



District Bulletin | October 2016

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 the appropriate program is available 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 FTE-McKay Students

The McKay Payment File is posted quarterly at NWRDC, coinciding with each scholarship payment. The file provides each district with a list of students receiving a scholarship payment for the quarter. These students must be reported as McKay students (school 3518) on Surveys 2 and/or 3 to generate the necessary FTE funding. However, if a student on the list is physically in attendance at a public school during the time of the survey, he or she should be reported as a public school student. Please also change students' matrix codes on our website when they have returned to public school.

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](#)

Reporting Public McKay

Students

The department collects data related to the school choice options selected by students, including 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 Information System as code M.** Please help us

Remember, districts must report McKay students for FTE. Whether or not they are reported, funds will be deducted from a district's FEFP if an eligible McKay student attends an approved private school and meets the requirements for payment. Even if a student appears on only one of the two payment files for the survey period, he or she must still be reported as a McKay student on the survey.

Gardiner Student Payment List

On the 10th of each month, our office begins the payment process for a new set of potential Gardiner Scholarship students. Scholarship funding organizations send a list of eligible students to the department, and for certain students, prior to the funding of a Gardiner Scholarship account, districts must verify that the students are not enrolled in public school. If there are students on the list for your district, you will receive an email notification, and the link to the list will appear in the center of your welcome page when logged in to our website. If you would like to change the email on file for the Gardiner Scholarship contact in your district, please let us know by email. We appreciate your assistance with this statutory requirement.

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.

Resources

For detailed information on all three scholarship programs as well as other types of school choice options, visit our website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Each option contains links specifically for parents, so it's a good resource to direct families toward when they have questions. Also please feel free to share our toll-free number with parents (800.447.1636). We have staff available who are trained to assist with scholarship program concerns.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice
Turlington Building, Suite 1044 | 325 W. Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Toll-Free Information Hotline: 1-800-447-1636
Fax: 850-245-0875

