

Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 7

March 2008

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

McKay Scholarship Intents

Special points of interest:

- The district FTE file of students that received a McKay Scholarship payment for April 2008 will be made available on May 14, 2008.

Parents are rapidly filing intent for their students for the 2008-09 school year; therefore, we kindly ask that school districts ensure matrix codes are entered in a timely manner.



District staff must then confirm that the student is a public school student and has an Individual Education Plan.

Also as a reminder, the School Choice website will validate students not

found in both prior year surveys against the current October 2007 survey. Then we will rely upon the school district to verify the attendance of these students during the February 2008 survey week until this information is made available for upload into the School Choice website database.

Section 1002.39(5)(b)2.b., F.S., requires the school district to complete a matrix of services for every student participating in the McKay Scholarship Program and notify the Department of the student's matrix level within 30 days after receiving notification of a request to participate in the scholarship program.

Please note that when an intent is filed for a student, the Department will verify that the student was reported in the prior year's FEFP surveys before the intent record is sent to the school district.

Thank you for your continued assistance in verifying student eligibility for the McKay Scholarship Program. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager.



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Establishing Eligibility in Pre-K

As you know, the McKay Scholarship may be awarded to eligible students beginning in their kindergarten year; however, a student may file intent and establish eligibility for the program in pre-kindergarten pursuant to section 1002.39(2)(a)3., F.S.

In order to be eligible to receive the McKay Scholarship in kindergarten, a student must have been enrolled and reported for funding during the preceding October and February FEFP surveys and have been eligible for services under [s. 1003.21\(1\)\(e\), F.S.](#) (i.e., as a pre-k student with disabilities). In addition, the student must have an Individual Education Plan and be a public school student at the time intent is filed.

District Notification Requirements

Last month, the Department issued a memorandum related to the requirement for public school districts to notify parents of students with disabilities about McKay Scholarship Program options. Parental notifications must be sent by April 1st of each school year and within 10 days of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting. Providing the information to the parent during the IEP meeting is also acceptable.

Template letters in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole were attached to the memo and have also been posted on the School Choice website when logged in as a District Administrator.

Also posted on the School Choice website (and attached to the memo) is a Notification Verification Form that must be completed to confirm that your school district has complied with the notification requirement. If the form has not yet been submitted for your district, please fax it to our office by **April 11, 2008**, to document the number of notifications sent and methods of distribution.



District McKay Contact Information

McKay Scholarship Program (Private)

Active

Program: McKay Scholarship Program

Choice Type: PRIVATE

Contact:
First Name Last Name

Address:

City:

Zip Code: -

Phone #: - -

Fax #: - -

E-mail:

Save Changes

Please help us ensure the Department has updated contact information for district McKay Scholarship representatives. The [District Contacts](#) are posted on the School Choice website and accessed by parents and private schools on the quick navigation bar of the McKay Scholarship main page.

Contact information may be updated by selecting the **District Info** link on the quick navigation bar when logged in as a District. Scroll down and click on the pencil icon next to the **McKay Private** contact, make any necessary revisions, and click **Save Changes**.

It is especially important to have updated email addresses as we implement new website password requirements (as discussed in February District Newsletter). If you forget your district password, the system will email it to the **McKay Private** contact email address on record.

School Choice Brochures

In order to assist school districts in providing information to parents about the McKay Scholarship Program, the Department has created a compact disc with our McKay Scholarship brochures in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole. The disc includes printing specifications as well as a version of the brochures formatted for posting on a website.

We will be mailing the discs to the attention of the McKay Scholarship contact at each district for printing and distribution as they please.

In addition, the Department maintains a [Parent Resources](#) page on the School Choice website that provides information for each program administered by our office. One resource that may be particularly helpful is the School Choice Options booklet, which highlights the wide array of school choice options available to Florida families and students.

