

In This Issue

[District Systems and McKay](#)

[McKay Eligibility for Pre-K](#)

[New Website Function](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[District Deadlines](#)

Helpful Links

[Regional Managers Map](#)

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District Systems and McKay

With the end of the school year approaching, we would like to extend a reminder to school districts about the effect of automatic enrollment and withdrawal systems on McKay Scholarship students.

Automatic Enrollment

Some school districts have a system in place that automatically enrolls a student into his or her assigned public school when the student transitions from elementary to middle or middle to high school. Unfortunately, this creates a difficult situation when a McKay Scholarship student that has been participating in the program (sometimes for several school years) is reported as enrolled in public school in the fall, and his or her payment is cancelled.

Therefore, in preparation for the 2014-15 school year, we ask that you take steps to ensure that matriculating students participating in the McKay Scholarship Program will not be automatically re-enrolled in public school.

Automatic Summer Withdrawal

In addition, some school districts have a system in place that automatically withdraws all public school students at the end the





school year until they return to school in the fall. This may create problems for students applying for the McKay Scholarship Program during the summer months. Please note that for purposes of McKay Scholarship Program eligibility, a student who completes the school year continues to be a public school student over the summer unless the parent physically withdraws the student from public school. Therefore, please be mindful of public school withdrawal dates when determining the eligibility of students that file intent during the summer if your school district has an automated system in place.

McKay Eligibility for Pre-K

The McKay Scholarship may be awarded to eligible students beginning in their kindergarten year; however, a student may file intent and establish eligibility for the program in prekindergarten in one of two ways, pursuant to section 1002.39(2), Florida Statutes. A student must either

- have been enrolled and reported for funding during the preceding October and February FEEP surveys and have been eligible for services under [s. 1003.21\(1\)\(e\), F.S.](#) (i.e., as a pre-k student with disabilities); or
- have received specialized instructional services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to [s. 1002.66](#) during the previous school year.

In addition, the student must have an Individual Education Plan or 504 Accommodation Plan.

If intent is filed for a rising Kindergarten student prior to their Pre-K transition meeting, the district may identify the student status in the system as “Eligibility pending transition meeting.” When the transition meeting is complete, the system will allow the district to assign the correct matrix number or eligibility status.



NEW WEBSITE FUNCTION

You may see a new link on your district's McKay homepage called McKay EPS Student List. We've built a new portal for you to clear the EPS flag for students in your district who were marked Enrolled in Public School for the most recent pay period, based on your submission of the F70561 pre-payment verification file. It's as easy as clicking "Remove EPS Flag" next to the student's name (or clicking "Restore EPS Flag" if you clear a student by accident). In clearing the EPS flag by this method, you will no longer have to complete and submit a District Verification Form for those students.

Keep in mind the EPS flag is only one aspect of what determines a student's payment eligibility. If you clear an EPS flag and a student has some other eligibility issue (an intent date past the deadline, for example), payment will not be generated by our system. If you have questions about the list, please email david.girtman@fldoe.org.

Spotlight on...

Adam Emerson

Adam Emerson is the Department of Education's new Charter Schools Director. Mr. Emerson comes to the Department after having spent two years at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute in Washington D.C., where he surveyed the charter school landscape nationally. He's no stranger to Florida, though: he spent nearly ten years covering public education issues for The Tampa Tribune and then continued to examine school choice policy in Florida for several advocacy and public policy groups.

Adam also helped direct the public affairs at Step Up For Students, the nonprofit that helps administer the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. His wife, Kelly, is a public school teacher, and they have two daughters, Audrey and Caroline.

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.
