



**Special points of interest:**

- The first McKay Verification file for the 2012-2013 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.

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# FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Florida Scholarship

July-August 2012

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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 As a policy, if a student has not officially withdrawn from public school, or has registered as a new public school student, then the district should indicate the student as **enrolled** on the Enrollment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However, if the student was withdrawn from public school by the parent, or if the student was not enrolled in public school at the end of the previous year, the student should not be shown as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the current payment to be cancelled, but future payments may still be processed if the student is not also shown as withdrawn from McKay.)

Note: If a student does withdraw from the district to attend a McKay private school after being withdrawn via the McKay website, an Eligibility Correction Form will be required to get the student's matrix updated and validate the withdrawal.

### DJJ

Reminder: In accordance with 2011 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 website. 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.

## Opportunity Scholarship Program



During the 2012 legislative session, the Florida legislature passed and Governor Scott signed House Bill 7127, an act relating to school improvement and accountability. Within that bill, the definition of school eligibility as related to the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP) was amended to include those schools earning a grade of “F” or three consecutive “Ds” as based on the statewide assessments conducted pursuant to s. 1008.22, F.S. Current statute requires districts to offer the parents of affected students the option to enroll their student(s) in a higher performing public school (receiving a performance grade of “C” or better) in their district **with** transportation or in any other district in the state **without** transportation.

On July 12, 2012, following the release of the 2011-12 school grades the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice notified the 15 OSP eligible public school districts of their affected schools, providing each district

with a list of OSP eligible elementary and middle schools. The eligible OSP high schools will follow in late Fall 2012. As provided by statute as well as the new Rule 6A-6.0950, F.A.C., parents of students assigned to or in attendance during the previous school year (by way of assignment) at an OSP eligible elementary or middle school must be notified of the options within 15 days of notification by the Department of Education. Parents of students assigned to or in attendance during the previous school year (by way of assignment) at an OSP eligible high school must be notified of the options no later than 30 days prior to the first day of school the next school year.

For additional information on OSP, or to view a list of affected public schools, please visit

<http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/OSP/> . Any questions or concerns can be directed to Rachel Somers or Vicki Maldonado in the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice (850) 245-0502.

## District Deadlines 2012-2013

<b>McKay Scholarship Program District Deadlines</b>				
<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>District Verification File</b>			<b>District FTE File</b>
<b>Payment Period</b>	<b>Available Date</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Final Update</b>	<b>Available Date</b>
<b>September</b>	August 3	<b>August 8</b>	August 10	September 6
<b>November</b>	October 3	<b>October 8</b>	October 10	November 6
<b>February</b>	January 3	<b>January 8</b>	January 10	February 7
<b>April</b>	March 4	<b>March 7</b>	March 11	April 2

## 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.

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

**District-based Virtual**—Students counted in 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.

**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.

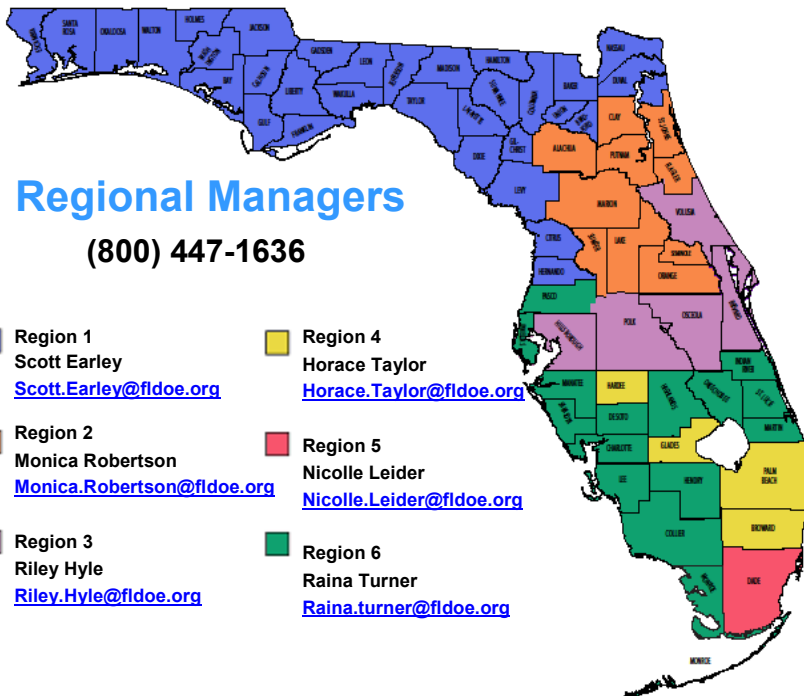
### Return to public school:

**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.

**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.

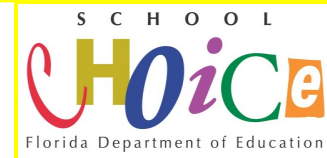
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*"Improving K-12 Educational  
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