

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 2008

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

McKay Student Verification

Special points of interest:

- The McKay District Verification file will be posted on the NWRDC from **January 5-15, 2009**.
- Please ensure a matrix number or ineligibility reason is entered within 30 days of a student filing intent for the McKay Scholarship.

The McKay Scholarship District Verification File of students the department intends on payment for the February 2009 payment period will be posted on the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) on January 5, 2009. **The deadline for completing the verification is January 15, 2009.**

If you have any questions related to submitting or formatting the file, please contact Harold McLeod, Education Information Services, at harold.mcleod@fldoe.org. For scholarship payment related questions, please contact payment specialist Scott Lingo at scott.lingo@fldoe.org.



Updating Student Eligibility

In addition to reporting a student that has returned to public school as “EPS” in the District Verification File, it is important for the school district to update the student’s eligibility on the School Choice Web site so that the student does not continue to appear eligible for the program. This will also prevent additional scholarship payments from being generated for the student.

To update the student’s eligibility, you will need to login to the School Choice Web site and find the student on your McKay Student List. Click on the student’s name and scroll to the bottom of the student’s

general information page until you see the **Eligibility Change** section. Select the reason for the student’s eligibility change, enter the effective date, and click “Go” to save the changes (see screen shot below).

Please note that once a student is enrolled in the McKay Scholarship Program in a private school, a school district may only update the student’s eligibility if the student has returned to public school or registered with the school district’s home education office. All other eligibility/matrix changes must be submitted on a Matrix Correction Form.



Inside this issue:

Reporting Eligibility	2
McKay Quick Reference Card	2
Scholarship Programs Director	2
Contact Information	3
Regional Manager Map	3

Eligibility Change

If no longer an eligible scholarship candidate, select the reason and enter the date their status changed:

Ineligible Reason

Ineligible Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Reporting Eligibility for McKay Scholarship Intents

Pursuant to s. 1002.39(5)(b)2.b., F.S., the public school district must notify the department of a student's matrix level within 30 days after receiving the student's intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program.

Please note that a scholarship student may enroll in a participating private school as soon as intent has been filed; therefore, it is extremely important for districts to provide the student's matrix within the timeframe outlined in statute. If an enrolled student does not have a matrix level (or ineligibility reason) assigned at the time payments are processed, a payment will automatically be generated at the 251 matrix level.



The 251 level is the default level used in processing payments; however, a matrix level is not automatically assigned. It must still be entered by the district.

To assist school district representatives in entering matrices in a timely manner, we have initiated an automated e-mail reminder. The reminder will be sent weekly to any school district with overdue intents on the district's McKay Student List. The e-mail will include a list of students with intents filed over 30 days ago.

If you receive an e-mail notification related to overdue intents, please log on to the School Choice Web site to report the student's eligibility as soon as possible.

Quick Reference Card

We believe many parents seek information or hear about the McKay Scholarship Program from ESE or guidance staff at the public school their student attends; therefore, the department created a quick reference card to aid public school staff in providing information to parents about the McKay Scholarship.

The quick reference card has recently been updated and is available on the School Choice website for school districts to voluntarily download and distribute to public school staff. Please assist us in ensuring public school staff are aware and understand the McKay Scholarship Program eligibility requirements so that they may effectively assist parents that are interested in this school choice option.

Scholarship Programs Director—Laura Harrison

We are pleased to introduce Laura Harrison, the new Director of Scholarship Programs and Home Education. Laura came to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice from the department's Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, where she worked for the past three years. Laura has an extensive knowledge of ESE programs and additional experience as a elementary school classroom teacher.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Political Science. Her passion for school choice is evident in her enthusiasm and commitment to administer quality scholarship programs in Florida.

