

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Michael Kooi—Executive Director

Special points of interest:

- The public school Enrollment Verification File for November McKay Payments must be submitted by October 15, 2008.
- Please ensure a matrix code is entered within 30 days after intent is filed.



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The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice is pleased to announce Michael Kooi as our new Executive Director. Mike is the former executive director with the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools. Prior to the Consortium, Mike worked for the Florida House of Representatives as a Staff Director and as Policy Chief for the Schools and Learning Council.

Mike has been a longtime supporter of charter schools and choice programs in general. He has been instrumental in effecting legislative policy including the establishment of the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission, revisions to the existing charter school statute, charter school capital outlay changes, as well as providing legal and technical assistance in the implementation and defense of various K-12 scholarship programs.

Mike has also served as assistant general counsel with the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and was a commercial litigation attorney in Jacksonville for five years prior to moving to Tallahassee. He is a current board member and past president of the Tallahassee chapter of the Federalist Society, a national conservative lawyer's association. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of CARE Tallahassee, Inc., a non-profit organization providing transition housing and employment assistance for rehabilitated ex-offenders.



A message from Mike Kooi:

"I am excited about the opportunity that Commissioner Smith has provided to me to carry on my work on education reform in the area of school choice. I consider it a privilege to be involved in the maintenance and growth of the school choice movement in Florida and look forward to continuing this work in my new role as Executive Director."

Mike earned his bachelor's degree from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida College of Law.

We are excited to have Mr. Kooi's wealth of knowledge and experience leading the state's efforts in increasing the quantity and improving the quality of educational options for Florida's students.

Reporting Public School McKay Students

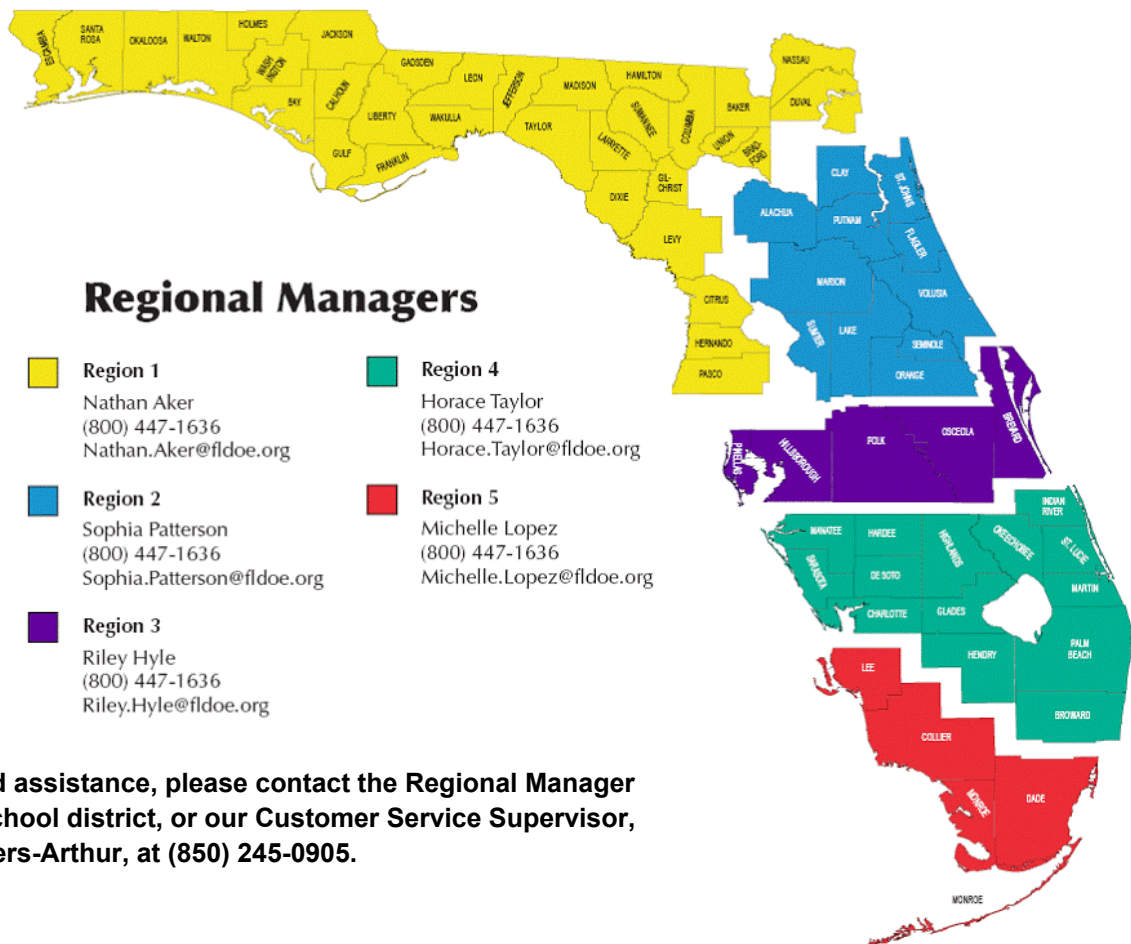
The Department of Education began collecting data related to the educational choice options selected by students enrolled in each school district during the 2006-07 school year. This data includes the number of students who transfer to another public school through the McKay Scholarship Program. Public school McKay participation is reported in the Educational Choice Data Element in the Automated Student Data Base as code M.

While the reported total of public school McKay students for 2007-08 school year have doubled statewide compared to the 2006-07 school year, the

2007-08 data still does not appear to be a true indicator of the actual number of students choosing this option. Based upon informal estimates and feedback from district staff, it is evident that districts work very hard to provide public school choices to McKay Scholarship students and that many families across the state choose this option. Therefore, please help us ensure that the number of students being reported as McKay public school students is accurate. Our office receives multiple requests for this information and would greatly appreciate your assistance in providing the highest quality data.

Updated Regional Manager Map

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice has experienced several staff changes in the past few months, and we are pleased to welcome Michelle Lopez and Sophia Patterson as the newest Regional Managers to join the scholarship team. Below is an updated Regional Manager map for your reference.



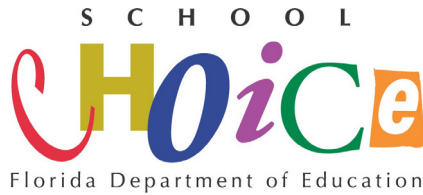
If you need assistance, please contact the Regional Manager for your school district, or our Customer Service Supervisor, Julia Somers-Arthur, at (850) 245-0905.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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Executive Director

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

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES			
2008-2009	District Verification File		District FTE File
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Available Date
September	August 4th	August 13th	September 25th
November	October 3rd	October 15th	November 20th
February	January 5th	January 15th	February 19th
April	March 3rd	March 13th	May 8th

District Verification File: McKay pre-payment file which is exported to districts to verify students are not enrolled in public school system. This file contains all students the DOE *intends* on paying.

District FTE File: McKay post-payment file which identifies the students *who were* paid for the specified payment period and who will need to be reported to generate FTE funding.