



2016 Legislative Session

The Florida Legislature is in session from January 12—March 11, 2016. Presently, there are bills proposed in both the House and Senate that, if passed by both chambers and approved by the Governor, could affect private schools and families participating in the state scholarship programs. If program changes occur, our office will provide updates in future newsletters.

McKay Intent Process

For the current school year: 2015-2016

The last day to file intent for the 2015-16 school year is February 1, 2016. Any new scholarship students who file intent by this date must be enrolled in a participating private school by March 2, 2016, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2016. Intents for the current school year will not be valid after April 30, 2016. If the parent has not utilized the scholarship by this date, a new intent should be filed for the 2016-17 school year.

For the upcoming school year: 2016-17

Intents filed after February 1, 2016 will be for the 2016-17 school year. Although a student is not eligible for payment during the current school year if the intent is filed after February 1, a parent with a valid 2016-17 intent may choose to enroll a student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year at his/her own expense.

District Contact Information

Please take a moment to check the contact information for your district on the [School Choice website](#). You may edit or update the information by logging on to the District page. If you need assistance, please contact your regional manager.

More Information

[District Verification Deadlines](#)

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Deadlines](#)

McKay Scholarship: Parent Notification Requirements

Districts are required by Section 1002.39, 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**

Of course, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the 2015-16 school year.

For intents filed for the 2016-17 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 2016 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** (2014-15) 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 2015, a red flag by the student's name will prompt the district to verify the student's attendance in public school during the February 2016 survey week.
3. After the receipt of the February 2016 survey data, the system will verify that the student is found in the October 2015 and February 2016 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.

Education Plan (IEP) or a 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 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. Sample notification letters are available through our website.

Please document the method and number of notifications provided. The Department will request verification of compliance through the completion and submission of the Notification Verification Survey. A memorandum including the reporting survey link will be distributed to districts via e-mail in the near future.

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