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Welcome

This 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.



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

Legislation Update: Emergency Notification

Senate Bill 284 establishes a process through which a private school can register to be notified when the public school district is notified about an emergency in the local area that could threaten student safety.

The bill requires the agency responsible for notifying a school district for each type of emergency to be listed in each district school board's emergency response policy and model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures. The emergency response agencies identified by a district school board must notify private schools within the school district of occurrences that threaten student safety if such private schools request notification of emergencies by opting into the district school board's emergency notification procedures. If you are contacted by participating schools about opting into school district emergency notifications, please refer them to your district's Safe and Drug-Free Schools contact person. A list of contacts is available at http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/sddfs_coordinators.asp.

School Health

The bill authorizes both public and private schools to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors in a secure location for use in an emergency situation by authorized students and trained school personnel. Schools that choose to purchase and maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors must adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injection by trained school personnel.

The bill also provides immunity from liability for public and private

school employees and agents for any injury arising from the use of an epinephrine auto-injector administered by trained school personnel.

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) toolkit for food allergy and anaphylaxis is available at <http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/FoodAllergyandAnaphylaxis/>. Professional development and technical assistance information is available from the Epinephrine Resource School Nurse Program at <http://www.nasn.org/ToolsResources/FoodAllergyandAnaphylaxis/EpinephrineResourceSchoolNurseProgram>.

If you have questions regarding the epinephrine auto-injector provisions of this legislation, please contact Dianne Mennitt, school nurse consultant, at <mailto:Dianne.Mennitt@fldoe.org> or 850-245-7851

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.



Spotlight on... Adam Miller

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice would like to welcome Adam Miller as its new Executive Director. Mr. Miller, originally from New Jersey, has lived in Florida for the past 18 years. He received his Masters Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University and has worked in the field of public education for 15 years. Adam is also the proud father of three wonderful children. In 2003, he started a charter school in South Florida and served as Director for four years until moving to Tallahassee. Much of his work has centered on students with special needs, and upon arriving in Tallahassee, he worked for the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. Before his appointment as executive director, Adam served for five years as the charter schools director with the office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.



District Deadlines 2013-2014



The first quarter McKay Scholarship payments for the 2013-14 school year were issued August 27th. 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

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

2013-2014	District Verification File			District FTE File
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update	Available Date
September	August 5 th	August 7 th	August 9 th	September 3 rd
November	October 3 rd	October 8 th	October 10 th	November 1 st
February	January 3 rd	January 8 th	January 10 th	February 3 rd
April	March 3 rd	March 6 th	March 10 th	March 28 th

Questions? Please contact your Regional Manager.
