

Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 4, Issue 4

March-April 2010

District Systems and Eligibility



Special points of interest:

- The district FTE file of students that received a McKay Scholarship payment for April 2010 will be made available on May 7, 2010.
- If your school district has not yet submitted a Notification Verification Form, please do so by April 1. The Department must receive a form from each district to certify compliance with parental notification requirements.
- February FTE data should be available to districts by April 30 or May 1.



Inside:

Take Note	2
District Update	2
Parent Information	2
Deadline Chart	3

With the end of the school year approaching, we would like to extend a reminder to school districts about the effect of automatic enrollment and withdrawal systems on McKay Scholarship students.

Some school districts have a system in place that automatically enrolls a student into his or her assigned public school when the student transitions from elementary to middle or middle to high school. Unfortunately, this creates a difficult situation when a McKay Scholarship student that has been participating in the program (sometimes for several school years) is reported as enrolled in public school in the fall and his or her payment is cancelled. The time consuming process of completing a District Verification Form must then be undertaken for each affected student. Therefore, in preparation for the 2010-11 school year, we ask that you take steps to ensure that matriculating students participating in the McKay Scholarship Program will not be automatically re-enrolled in public school.

In addition, some school districts have a system in place that automatically withdraws all public school students at the end the school year until they return to school in the fall. This may create problems for students applying for the McKay Scholarship Program during the summer months. Please note that for purposes of McKay Scholarship Program eligibility, a student that completes the school year is a public school student over the summer unless the parent physically withdraws the student from public school. Therefore, please be mindful of public school withdrawal dates when determining the eligibility of students that file intent during the summer if your school district has an automated system in place.

Reminder -

Establishing Eligibility in Pre-K

The McKay Scholarship may be awarded to eligible students beginning in their kindergarten year; however, a student may file intent and establish eligibility for the program in pre-kindergarten pursuant to section 1002.39(2)(a)3., F.S.

In order to be eligible to receive the McKay Scholarship in kindergarten, a student must have been enrolled and reported for funding during the preceding October and February FEFP surveys and have been eligible for services under [s. 1003.21\(1\)\(e\), F.S.](#) (i.e., as a pre-k student with disabilities). In addition, the student must have an Individual Education Plan and be a public school student at the time intent is filed.

District McKay Contact Information

Please help us ensure the Department has updated contact information for district McKay Scholarship representatives. The [District Contacts](#) are posted on the School Choice Web site and accessed by parents and private schools on the quick navigation bar of the McKay Scholarship main page.

Contact information may be updated by selecting the **District Info** link on the quick navigation bar when logged in as a District. Scroll down and click on the pencil icon next to the **McKay Private** contact, make any necessary revisions, and click **Save Changes**.



Take Note

2010 Legislative Session

The 2010 Florida Legislature is in session from March 2—April 30, 2010. There are several bills proposed in both the House and the Senate that, if passed by both chambers and approved by the Governor, could affect Florida private schools in general and also those participating in the state scholarship programs. The Department has prepared a [Scholarship Program and Private School Bill Summary](#) which describes each of these bills. For more information about the legislative session or to contact your legislators, please visit [Online Sunshine](#), the official site of the Florida Legislature.

Toolkit for educators to help military families

A toolkit entitled **Supporting the Military Child** is available from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) to help school leaders meet the needs of children whose parents are deployed or in transition. About 2 million American children have had one or both parents deployed since 2001. Understanding the challenges facing military families—and the resources available to help military children—is essential to meet their special educational needs. This free online resource is available on the AASA Web site at: www.aasa.org/MilitaryChild.aspx.

School Choice Town Hall Meetings announced

A series of Town Hall Meetings will be held at five locations throughout Florida to provide parents with information about the variety of choices available for their child's education, and ways parents can partner with schools to support their child's academic success. The presentations, sponsored by the School Choice Parent Advisory Council, will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month, starting March 23rd, in Quincy, Jacksonville, Tampa, Miami and Orlando. For more information, visit <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/vpsc/>.

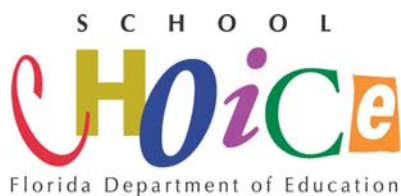
McKay Information for Parents

After a parent files intent to participate in the McKay program, a letter is sent to the parent that includes the student's intent confirmation number and intent date. A brochure entitled *Next Steps for Parents Filing for the John M. McKay Scholarship* is also enclosed. The brochure includes instructions for choosing a participating private school or requesting public school McKay options from the district.

We hope this aids parents in understanding their options as well as their responsibilities related to the program. School districts should be familiar with this brochure in case a parent references it when contacting you. The brochure is available on the School Choice Web site at www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/mckay/files/intent_now_what.pdf.



Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



*"Improving K-12 Educational
Choice Options"*

Michael Kooi
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

On the web at:
WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

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 2010-2011				
	<u>District Verification File</u>			<u>District FTE File</u>
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update	Available Date
September	August 3rd	August 6th	August 10th	September 30th
November	October 4th	October 7th	October 11th	November 20th
February	January 3rd	January 6th	January 10th	February 19th
April	March 3rd	March 9th	March 11th	May 7th

District Verification File: McKay pre-payment file which is exported to districts to verify that students are not enrolled in the 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.