

# Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 5, Issue 2

November/December 2010



## 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**.



## Inside:

Regional Manager Changes	2
Prepayment Verification	2
Prior Year Attendance	3
School Choice Month	3
Contact Information	4

## HB 1505 Intents

Only non-public school students enrolled and reported by the district for funding during the October and February FEFP Surveys in any of the five years prior to the 2010-2011 fiscal year (encompassing July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010) may file the HB 1505 intent.

Students eligible for the HB 1505 intent must be a first-time McKay Scholarship recipient, not currently enrolled in public school. It is the responsibility of the parent to contact the district once they have received a confirmation number. The district where the student resides is responsible for determining whether the student is an eligible student with a disability, and is responsible for developing a matrix.

**Students currently enrolled in a public school should not file a HB 1505 intent.** If you have a public school student appearing on your HB 1505 list, please send an e-mail to Scholarships Program Manager Pam London, [pamela.london@fldoe.org](mailto:pamela.london@fldoe.org), requesting that the student be removed from the intent list. The parent will be notified, and a regular intent may be filed.

## Compliance Workshops Announced

The School Choice Office will host Scholarship Compliance Workshops in an effort to provide technical assistance to schools in meeting compliance requirements.

Scholarship staff will present the workshops which will cover: *the application and renewal process, important deadlines and required forms, Level 2 screening, registering and enrolling students, Ethics in Education Act policies and procedures, student records management, and payment issues.*

The workshops will be held from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. We encourage each school to send a representative.

Date	Location
January 20	Tallahassee
January 24	Tampa
January 26	Ft. Lauderdale
January 27	Miami
February 2	Orlando
February 3	Jacksonville

**To register or request more information, please e-mail [amy.gent@fldoe.org](mailto:amy.gent@fldoe.org) with your preferred date and number attending.**

## Regional Manager Changes

The School Choice Office is pleased to announce the appointment of **Monica Robertson** to the position of Regional Manager for



*Monica Robertson  
Region 2*

**Region 2**, which includes most northeast Florida districts. Monica, who graduated from FSU with a BA in Social Work, has been with us for over a year on the Information Hotline. She is now looking forward to expanding her skills in her new position to help private schools as well as parents. "I love helping the

parents who call, because I think it's important for them to find the right place for their kids to get the services and education they need, and helping schools is the next step," she said.

In other news, **Vicki Maldonado**, previously serving as manager for Region 1, will now work with **Region 5** in south Florida.

Vicki, who moved into a Regional Manager position from the Information Hotline in 2009, is bilingual in English and Spanish. She looks forward to working with the schools and parents of Miami-Dade.



*Vicki Maldonado  
Region 5*

*Happy  
Holidays!!!*



## District FTE File

The McKay Scholarship District FTE File will be available **November 18, 2010**. The District FTE file provides each district with a list of students participating in the McKay Scholarship Program that received a payment. Please review and verify this information.

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.

**Beware Virtual School**—While McKay students may take up to two courses per year via Florida Virtual School, enrollment in district virtual school classes that receive FEFP funding or a FLVS franchise program will result in forfeiture of the scholarship, as this is a "return to public school."

## 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 should be updated by e-mailing Payment Specialist Scott Lingo at [scott.lingo@fldoe.org](mailto: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.

## Prior Year in Attendance

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 2010-11 school year will be verified by the Department against the **October 2009 and February 2010** FTE survey data.

A student **does not** have to be reported for funding in the October 2010 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.

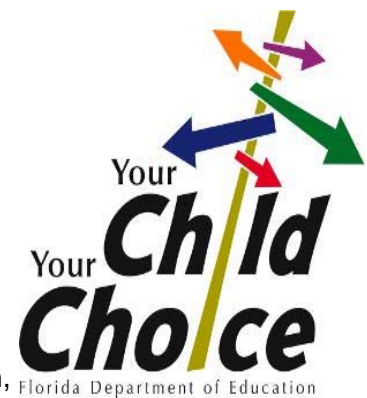
## January is Florida School Choice Month!