The following is a message from Laura:

I feel very fortunate to be working in an area of education that I feel passionate about. I hope to successfully carry on the level of quality and integrity that has already been implemented in the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

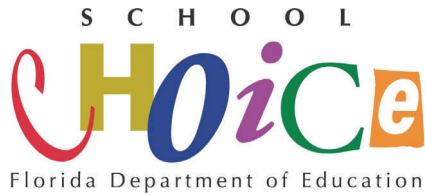


Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Michael Kooi, Esq.
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



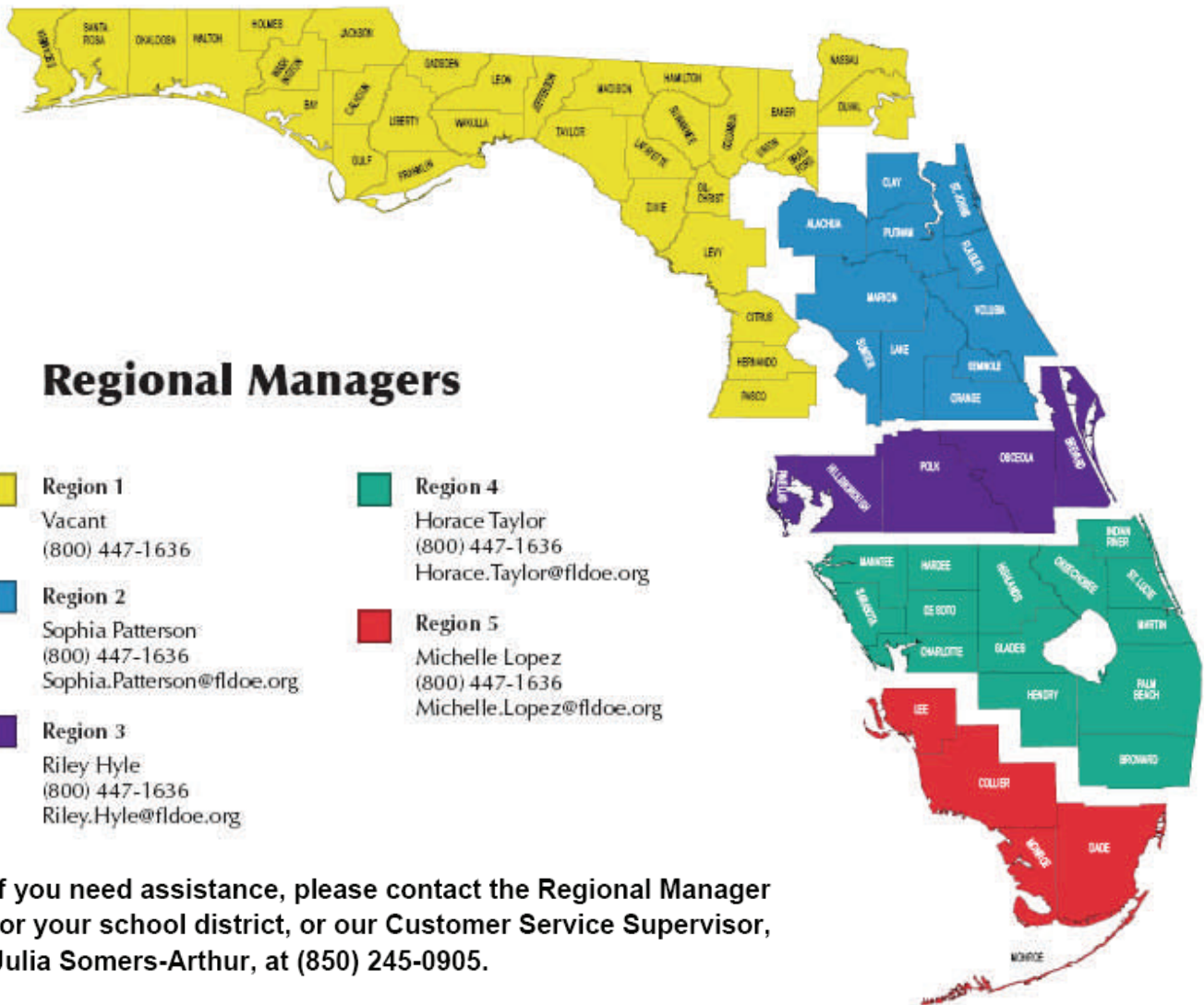
Florida Department of Education

"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 Web site when logged in as a district administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link in the General Information section of the screen.



Regional Managers

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Region 1
Vacant
(800) 447-1636 |  Region 4
Horace Taylor
(800) 447-1636
Horace.Taylor@fldoe.org |
|  Region 2
Sophia Patterson
(800) 447-1636
Sophia.Patterson@fldoe.org |  Region 5
Michelle Lopez
(800) 447-1636
Michelle.Lopez@fldoe.org |
|  Region 3
Riley Hyle
(800) 447-1636
Riley.Hyle@fldoe.org | |

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.