Special points of interest:

- The first McKay Verification file for the 2011-2012 school year will be available on **August 3**, and must be completed by **August 8.**

- **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.

- 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.

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 As a policy, if a student has not officially withdrawn from public school, or has registered as a new public school student, then the district should indicate the student as *enrolled* on the Enrollment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However, if the student was withdrawn from public school by the parent, or if the student was not enrolled in public school at the end of the previous year, the student should not be shown as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the current payment to be cancelled, but future payments may still be processed if the student is not also shown as withdrawn from McKay.)

Note: If a student does withdraw from the district to attend a McKay private school after being withdrawn via the McKay Web site, an Eligibility Correction Form will be required to get the student's matrix updated and validate the withdrawal.

NEW!   DJJ

In accordance with recent legislation (HB 1255), 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 **more than 21 days**. (Previously, the limit was 15 days). School districts should track McKay students that have entered a DJJ facility and on the twenty-second 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 These students should be withdrawn as "Student in DJJ" and the *withdraw date* should be the first day the student entered the DJJ facility when the 21 days were accrued.

Sorting out Virtual School and McKay Eligibility

With the expansion of virtual school programs among choice options for Florida students, it is important to distinguish between Florida Virtual School Programs and district level virtual school options and to understand how scholarship eligibility may be affected.

Prior year attendance:

- **FLVS for Home Ed and Private School Students—**As in previous years, home ed and private school students reported for courses completed in a FLVS program are not eligible for McKay because these courses are not funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and the students are not counted in FTE Survey 2 and Survey 3.

- **FLVS Full Time Public Program—**Students counted in FTE Survey 2 and Survey 3 in the FLVS Full Time program are eligible. They are reconsidered public school students and are funded through FEFP.

- **District-based Virtual—**Students counted FTE Survey 2 and Survey 3 in district-based virtual school programs (including District Virtual Program (VIP), District Virtual Course Offerings, a

district FLVS franchise, or a Virtual Charter School) are eligible because these programs are FEFP funded.

Note: Students in the FLVS Full Time program, District VIP, or a district FLVS franchise should be **assumed** eligible pending the results of Survey 4, since they are not reported until completion of their course.

Return to public school:

- **FLVS—**An enrolled McKay student may take up to two FLVS courses per year while maintaining their scholarship.

- **FLVS Full Time Public Program—**Enrollment in this program is regarded as a "return to public school," and will result in the forfeiture of the scholarship, as with any FEFP-funded program.

- **District-based Virtual—**Enrollment in any district-level virtual program (including District VIP, District Virtual Course Offerings, a district FLVS franchise or a Virtual Charter School) is regarded as a "return to public school" and will result in forfeiture of the scholarship

As you assist parents and schools, please try to help them understand these virtual school issues.

504 Plan Eligibility & Web Site Changes

With the signing of House Bill 1329 by the Governor, the McKay Scholarship Program has been expanded to include eligibility for students with a 504 Accommodation Plan.

Effective July 1, 2011, students with a 504 Plan are eligible if:

- They meet the prior year FTE requirements according to law;
- The 504 Plan is issued under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and
- The 504 Plan issued is valid for a period of ***more than 6 months***.

As with the IEP, school districts are required to notify parents of students with 504 Plans about the McKay Scholarship by April 1 of each year and/or within 10 days of a 504 Plan being issued.

The scholarship amount for the 504 Plan student

will be based upon the current student program cost factor generated by the student.

Web Site Changes
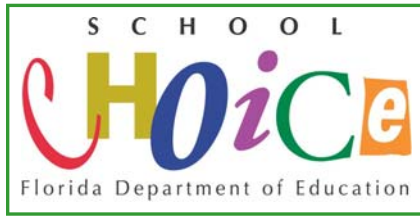
When filing intent, a parent is now asked to indicate whether the student has an IEP or a 504 Plan. Intents for 504 Plan students are flagged on the district page in red:

Intents for students who were incorrectly designated as 504 may be corrected on the student intent page. This will allow districts to change the status for 504 students marked ineligible prior to the July 1 effective date.

504 Eligibility *...Continued from p. 2*

Be certain that your 504 students are NOT shown with a status of "basic." The drop-down window for 504 intent status options does not include a "basic" designation.

Please get in touch with your Regional Manager if you have any questions.

Correction Form Changes

The official form used for the correction of McKay student eligibility status has been revised to reflect recent legislative changes.

Effective immediately, the new **Eligibility Correction Form** replaces the Matrix Correction Form. In addition to the change of name, the new form allows district staff to submit status change requests associated with students with 504 Accommodation Plans.

District Deadlines 2011-2012

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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If you need assistance. . .

▶ Please contact your Regional Manager or Scholarship Programs Manager, Pam London, (850) 245-0761.

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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.*