



District Bulletin | September and October 2017

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.

Parentally Placed Students

Students receiving any of the state's K12 scholarships to attend a private school fall into the category of parentally-placed private school students. The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services has a technical assistance paper on the topic on the FDOE website at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6084/dps-2011-23.pdf>. School districts where not for profit private schools are located have an obligation to ensure that students with disabilities in those schools have an opportunity to participate in programs assisted by or carried out under Part B of IDEA. The specific type of services to be provided are determined during the school district's consultation with schools and parents, and the students would be served under a services plan.

There is one difference for students using the Gardiner Scholarship—the statute that created the program allows districts to enter into a contract with Gardiner families to provide services that could be paid for using scholarship funds and would be beyond those equitable

District Contact Survey

So that our office may better assist district contacts, please complete the below survey. Through your responses we hope to gain an understanding of districts' school choice option program structure.

<http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/adam-miller/mckay-and-gardiner-scholarship-programs/>

FLEIDs

As you may remember from the FAMIS presentation, we have been diligently working to match all McKay student FLEIDs. These unique identifiers are contained in the payment files and will help alleviate issues related to mismatched student IDs.

More Information

[District Verification Deadlines](#)

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Deadlines](#)

services provided to any parentally-placed private school student. Districts, however, are not required to enter into contracts with Gardiner Scholarship families. For further information on ESE services, please contact the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at 850.245.0475.

McKay Public School Choice

Districts may accept McKay public school students throughout the school year, provided the selected school has an 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. Please be reminded that **there is no statutory deadline** for the Public School McKay Scholarship Option.

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.

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 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.

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.

Clearing McKay EPS Students for Payment

As the second quarterly McKay Scholarship payments are soon to arrive at private schools, you may soon be contacted about students who did not receive a payment due to being marked as Enrolled In Public School (EPS) based on your district's response to the McKay Pre-Payment Verification File (F70561). If a student has been marked EPS incorrectly, it's easy to correct the record.

Once you log into our website, click the link called McKay EPS Student List. On this page you can click "Remove EPS Flag" next to the student's name to clear the EPS designation (or "Restore EPS Flag" if you clear a student by accident). **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 has withdrawn from public school. This will ensure the student is not erroneously marked as EPS in the future. If you have questions about the list, please email kate.goff@fldoe.org.

Private School Ombudsman

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each state establish a position for an ombudsman. The role of the ombudsman is to "monitor and enforce" the requirements of ESSA as related to the participation of children in

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. To assist you in this task, a database reporting technical assistance paper is available when logged in to our website.

private schools (also known as "equitable services").

All interested educators are encouraged to consider applying for this position which is integral to the effective implementation of ESSA. To view the complete job description and instructions for submitting an application, see the advertisement in [People First](#). The deadline for submitting the application is October 13, 2017.

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