



Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 4, Issue 2

November-December 2009

Prior Year in Attendance



Special points of interest:

- The public school district must offer the parent of a McKay student a reevaluation at least once every three years.
- The deadline for the parent to file a McKay intent to participate and receive a third quarter scholarship payment is **December 3rd**.

Florida law requires a student to have spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school in order to be eligible for a McKay Scholarship. "Prior school year in attendance" is defined by section 1002.39(2)(a)1., Florida Statutes, as being reported for funding in the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys.

Therefore, any intent filed during the 2009-10 school year will be verified by the Department against the **October 2008 and February 2009** FTE survey data. A student **does not** have to be reported for funding in the October 2009 funding survey to be eligible for the current school year.

There may be instances when a student misses the current-year October survey count; however, the student's eligibility is determined based on the prior school year's FTE surveys and the student's present status as a public school student with an IEP.

It is the school district's responsibility to ensure the student has an IEP and to enter the appropriate matrix number within 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager.

DJJ and McKay Eligibility

When determining **initial McKay eligibility** for a student, please be aware that a student is not eligible while he or she is enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment programs. However, time spent in a DJJ commitment program counts towards a student's prior year in attendance if the program is funded under the Florida Education Finance Program.

A **current McKay Scholarship student** who becomes enrolled in a DJJ commitment program for 15 or more calendar days is no longer eligible for the McKay Scholarship. This is considered a "Return to Public School" and should be indicated as such in the Eligibility Change section of the student's General Information page (accessed by logging on to the School Choice Web site). If the student spends less than 15 consecutive days in the DJJ commitment program, the student remains eligible to continue in the McKay program.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Take Note | 2 |
| District FTE File | 2 |
| Verification File | 2 |
| Deadline Chart | 3 |



New Scholarship Program Manager: *Pamela London*

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Pamela London** as our new **Scholarship Program Manager**. Pam originally joined the Department of Education in 2005 as a Regional Manager and has acted as Assistant Scholarship Program Manager for the last three years. In addition to overseeing the Customer Service Center, Pam now manages the entire Scholarship Program staff.



With a degree in public administration, Pam worked for many years in the Alachua County court system, and as a Program Specialist in Exceptional Student Education for the Alachua County School District.

When not working, Pam enjoys cruises and traveling to other countries, reading, and spending time with her granddaughter, Alexis.

Pam is a strong believer in parental choice in education and is looking forward to bringing her extensive understanding of scholarship issues and knowledge of the laws that govern the programs to her new position.



Take Note

Student Services – Student Services recently moved to the Department of Education Turlington Building in Tallahassee, FL. The new telephone number to reach Student Services is (850) 245-7851. Contact: Bettye Hyle, at (850) 245-7851 or via e-mail at bhle@tempest.coedu.usf.edu.

Services to Students with Disabilities Placed in Residential Care Facilities – The 2009 Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 1128 to create a new section of law related to the provision of educational services to exceptional education students with disabilities placed in private residential facilities. A recent memo is available from the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, which includes background information and provides a summary of the new requirements that apply to public school districts, placing agencies, and private residential facilities. Contact: via email at karen.denbroeder@fldoe.org or kim.komisar@fldoe.org or via phone at (850) 245-0476.

District FTE File

The McKay Scholarship District FTE File will be available **November 20, 2009**. This file provides each district with a list of students participating in the McKay Scholarship Program that received a payment. These students must be reported as McKay students (3518) to generate the necessary funding unless the student is physically in attendance at a public school. In this case, the student must be reported as a public school student.

McKay Prepayment Verification File

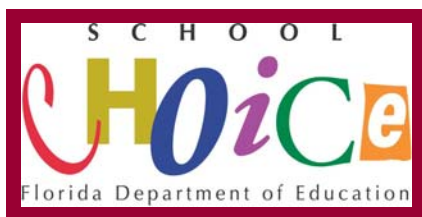


Prior to each quarterly McKay payment, a prepayment verification file is posted for the districts to download and verify a McKay student's enrollment or withdrawal from the public school district.

The Student ID contained in this report is the same Student ID that was assigned by the district when the student filed the intent to participate. If the district has a current Student ID that does not match the one assigned in the McKay prepayment verification file, it can be updated by simply e-mailing Payment Specialist Scott Lingo at scott.lingo@fldoe.org.

The e-mail should contain the student name, Student ID assigned in the McKay prepayment verification file and the new Student ID the district would like assigned.

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 Scholarship Programs Manager, 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.