

Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 4, Issue 3

January-February 2010



McKay Intent Process

For the current school year: 2009-2010

The last day to file intent for the 2009-10 school year is January 31, 2010. Any new scholarship students who file intent by this date must be enrolled in a participating private school by March 2, 2010, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2010. Intents for the current school year will not be valid after April 30, 2010. If the parent has not utilized the scholarship by this date, a new intent should be filed for 2010-11 school year.

For the upcoming school year: 2010-2011

Intents filed after January 31, 2010, will be for the 2010-11 school year. Although a student is not eligible for payment during the current school year if the intent is filed after January 31st, a parent with a valid 2010-11 intent may choose to enroll a student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year at his/her own expense. Of course, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the 2009-10 school year.

For intents filed for the 2010-11 school year, we will continue to use the following process to verify a student's prior year in attendance in public school:

1. If the intent is filed prior to the receipt of the February 2010 survey data by the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, the system verifies the student's attendance based on the October and February survey from the **previous school year** (2008-09) per statute.
2. A student that is **not** found in the previous year's October and February FTE data will be verified against the current year's October survey. If the student was reported in October 2009, a red flag by the student's name will prompt the district to verify the student's attendance in public school during the February 2010 survey week.
3. After the receipt of the February 2010 survey data, the system will verify that the student is found in the October 2009 and February 2010 survey data only. If the student is not found in both surveys, the student is ineligible and the intent cannot be completed.

Our records indicate only a small number of intents filed each year require manual verification of attendance as described in step 2. We greatly appreciate your continued assistance in effectively determining student eligibility for the McKay Scholarship.

Special points of interest:

- The McKay Verification File will be posted on March 3, 2010. The file must be submitted by March 11, 2010.
- **Reminder:** Intents must be completed with an assigned matrix number or ineligibility code within 30 days of filing.

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Parent Notification Requirements

Districts are required by [Section 1002.39\(5\)\(a\)1., Florida Statutes](#), to notify parents of public school students with disabilities of all available school choice options **by April 1 of each year and within 10 days of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting**. Districts may comply with the IEP meeting notification requirement by providing the parent with information at the end of an IEP meeting or by mail after the meeting. The information must include availability of the Department's toll-free information hotline and School Choice Web site, and must offer the student's parent an opportunity to enroll the student in another public school within the district.



Please document the method and number of notifications provided for the April 1 distribution. The Department will request verification of compliance through the submission of a District Parent Notification Report, which must be faxed back to the Department by April 10.

A memorandum including the reporting form and sample notification letters will shortly be distributed to districts via e-mail and through the Department's paperless communication system.

District Services to McKay Students

Once a McKay Scholarship student enrolls in a participating private school, the student is described as a "parentally placed private school student with a disability" and has no individual entitlement to free appropriate public education (FAPE). However, school districts have an obligation to ensure that such private school students attending a non-profit private school within the district have an opportunity to participate in programs assisted by or carried out under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004).

IDEA Part B requires school districts to expend a proportionate amount of the IDEA Part B funds for providing special education and related services to parentally placed private school students with disabilities. These services should be provided through a Services Plan and **not** an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Once a student enrolls in a private school, the IEP does not apply.

Additional information about these IDEA 2004 Part B requirements can be found in the Technical Assistance Paper entitled [Students with Disabilities Enrolled by Their Parents in Private Schools](#) and [Rule 6A-6.03021, Florida Administrative Code](#).



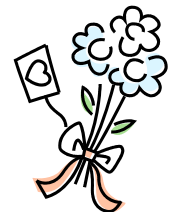
Take Note

Mismatched StudentID

Prior to each quarterly payment, a McKay Verification File is posted for the districts to verify each student's enroll date (into public school) or withdraw date (from public school). When a McKay intent is filed, the StudentID assigned to the student at that time is the one which will appear in the quarterly Verification File. If the StudentID on the quarterly Verification File does not match the ID the district has on record, the payment can only be processed after considerable delay and unnecessary work on the part of the McKay Office and the district to verify the student. In order to avoid this, please contact our office to correct mismatched StudentIDs as you become aware of them. E-mail correction information to our Payment Specialist, Scott Lingo: scott.lingo@fldoe.org.

Feedback Welcome

As the Scholarship Office administers McKay processes, we are always looking for ways to improve. If you have a suggestion for ways that we can improve our accuracy, efficiency or communications with stakeholders, please get in touch. We welcome your input.



Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



*"Improving K-12 Educational
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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.