



# FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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November-December 2011



## 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 2011-12 school year will be verified by the Department against the October 2010 and February 2011 FTE survey data.

A student does not have to be reported for funding in the October 2011 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 or 504 Plan.

It is the school district's responsibility to ensure the student has an IEP or a 504 Plan that is valid for more than 6 months, and to enter the appropriate status within 30 days. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager.

### Special points of interest:

- **Reminder:** The public school district must offer the parent of a McKay student with an IEP a re-evaluation 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**.



## District Verification Form

By November 1, McKay schools received their second quarterly scholarship payment. With each quarterly payment, the School Choice Office provides a **Reconciliation Report** to ensure that each enrolled student is paid appropriately, and that payments are not issued to students who are not entitled to receive a payment. Beginning with the November payment, the Reconciliation Report is no longer included in the payment packet. Instead, it is available online when logged in as a private school.

The Reconciliation Report lists McKay students for whom a payment has not been issued, along with the reason the payment was not issued. For students listed EPS (enrolled in public school) in error, a **McKay District Verification Form**, signed by the school, the parent and the district, must be submitted to our office.

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## District FTE File

The McKay Scholarship District FTE File will be available **November 21, 2011**. 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.*

Please contact Payment Specialist David Girtman with any questions.



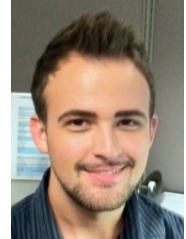
MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES				
2011-2012	District Verification File			District FTE File
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update	Available Date
September	August 3	August 8	August 10	September 30
November	October 3	October 7	October 11	November 21
February	January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





## *In the Spotlight—* New Web Specialist, Stephen Bochnia

The School Choice Office is pleased to introduce our new Web Specialist, Stephen Bochnia. Stephen joins our staff with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design from FSU and considerable experience as a web design consultant. In addition to Stephen's responsibilities in working with the School Choice website and making sure all forms and pages are up to date, he will also act as backup to David Girtman, our Payment Specialist.



*Stephen Bochnia,  
School Choice Web  
Specialist*

A native of north Florida, Stephen grew up in Madison County where he completed his Associate degree at North Florida Community College before relocating to Tallahassee to complete his education. In his spare time, he pursues his interests in music and digital art.

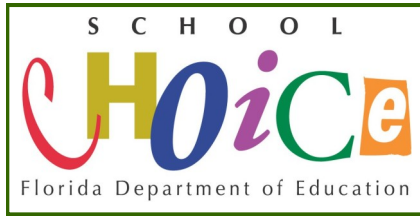
Stephen is pleased to be part of the School Choice team. "I am very aware of the gamut of needs out there, with my mom working with ESE students," Stephen recalls. "I think students obviously need and deserve choices."

## Newsletters Online

In addition to this ***District Newsletter*** sent bi-monthly to Florida district contacts, the School Choice Office also issues a monthly newsletter to all private schools that participate in the McKay and Florida Tax Credit Scholarships. To view the ***Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter***, go to [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org), select **Parent Resources** in the menu bar, and go to the **Scholarships Newsletter** header.



### Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice



*"Improving K-12 Educational Choice Options"*

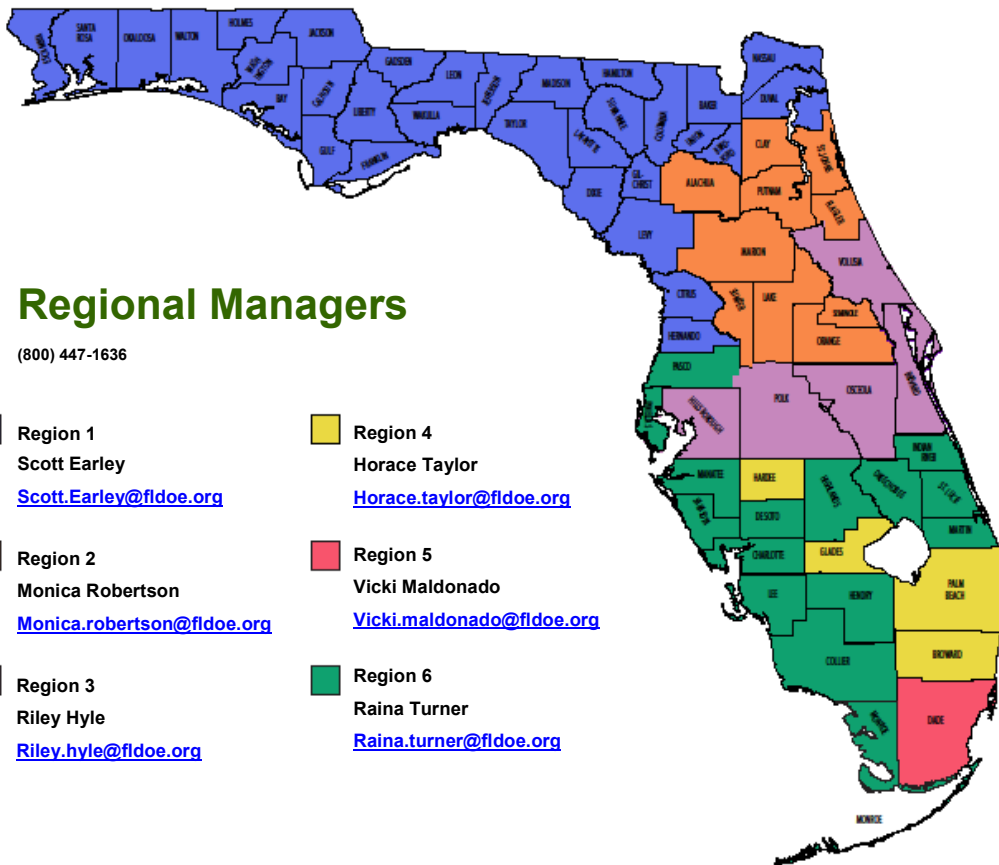
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*Interested in back issues? Current and previous newsletters are available in PDF format on the School Choice Website when logged in as a district administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link in the General Information section.*