The School Choice Office is pleased to announce that Governor Crist has proclaimed January as **Florida School Choice Month!**



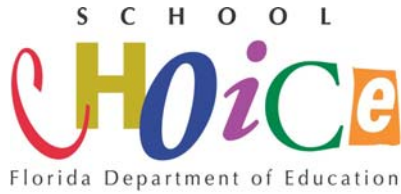
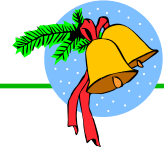
During the month of January, School Choice Awareness events will be held throughout the state, culminating in our very first **School Choice Expo** on **January 22, 2011**, at the Florida Fairgrounds.

Parents, kids, educators, and other stakeholders will enjoy this day-long celebration, featuring choice presentations, school performances, celebrity speakers, food, music and more!



Florida Department of Education  
 Join us **January 22nd** for the **School Choice Expo** at the Florida Fairgrounds!

To learn more about the School Choice Expo and to **reserve your booth**, go to [www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com](http://www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com).



**Michael Kooi**  
**Executive Director**

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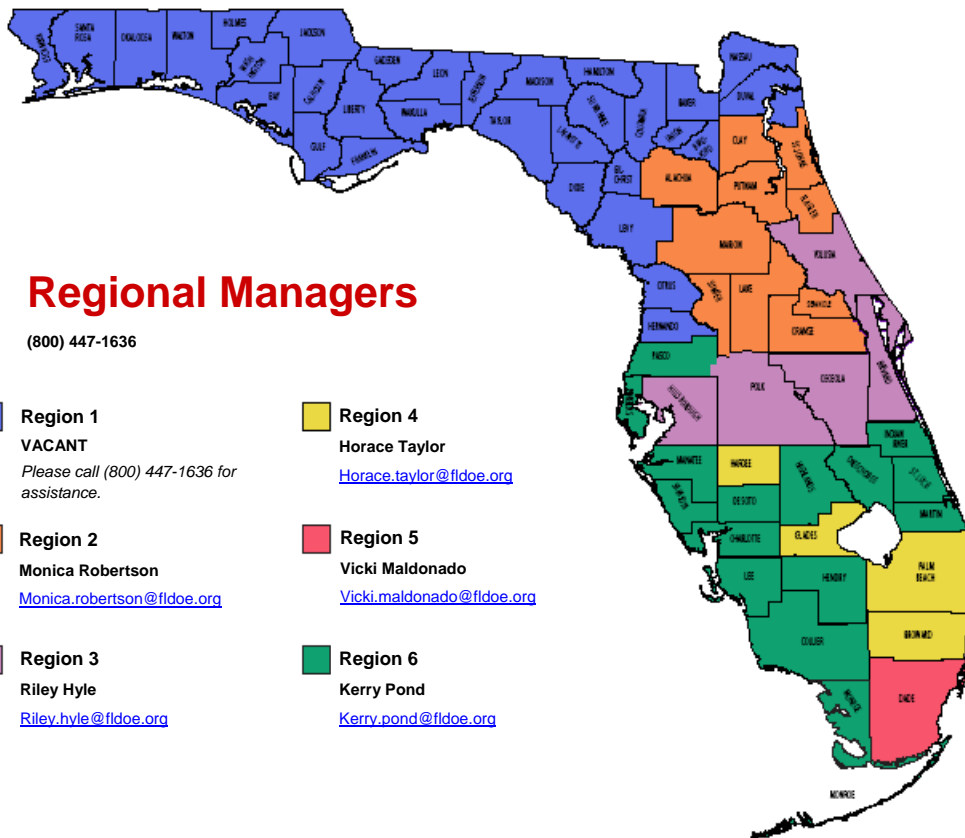
*"Improving K-12 Educational Choice Options"*

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[WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG](http://WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG)

If you need assistance. . .

Please contact your Regional Manager or Scholarship Programs Manager, [Pam London](#).



### Regional Managers

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- **Region 1**  
VACANT  
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*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.*