



# Florida Scholarship Programs District Newsletter

Jan-Feb 2013

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## Welcome

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.

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## McKay Intent Process

### For the current school year: 2013-2014

The last day to file intent for the 2013-14 school year is January 31, 2014. Any new scholarship students who file intent by this date must be enrolled in a participating private school by March 3, 2014, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2014. Intents for the current school year will not be valid after April 30, 2014. If the parent has not utilized the scholarship by this date, a new intent should be filed for the 2014-15 school year.

### For the upcoming school year: 2014-15

Intents filed after January 31, 2014 will be for the 2014-15 school year. Although a student is not eligible for payment during the current school year if the intent is filed after January 31, a parent with a valid 2014-15 intent may choose to enroll a student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year at his/her own expense. Of course, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the 2013-14 school year.

### For intents filed for the 2014-15 school year, we will use the following process to verify a student's prior year in attendance in public school:

1. If the intent is filed prior to the receipt of the February 2014 survey data by the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, the system verifies the student's attendance based on the October and February surveys from the

**previous school year (2012-13)** per statute.

2. A student that is **not** found in the previous year's October and February FTE data will be verified against the current year's October survey. If the student was reported in October 2013, a red flag by the student's name will prompt the district to verify the student's attendance in public school during the February 2014 survey week.

3. After the receipt of the February 2014 survey data, the system will verify that the student is found in the October 2013 and February 2014 survey data only. If the student is not found in both surveys, the student is ineligible and the intent cannot be completed. Our records indicate only a small number of intents filed each year require manual verification of attendance as described in step 2. We greatly appreciate your continued assistance in effectively determining student eligibility for the McKay Scholarship.

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## Parent Notification Requirements

Districts are required by Section 1002.39(5)(a)1., Florida Statutes, to notify parents of public school students with disabilities of all available school choice options **by April 1 of each year and within 10 days of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Accommodation Plan meeting**. Districts may comply with the IEP meeting or 504 Plan notification requirement by providing the parent with information at the end of an IEP or 504 Plan meeting or by mail after the meeting.

The information must include availability of the Department's toll-free information hotline and School Choice website, and must offer the student's parent an opportunity to enroll the student in another public school within the district, should they avail themselves of the McKay Scholarship.

**Please document the method and number of notifications provided for the April 1 distribution.** The Department will request verification of compliance through the submission of a District Notification Verification Form, which must be faxed back to the Department by April 8th. A memorandum including the reporting form and sample notification letters will be distributed to districts via e-mail in early February.

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# Note: 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.”

## Spotlight on... Kate Goff

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice would like to welcome Kate Goff, to the Florida School Choice team. Kate was born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida. She has resided here her entire life and has achieved a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. Kate enjoys being outdoors, fishing, boating, canoeing, going to the beach, any sports, volunteering, music, and cooking.



Having worked in the Bureau for Exceptional Education and Student Services during her undergraduate years, Kate hopes to bring her unique knowledge to the School Choice Office.

“Know what you’re doing, love what you’re doing. Believe in what you’re doing,” is one of Kate’s favorite quotes. She says that “if you believe in this quote, then there is no room for negativity in life.”

### MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES

2013-2014	District Verification File			District FTE File
	Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update
September	August 5 <sup>th</sup>	August 7 <sup>th</sup>	August 9 <sup>th</sup>	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
November	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	October 8 <sup>th</sup>	October 10 <sup>th</sup>	November 1 <sup>st</sup>

February	January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	January 8 <sup>th</sup>	January 10 <sup>th</sup>	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>
April	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	March 6 <sup>th</sup>	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	March 28 <sup>th</sup>

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*Questions? Please contact your Regional Manager.*

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