



McKay Intent Process

For the current school year: 2018-19

The last day to file intent for the 2018-19 school year was January 31, 2018. Any new scholarship students who filed intent by this date must be enrolled in a participating private school by March 2, 2019, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2019. Intents for the current school year will not be valid after April 30, 2019. If the parent has not utilized the scholarship by this date, a new intent should be filed for the 2019-20 school year.

For the upcoming school year: 2019-20

Intent filed on or after February 1, 2019, will be for the 2019-20 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 2019-20 intent may choose to enroll a student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2019-19 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 2018-19 school year.

McKay Upcoming Deadlines

March 2

Date by which a new student must be enrolled to receive the fourth quarterly payment.

March 4-11

Online Attendance Verification window for the final payment period.

May 1

Date by which all Compliance Renewal issues must be resolved.

June 1

Date by which requests for missing payments must be submitted.

More Information

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Deadlines](#)

[McKay Student Technical Assistance](#)

For intents filed for the 2019-20 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 2019 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 (2017-18) 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 2018, a red flag by the student's name will prompt the district to verify the student's attendance in public school during the February 2019 survey week.
3. After receipt of the February 2019 survey data, the system will verify that the student is found in October 2018 and February 2019 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 Scholarship: 2019 Intent Status

Intents filed on or after February 1, 2019 are for the 2019-2020 school year. After filing an intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program, the parent is provided with a **confirmation number** that may be used to check the status of the intent, including the student's intent date, eligibility, matrix number, and estimated scholarship amount.

Private schools may assist parents in checking the intent status on the School Choice website. Simply enter the student's last name, birth date, and the intent confirmation number provided by the parent. Please note that School Choice office personnel can provide student status information only to the parent or with the parent's permission.

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.

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

McKay Eligibility for Pre-K

The McKay Scholarship may be awarded to eligible students beginning in their kindergarten year; however, a student may file intent and establish eligibility for the program in prekindergarten in one of two ways. Pursuant to section 1002.39(2), Florida Statutes, a student must either:

- Have been enrolled and reported for funding during the preceding October and February FEFP surveys and have been eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e), F.S. (i.e., as a pre-k student with disabilities); or
- Have received specialized instructional services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s. 1002.66 during the previous school year.

In addition, the student must have a Kindergarten Individual Education Plan or 504 Accommodation Plan. If intent is filed for a rising Kindergarten student prior to their Pre-K transition meeting, the district may identify the student status in the system as “Eligibility pending transition meeting.” When the transition meeting is complete, the system will allow the district to assign the correct matrix number or eligibility status.

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 Raina Turner at raina.turner@fldoe.org or by calling our office at 850-245-0502.

Additional Resources

Black History Month

This month, First Lady Casey DeSantis announced that the theme for this year’s K-12 art and essay contests is “Celebrating Public Service” to recognize and pay tribute to African-American leaders who play prominent roles in public service throughout Florida. Students in grades K-3 are invited to participate in an art contest while students in grades 4-12 are invited to participate in an essay contest. Additionally, students, parents, teachers, and principals are invited to nominate full-time educators of all grades for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.

Additional information about this contest and Florida’s Black History Month is available at www.FloridaBlackHistory.com

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program

The Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) Program is a statewide reading motivational program for children in grades 3-8. The purpose of the SSYRA program is to encourage students to read independently for pleasure, and to read books that are on, above, and below their reading level to improve their reading fluency. Schools interested in participating in the SSYRA Program must register prior to February 28, 2019. For additional information on the program and how to register, please visit <https://www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra.html>.

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