



Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 4, Issue 1

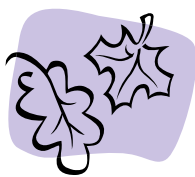
September-October 2009



Welcome back to the new school year!

Special points of interest:

- The District FTE File for the September payment period will be available September 30.
- The next District Verification File will be available October 5 and must be submitted by October 12.



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We hope everyone had a relaxing summer and is prepared for the busy school year ahead. Of note at this time of year:

McKay Intents

Parents are continuing to file intent for the current school year, so please be sure to log in to the School Choice Web Site to check your intent list on a regular basis.

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. Our system verifies that the student met FTE requirements. District staff must confirm that the student is currently a public school student and has an Individual Education Plan.

District Verification File

The first quarter McKay Scholarship payments for the 2009-10 school year were issued September 1st. As private schools are reviewing payments, they will begin to submit the **McKay District Verification Form** to school districts for certain students that did not receive a payment.

This form must be completed by the parent, private school, and school district if a scholarship student did not receive a payment because the district reported the student as enrolled in public school (EPS) in error. In addition to completing the form, please update the student information in your district records if the student is now enrolled in a participating private school. This will ensure the student is not marked EPS in error in the future.

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



Take Note

Scholarship Groups Merge

Florida P.R.I.D.E. and Children First Florida, two scholarship funding organizations that previously served different geographical areas of the state, joined forces this summer to become **Step Up for Students.**



The new organization, created in order to effect administrative efficiencies and better serve the families of Florida, is helmed by John LeHockey, a decorated career Marine Corps Colonel, and expert in strategic planning and military leadership.

The current regional service centers and staff in Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa will remain accessible to families. **Carrie Meek Foundation** will continue as the Scholarship Funding Organization in portions of Miami-Dade County. For more information, visit

www.stepupforstudents.org.

Scholarship Newsletters Online

In addition to this ***District Newsletter*** sent bi-monthly to Florida district contacts, the School Choice Office also issues a monthly newsletter to all private schools that participate in the McKay and Florida Tax Credit Scholarships. To view the ***Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter***, go to www.floridaschoolchoice.org, select **Parent Resources** in the menu bar, and go to the **Scholarships Newsletter** header.

McKay Public School Issues

Public School Choice for McKay Students

Please be reminded that **there is no statutory deadline** for public school choice for students who will participate in the Public School McKay Scholarship Option. Districts may accept McKay public school students throughout the school year, provided that there is available space in the selected school and the appropriate program for the student according to his or her IEP. The same applies for eligible McKay Scholarship students requesting transfer to a public school in an adjacent school district.

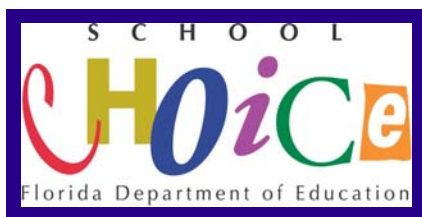
Students currently in a McKay private school may choose to exercise the McKay public school option. Parents are required to notify the school district that the student is returning to public school under the McKay Public School Option, and the district will discuss with the parent what choices might be available. In the future, if the parent wishes for the student to return to a private school under McKay, the student would need to reapply and meet all eligibility requirements including having an IEP and meeting the prior year in attendance requirement.

Reporting Public School McKay Students

The Department of Education collects data related to the educational choice options selected by students enrolled in each school district. 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.**

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.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



*"Improving K-12 Educational
Choice Options"*

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If you need assistance. . . Please contact the Regional Manager for your district, or our Customer Service Supervisor, Pam London, at (850) 245-0761.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES			
2009-2010	District Verification File		District FTE File
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Available Date
September	August 3rd	August 10th	September 30th
November	October 5th	October 12th	November 20th
February	January 4th	January 11th	February 19th
April	March 3rd	March 11th	May 7th

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.

Interested in back issues? 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.