



Scholarship Bulletin | January – February 2018

2018 Legislative Session

The Florida Legislature is in session from January 9, 2018 – March 9, 2018. Presently there are bills proposed in both the House and the 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: 2017-18

The last day to file intent for the 2017-18 school year is January 31, 2018. Any new scholarship students who file intent by this date must be enrolled in a participating private school by March 2, 2018, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2018. Intents for the current school year will not be valid after April 30, 2018. If the parent has not utilized the scholarship by this date, a new intent should be filed for the 2018-19 school year.

For the upcoming school year: 2018-19

Intent filed on or after February 1, 2018, will be for the 2018-19 school year. Although a student is not eligible for payment during the current school year if the intent is filed after January 31, a parent with a valid 2018-19 intent may choose to enroll a student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year at his/her own expense. Of course, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the 2017-18 school year.

McKay Scholarship: Parent Notification Requirements

Pursuant to section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, districts are required 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 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 the 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 provided on the website.

Please document the method and number of notification provided. The Department will request verification of compliance through the completion of an online Notification Verification Survey. A memorandum including the reporting

For intents filed for the 2018-19 school year, we will use the following process to verify a student's prior year attendance in public school:

1. If the intent is filed prior to receipt of the February 2018 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 (2016-17) 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 October 2017, a red flag by the student's name will prompt the district to verify the student's attendance in public school during the February 2018 survey week.
3. After receipt of the February 2018 survey data, the system will verify that the student is found in October 2017 and February 2018 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 Program.

McKay Intent List

Since parents may continue to file intent for the current school year through January 31, be sure to check your intent list on a regular basis. Our system does a preliminary check on whether or not the student met FTE requirements. Within 30 days of the intent being filed, district staff should notify the Department whether or not the student met FTE requirements, was a public school student when the intent was filed, and has an IEP or a 504 Plan that is effective for more than 6 months.

Gardiner Scholarship EPS List

Scholarship Funding Organizations may continue to submit prospective students for Gardiner Scholarship funding throughout the school year. For certain students, prior to funding, districts must verify that they are not enrolled in public school. Our office will notify scholarship contacts via email if Gardiner students are awaiting verification in your district. If you are notified, you can find the Gardiner EPS student link at the top of your district home page when logged in as a scholarship contact. If you have questions about the process, please contact Claire Ensley at claire.ensley@fldoe.org or by calling our office at 850-245-0502.

survey link will be distributed to districts via email in the near future.

More Information

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

[District Verification Deadlines](#)

Updated Eligibility Correction Form (ECF)

Please notice the ECF has been updated to replace student ID with FLEID. This is another step towards full implementation of FLEIDs.

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.

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

