

In This Issue

[McKay Public School Choice](#)

[PLSA Program](#)

[McKay Intent Lists](#)

[Reporting FTE – McKay Students](#)

[McKay EPS Students](#)

Helpful Links

[Regional Managers Map](#)

[District Deadlines](#)



Contact Us

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

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

E-mail:
schoolchoice@fldoe.org

McKay Public School Choice

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.

On the Web
at: www.floridaschoolchoice.org

Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program

As we mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Personal Learning Scholarship Account Program (PLSA) was established in the 2014 legislative session (SB 850) to provide parents the option to better meet the individual needs of their eligible children. Scholarship accounts are administered by eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations (SFO). District personnel will be involved with the program at several points:

- A. At the parent's request, for a student with a disability who does not have a matrix of services, district personnel must complete a matrix of services within thirty days of receiving the request and notify the parent and our office of the matrix level.
- B. For a PLSA student who chooses to participate in statewide standardized assessments, including the Florida Alternate Assessment, the district must notify the parent of locations and times to take the assessments.
- C. Prior to payment for each PLSA student to the SFO, the district must verify that the student is not enrolled in a public school.

In the near future, when logged into our website, district personnel will see a PLSA Student List link in the left menu that will allow entering a student matrix and will facilitate the verification process. Watch for more information as we continue to develop program procedures and additional technical assistance.

More information on PLSA is available on our website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/PLSA.

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 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.

Reporting FTE - McKay Students

The McKay Scholarship District FTE File will be made available September 2nd, 2014. The file provides each district with a list of students participating in the McKay Scholarship Program that received the September payment. Please review and verify this information, if you have not done so already. These students must be reported as McKay students (3518) to generate the necessary funding unless the student is physically in attendance at a public school. (In this case, the student should be reported as a public school student. If a student has returned to public school, please be sure to withdraw him/her on our website and change his matrix to "Returned to Public School.")

Remember, districts must report McKay students for FTE. Whether or not you report these students, funds will be deducted from your FEFP if an eligible McKay student attends an approved private school and meets the requirements for payment. Even if a student only receives one of the September and November payments, he must still be reported as McKay for survey 2.

More information on reporting McKay students can be found in the McKay Scholarship Program Technical Assistance Paper No. [FY 2015-01](#).

McKay EPS Students



The quarterly McKay Scholarship payments were recently issued to private schools. As these schools review their payments, they will begin to contact you about certain students who did not receive a payment due to being marked as Enrolled In Public School based on your district's response to the McKay Pre-Payment Verification File (F70561).

In an effort to streamline processes and reduce the amount of paperwork you

need to fill out, our office recently launched 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 the F70561 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). With this new system of clearing students marked as EPS, you will only need to submit a District Verification Form to our office if you're trying to clear the EPS flag from a previous pay period.

In addition to removing the EPS flag, 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 erroneously marked as EPS in the future.

Keep in mind EPS is only one piece of what determines if a student receives payment. If you're hesitant to clear the flag because a student has some other eligibility issue (an intent date past the deadline, for example), don't be—our payment system will take care of the rest. If you have questions about the list, please email david.girtman@fldoe.org.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IMPORTANT DEADLINES

2014-2015	District Verification File			District FTE File
Payment Period	Available Date	Submission Deadline	Final Update	Available Date
September	August 4 th	August 6 th	August 8 th	September 2 nd
November	October 3 rd	October 8 th	October 10 th	November 3 rd
February	January 5 th	January 7 th	January 9 th	February 2 nd
April	March 3 rd	March 5 th	March 9 th	March 30 th