

Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 4, Issue 6

July-August 2010

District Verification Deadlines

District enrollment verification of students to be funded through the McKay Scholarship is an important accountability safeguard built into the program to ensure funding is appropriately distributed. The chart below displays the verification dates for the 2010-2011 school year. For each payment period, the McKay student file

will be available to districts via the Northwest Regional Data Center (NWRDC) site on the date listed for district review and verification, and must be submitted by the deadline in red. Once payments have been issued, the NWRDC will post the list of paid students.

For questions regarding payments, please contact the School Choice Payment Specialist, Scott Lingo, by e-mail at scott.lingo@fldoe.org.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES 2010-2011				
	District Verification File			District FTE File
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.

Special points of interest:

- The first McKay Verification file for the 2010-2011 school year will be available on **August 3, 2010**, and must be completed by **August 6, 2010**.
- **Deadline Reminder:** **August 2nd** is the enrollment deadline for McKay students. Please review your student lists to ensure that the status of McKay applicants is posted in a timely manner.

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HB 1505 Scholarship Application

House Bill 1505, related to Education Programs for Children with Disabilities, took effect July 1, 2010. Parents may submit a **House Bill 1505 Scholarship Application** for the McKay Scholarship via the School Choice Web site. When the form is submitted, the Department of Education will automatically verify whether the child:

- Was enrolled and reported by a Florida public school district for funding, during October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys, in any year between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2010.
- Would be a first-time McKay Scholarship recipient in the 2011-2012 school year.

When the HB 1505 Application is submitted, the district can view it on the Web site via the Quick Nav Bar. When the parent receives a confirmation number, they are instructed to contact their current school district as soon as possible. The school district ESE office will determine whether the child is an eligible student with a disability and will develop a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) if one is needed. IEPs must be completed by June 30, 2011.

A memo entitled [Overview & Implementation of House Bill 1505](#) provides responses to frequently asked questions.





Take Note

Beware of District Virtual School

McKay parents and private schools are able to enroll McKay students in up to two Florida Virtual School (FLVS) classes per year while maintaining their McKay Scholarship. FLVS is not funded through FEFP, and thus does not result in loss of the scholarship.

However, enrolling in a **district-run** virtual school program which is FEFP-funded **will result in forfeiture** of the scholarship. If your district offers such a program, please ensure that registrars are aware of this issue and screen for private school students who may be enrolled in the McKay Scholarship Program.

In the Spotlight: Kerry Pond, New Regional Manager

The Scholarships Office is pleased to announce the appointment of Kerry Pond as Regional Manager for Region 6. With the addition of Ms. Pond, our regional map has been realigned to better serve all of our districts and our scholarship schools. (See next page.)



Kerry Pond, Region 6 Manager

Kerry comes to us with an undergraduate degree in History and a Masters in Museum and Library Science. She has previously worked with the state of Alabama as an archivist, and with the Florida Department of State as part of the Florida Memory Project. A native of Delray Beach, Florida, Kerry has a strong interest in history and especially genealogy.

Kerry enjoys her work in the School Choice office and is a strong advocate of school choice. "I think that all parents should be able to choose the type of school that their child needs. It's such a worthy goal," she says.

Enrollment Verification Tips

Enrollment Status

Because the August Enrollment Verification process concludes before school begins, there may be uncertainty in some cases as to the student's enrollment status. As a policy, if a student has not officially withdrawn from public school, or has registered as a new public school student, then the district should indicate the student as **enrolled** on the Enrollment Verification Form.

However, if the student was withdrawn from public school by the parent, or if the student was not enrolled in public school at the end of the previous year, the student should not be shown as enrolled as a public school student for the current year.

Withdrawal: A Critical Step

When a student is determined to have returned to public school, the district **must withdraw** the student on the Web site to indicate the student returned to public school, in addition to reporting the public school enrollment date. Withdrawal will prevent the system from incorrectly generating any further payments. (Simply reporting the enrolled date will cause the current payment to be cancelled, but future payments may still be processed if the student is not also shown as withdrawn from McKay.)

