the University of Florida. Please complete the postcard enclosed in the packet and return it to Dr. Figlio as soon as possible. In addition, we encourage schools to submit copies of norm-referenced test scores for CTC students to Dr. Figlio as soon as possible after they are received.

**Please do not fax the scores as this may cause them to be illegible.** Copies of the original score sheets may be sent via regular mail, or by FedEx (at no cost to the school). Detailed instructions regarding test score submission are included in Dr. Figlio's packet. In addition, please do not forget to provide a copy of the test scores to the scholarship student's parent.

## Remember

Section 220.187, Florida Statutes, requires private schools participating in the CTC Scholarship Program to annually administer or make provisions for scholarship students to take a nationally norm-referenced test identified by the Department.

The statute also requires the parent of a CTC Scholarship student to ensure that the student takes the norm-referenced assessment offered by the private school.

## Scholarship Compliance Renewal Deadline—May 1, 2008



Renewing private schools that submitted a scholarship compliance form by March 1, 2008, must now resolve any outstanding compliance issues by **May 1, 2008**, in order to remain eligible to participate in the state scholarship programs for the 2008-09 school year. Outstanding compliance issues may include the need to submit inspection reports, the director's background screening results, fiscal soundness documentation for schools that have been in operation for less than three years, or a corrected compliance form.

## Employee Spotlight—Pamela London



Our employee spotlight for the month of April is Pamela London. Pam has been with the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice since October 2005. She began as a Regional Manager for Central and Northeast Florida and was recently promoted to Assistant Scholarship Programs Manager. In addition to working with participating private schools to maintain program compliance, she assists in resolving scholarship student issues and in training new Regional Managers. You are most likely to meet Pam as she travels around the state conducting Technical Assistance Meetings or random site visits to participating private schools.

Pam is an asset to the scholarship team and also an active member of the community, serving as a Guardian ad Litem and mentoring young students.

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[WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG](http://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\*

2008-2009 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 6	October 10
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 5	January 9
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	January 31	March 2	March 2	March 13

\*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.