

## McKay Scholarship Intents

### Special points of interest:

- The District EPS Verification File was posted on the NWRDC on January 3, 2008. The submission deadline is **January 11, 2008.**



### Inside this issue:

Parent Notifications	2
Scholarship Conference Call	2
Contact Information	3
Scholarship Regional Managers	3

The last day to file intent for the 2007-08 school year is February 1, 2008. Any new scholarship students who file intent by this date must be enrolled in a participating private school by March 2, 2008, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2008.



October and February will be verified against the current year's October survey. If the student was reported in October 2007, the district will be prompted to verify the student's attendance in public school during the February 2008 survey week.

### Intents filed after February 1, 2008, will be for the 2008-09 school year.

Although a student is not eligible for payment if intent is filed after February 1st, 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, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the 2007-08 school year.

For intents filed for the 2008-09 school year, we will continue to use the process introduced last year to verify a student's prior year in attendance in public school:

1. If the intent is filed prior to the receipt of the February 2008 survey data, the system verifies the student's attendance based on the October and February survey from the **previous school year** (2006-07) per statute.
2. After the February 2008 survey is conducted but before it is available to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, a student that is not found in the previous year's

3. After the receipt of the February 2008 survey data, the system will verify that the student is found in the October 2007 and February 2008 survey data only. If the student is not found in both surveys, the student is ineligible and the intent cannot be completed.

Please note that for the short time after the February 2008 survey is conducted and before the data is available for upload on our website, the system will validate students not found in both prior year surveys against the current October 2007 survey and we will rely upon the school district to verify the attendance of these students during the February 2008 survey week. Our records indicate that less than 7% of intents filed for the 2007-08 school year required manual verification of attendance; therefore, we expect the number of students per district this year to again be small.

Thank you for your continued assistance in effectively determining student eligibility for the McKay Scholarship.

## Parent Notification Requirements

The Department would like to remind districts of the parental notification requirements regarding school choice options related to the McKay Scholarship Program.

[Section 1002.39\(5\)\(a\)1., Florida Statutes](#), requires school districts to notify parents of public school students with disabilities of all available school choice options **by April 1 of each year and within 10 days of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting**. Some districts may have complied the IEP meeting notification requirement by providing the parent with information at the end of an IEP meeting rather than by mail after the meeting.

The notifications must inform the parent of the availability of the Department's toll-free information hotline and Internet website, and must offer the student's parent an opportunity to enroll the student in another



public school within the district. Please document the method and number of notifications provided for the April 1st disbursement because the Department will be requesting verification of compliance with this requirement through the submission of a District Parent Notification Report.

Similar to last year, a memo, reporting form, and sample notification letters will be distributed to districts via email and through the Department's paperless communication system in the near future.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager.

**Parent Notifications of school choice options (related to McKay) must be distributed to parents by April 1 of each year and within 10 days of an IEP meeting.**

## Scholarship 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](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org).

**Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice**

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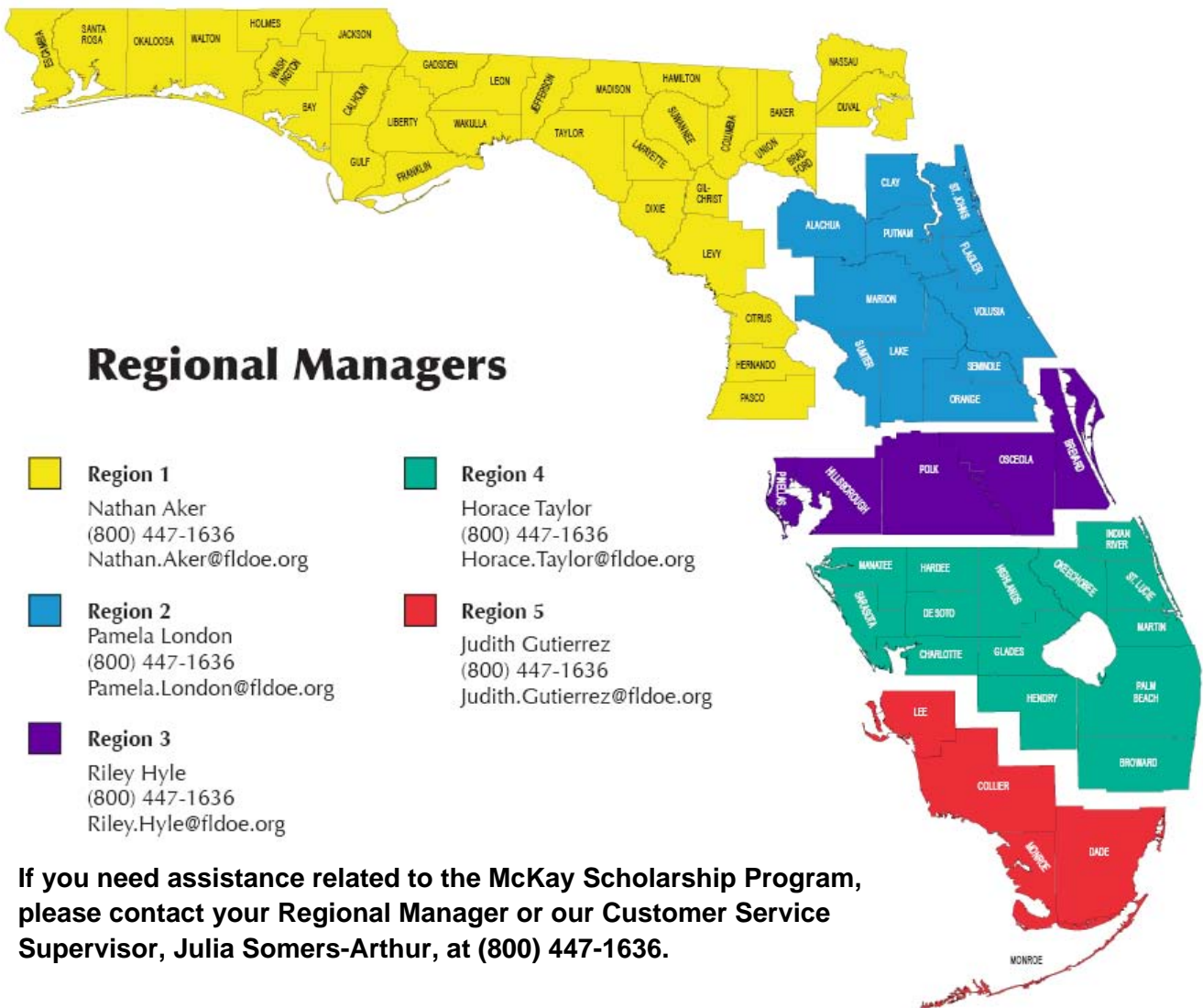
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**"Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Education Options"**

ON THE WEB AT: [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 district administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link in the General Information (yellow) section of the screen.**



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**If you need assistance related to the McKay Scholarship Program, please contact your Regional Manager or our Customer Service Supervisor, Julia Somers-Arthur, at (800) 447-1636.**