Note: If a student does withdraw from the district to attend a McKay private school after being withdrawn via the McKay Web site, a Matrix Correction Form will be required to get the student's matrix updated and validate the withdrawal.

DJJ

In accordance with statute, a McKay Scholarship student is considered returned to public school upon entry into a Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) detention center for a period of fifteen days. School districts should track McKay students that have entered a DJJ facility and on the fifteenth day, withdraw the student from the McKay program via the McKay Web site. These students should be withdrawn as "Student in DJJ" and the withdraw date should be the first day the student entered the DJJ facility when the fifteen days were accrued.

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

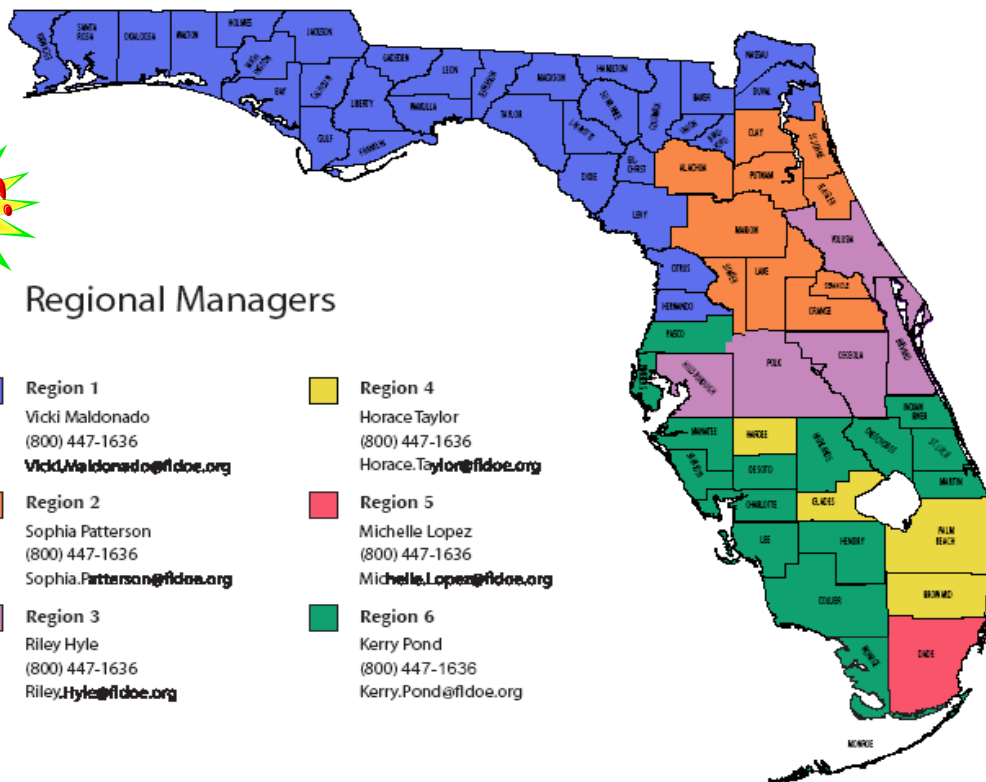
On the web at:
WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

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



Regional Managers

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region 1
Vicki Maldonado
(800) 447-1636
Vicki.Maldonado@fldoe.org Region 2
Sophia Patterson
(800) 447-1636
Sophia.Patterson@fldoe.org Region 3
Riley Hyle
(800) 447-1636
Riley.Hyle@fldoe.org | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region 4
Horace Taylor
(800) 447-1636
Horace.Taylor@fldoe.org Region 5
Michelle Lopez
(800) 447-1636
Michelle.Lopez@fldoe.org Region 6
Kerry Pond
(800) 447-1636
Kerry.Pond@fldoe.org |
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