



District Bulletin | September-October 2019

McKay Public School Choice

As a reminder, 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.

Public School Placement:

One of the common misconceptions about the McKay public transfer option is school capacity. Rule 6A-6.0970(2) and (2)(a) states in part that a student meeting McKay eligibility may choose to attend another public school in the student's school district. The public school option is solely dependent on the ability of the public school to provide the required services for the student. Please be mindful that capacity is no longer a consideration when the district is determining a student's transfer request.

McKay Private to Public School Transfer:

Students currently enrolled in a McKay private school may choose to 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. Once a McKay student withdraws from private school and returns to public school, the district will remove the McKay private code (3518) in order to place the student back into the public school system. 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 for McKay.

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 Northwest Regional Data Center (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 (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.

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.

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 at: <https://info.fl DOE.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6084/dps-2011-23.pdf>

School districts where non-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 district's consultation with schools and parents. These students would be served under a services plan.

There is one difference for students using the Gardiner Scholarship— s. 1002.385, F.S., 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 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 Exceptional Student Education services, please contact the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at 850.245.0475.

FLEID Mismatch

The Department works diligently to make sure all McKay student Florida Education Identifiers (FLEIDs) match the correct student and that the databases are correct. These unique identifiers are contained in the payment files and help alleviate issues for students participating in Scholarship Programs. Upon reporting students for Scholarships, please make sure you are using the right FLEIDS and that they match the correct student. A list of these identifiers can be found on our website at: <http://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/7729/urlt/0100197-197246.pdf>.

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. 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. 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 emailing the School Choice office. We appreciate your assistance with this statutory requirement.

Additional Resources:

[Regional Managers](#)

[McKay Calendar](#)

[McKay Deadlines](#)

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