



# Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

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September-October 2012

## Welcome

Everyone at the Office of Independent Education would like to welcome all District contacts to the new e-mail newsletter. This September-October issue is full of information to help you as you continue to work with scholarship participating students. We would like to thank you for your work with school choice and your dedication to these students. If you have any questions or need help with any eligibility issues, know that your Regional Manager is only a phone call away. We hope that everyone has a great school year.

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## Contact Us

Florida Department of  
Education  
325 W. Gaines Street,  
Suite 1044  
Tallahassee,  
FL 32399-0400

Toll-Free: (800) 447-  
1636  
Fax: (850) 245-0875

## Public School McKay Reminders

Please be reminded that **there is no statutory deadline** for the Public School McKay Scholarship Option. Districts may accept McKay public school students throughout the school year, provided there is available space in the selected school and the appropriate program for the student according to his or her IEP or 504 Plan. The same applies for eligible McKay Scholarship students requesting transfer to a public school in an adjacent district.

Students currently in a McKay private school may exercise the McKay public school option. Parents are required to notify the district that the student is returning to the public school under the McKay Public School Option, and the district will discuss with the parent what choices are available. In the future, if the parent wishes for the student to return to a private school under McKay, the student will need to file a new intent and meet all eligibility requirements including having an IEP or 504 Plan and meeting the prior year attendance requirement.

### Reporting Public McKay Students

The Department of Education collects data related to the educational choice options selected by students enrolled in each school district. This data includes the number of students who transfer to another public school through the McKay Scholarship Program. **Public school McKay participation is reported in the Educational Choice Data Element in the Automated Student Data Base as code M.**

Please help us ensure that the number of students being reported as McKay



E-mail:  
schoolchoice@fldoe.org

On the Web  
at: floridaschoolchoice.org

public school students is accurate. Our office receives multiple requests for this information and greatly appreciates your assistance in providing the highest quality data.

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## McKay Intent Lists



As the school year progresses, parents will continue to file intent for the current school year through February 1, so please be sure to check your intent list on a regular basis.

Section 1002.39, F.S., requires the school district to notify the Department of the student's matrix level or to verify

the student has a 504 Plan issued, within 30 days after receiving notification of a request to participate in the scholarship program. Our system does a preliminary check on whether or not the student met FTE requirements. District staff should confirm that the student met FTE requirements, was a public school student when intent was filed, and has an Individual Education Plan or a 504 Plan that is effective for more than 6 months.

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## District Deadlines 2012-2013

The first quarter McKay Scholarship payments for the 2012-13 school year were issued September 1st. As private schools are reviewing payments, they will begin to submit the **McKay District Verification Form** to school districts for certain students that did not receive a payment. This form must be completed by the parent, private school, and school district if a scholarship student did not receive a payment because the district reported the student as enrolled in public school (EPS) in error. In addition to completing the form, please update the student information in your district records if the student is now enrolled in a participating private school. This will ensure the student is not marked EPS in error in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Manager.

## McKay Scholarship Program District Deadlines

2012-2013	District Verification File			Distri Fi
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update	Avai Da
<b>September</b>	August 3	<b>August 8</b>	August 10	Septem
<b>November</b>	October 3	<b>October 8</b>	October 10	Nover
<b>February</b>	January 3	<b>January 8</b>	January 10	Febru
<b>April</b>	March 4	<b>March 7</b>	March 11	Apr

### New Look—New Editor



Noticed the Newsletter's new look? Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Eliot Crandall, and I'm proud to be the new editor for the Scholarship and District newsletters for the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice. I am a recent graduate of Florida State University where I received my Bachelors in English under the [new] Editing, Writing, and Media program.

While working at the Florida Department of Education part time, I also serve part time as a youth pastor at Seminole Baptist Church. I enjoy knowing that I play a small part in something much bigger than myself; I am glad to say that I feel that way at both of my jobs. If there

is anything I can ever do to help any of you please let me know.