We hope these tools will assist you in providing school choice information to parents.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Jean Miller
Acting Executive Director

Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

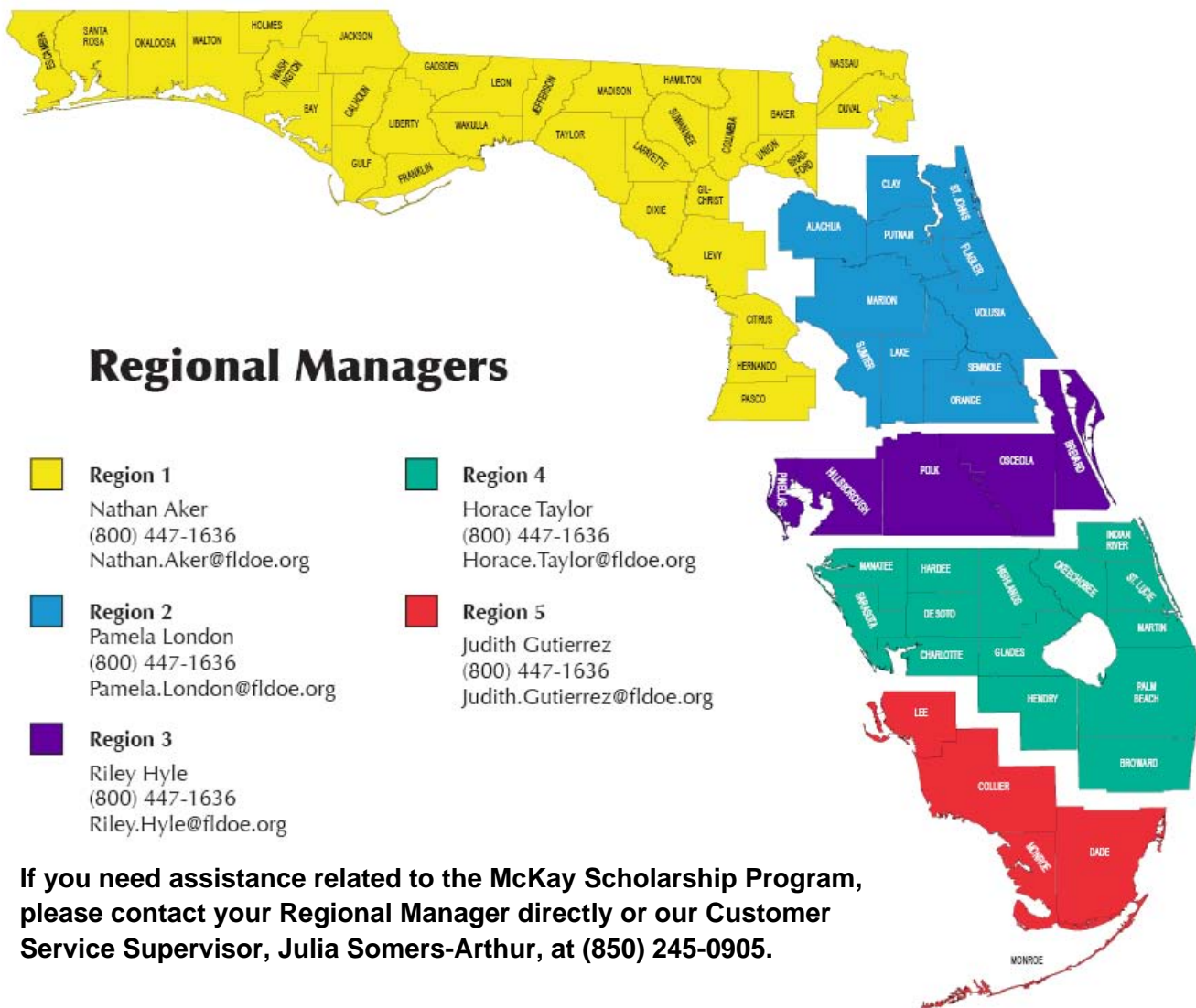
Toll-Free: (800) 447-1636
Fax: (850) 245-0875
Email: schoolchoice@fldoe.org



"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 district administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link in the General Information (yellow) section of the screen.



Regional Managers

- **Region 1**
Nathan Aker
(800) 447-1636
Nathan.Aker@fldoe.org
- **Region 2**
Pamela London
(800) 447-1636
Pamela.London@fldoe.org
- **Region 3**
Riley Hyle
(800) 447-1636
Riley.Hyle@fldoe.org

- **Region 4**
Horace Taylor
(800) 447-1636
Horace.Taylor@fldoe.org
- **Region 5**
Judith Gutierrez
(800) 447-1636
Judith.Gutierrez@fldoe.org

If you need assistance related to the McKay Scholarship Program, please contact your Regional Manager directly or our Customer Service Supervisor, Julia Somers-Arthur, at (850) 245-0905.