

Nov-Dec 2013

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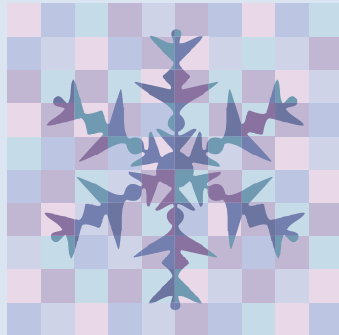
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On the Web

Welcome

Our office would like to extend warm wishes of Happy Holidays to all districts. Please read over the friendly reminders pertaining to the scholarship programs as we continue with our 2013-2014 school year. Feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns, and enjoy your time off throughout this holiday season.

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 2013-14 school year will be verified by the Department against the October 2012 and February 2013 FTE survey data. A student does not have to be reported for funding in the October 2013 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.



School Choice Resources

School district staff are often asked to assist parents by providing information about scholarship programs and other school choice

at: www.floridaschoolchoice.org

options. A one-stop resource is the Department's [Parent Resources](#) page on the School Choice website. Here information may be found for each program administered by our office. One resource that may be particularly helpful is the School Choice Options booklet, which highlights the wide array of choices available to Florida families and students. We hope these tools will assist you in providing school choice information to parents.

Spotlight on...

Patrick Montooth

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice would like to welcome Patrick Montooth, the newest regional manager to join our team. Patrick is from Moultrie, Georgia, and has resided in Tallahassee since January 2011. His postsecondary education started at Wesley College, where he earned an AA, and then continued on to Valdosta State University to earn a BA. Patrick completed his adult education at Florida State University where he received an MPA. He enjoys attending sporting events, surfing, watching science documentaries, and is a former competitive swimmer.

Patrick brings with him to the school choice office a strong work ethic and attention to detail stemming from a military background. Some of his favorite public figures are Rob Machado, for his laid back nature and willingness to help others, and astrophysicists Neil Degrasse Tyson and Michio Kaku, "because they are absolutely brilliant and not only are they geniuses but are also passionate about spreading their wealth of knowledge."



MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES

2013-2014	District Verification File			District FTE File
Payment	Availability	Submission	Final Update	Availability

Period	Date	Deadline	e	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.
