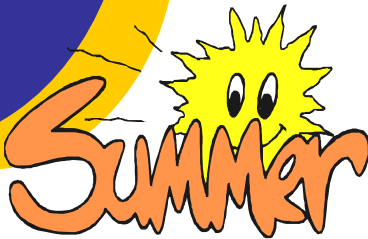


Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 5, Issue 5

May—June 2011



Special points of interest:

- Parents must file intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship by **July 3** in order to receive the first quarterly payment.
- Participating schools must register and enroll McKay students by **August 2** in order to receive the first quarterly payment.
- Districts should ensure that McKay students matriculating from elementary to middle, or from middle to high school are not automatically re-enrolled in the district.

District Verification Deadlines for 2011-2012

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 2011-12 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, Rajani Karri at Rajani.Karri@fldoe.org.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES				
2011-2012	District Verification File			District FTE File
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update	Available Date
September	August 3	August 8	August 10	September 30
November	October 3	October 7	October 11	November 21
February	January 3	January 6	January 10	February 20
April	March 5	March 9	March 12	May 16

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.

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2011 Legislative Changes



The 2011 Florida Legislative session has ended. Several bills related to scholarship programs passed both chambers. If approved by the Governor, these bills would go into effect July 1, 2011.

[House Bill 797, Interscholastic and Intra-scholastic Sports](#), would provide for a state-wide program in which middle school and high school students attending certain private schools may be able to participate in athletics at a public school.

[House Bill 965, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program](#), would expand the amount of tax credit allowed for a contribution made to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

[House Bill 1255, Public School Accountability](#), would revise numerous provisions relating to the K-12 public education system, and would provide an exception to McKay Scholarship ineligibility for students who enter a Department of Juvenile Justice detention center for a period of no more than 21 days.

[House Bill 1329, McKay Scholarships](#), would provide eligibility for program participation to students with disabilities for whom a 504 accommodation plan has been established.

Our office is working closely with the Bureau of Exceptional Education Services to develop guidance and processes that will assist school districts with implementation of HB 1329, should it be approved by the Governor. Please be watching for updates via e-mail over the next few weeks.

For more information or to contact your legislators, please visit [OnlineSunshine](#), the official site of the Florida Legislature.



Spotlight On... David Girtman

The School Choice Office would like to introduce David Girtman, our new Web Specialist.

David, a Tallahassee native, comes to us well qualified. He graduated from Florida State University with a major in graphic design, plus minors in music and communications, and most recently he worked in marketing.



**Web Specialist,
David Girtman**

As Web Specialist, David is responsible for managing and updating the School Choice website, and providing support to the Payment Specialist.

He is pleased to be working with the Department of Education and in particular, in school choice. According to David, "School choice is a great way for students to get the kind of learning and attention they might not be able to get anywhere else."

In his spare time, David works with acapella music groups throughout Florida, and looks forward to furthering his education in digital media communications.

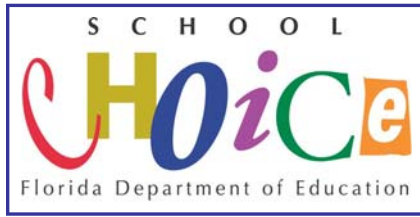


Take Note

HB 1505 Deadline — June 30, 2011

Students applying for the McKay Scholarship under HB 1505 must have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed by the district **no later than June 30, 2011**, and meet specific attendance requirements. Please contact your regional manager should you have questions.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



"Improving K-12 Educational Choice Options"

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If you need assistance. . .

Please contact your Regional Manager or Scholarship Programs Manager, Pam London.

Regional Managers
(800) 447-1636

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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.