

McKay Intent Procedures

Special Points of Interest:

- Parents may begin filing intent for the 2009-10 school year on **February 1, 2009**.
- Attendance Verification for the April 2009 scholarship payment must be submitted between **March 2-13, 2009**.
- Scholarship Compliance Forms must be post-marked by **March 1, 2009**, to renew participation for the 2009-10 school year.



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The parent of a public school student who wishes to apply for a McKay Scholarship may do so by filing intent to participate on the School Choice Web site at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Private school, school district, and department personnel may assist parents in filing intent; however, they may not file intent for a student without the expressed consent of the parent.

In order to be eligible for the McKay Scholarship, a student must be a public school student at the time intent is filed, have an Individual Education Plan, and have been enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school for the school year prior to applying.

The last date to file intent for a fourth quarter McKay Scholarship payment is January 31, 2009. After this date, parents will be able to file intent for the 2009-10 school year.

Once intent is filed for the 2009-10 school year, the parent may choose to withdraw their student from public school and enroll him or her in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year; however, no scholarship payments will be processed for that student until he or she is enrolled for 2009-10 school year.

Participating private schools will be able to enroll new students and re-enroll current students for the 2009-10 school year beginning in May 2009.

Finally, please note that McKay Scholarship students currently enrolled in your private school do not need to file a new intent for next school year. Instead, they must be re-enrolled or transferred and enrolled in another participating private school by August 2, 2009.

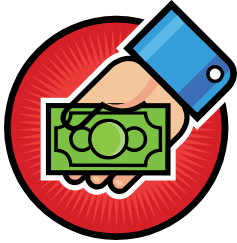
Compliance Renewal Deadline



Participating private schools have approximately one month left to submit a Scholarship Compliance Form in order to renew participation in the state scholarship programs. The forms must be submitted online and a signed and notarized hard-copy must be postmarked by **March 1, 2009**, or your school will not be eligible to participate in the scholarship programs next school year.

If the compliance form is submitted by the deadline, renewing private schools will have until May 1, 2009, to resolve any outstanding compliance issues and submit additional compliance documentation.

McKay Scholarship Funding



McKay Scholarship funding is based on the amount of funding a student would have received in public school; therefore, a recent reduction in education funding will also affect McKay Scholarship funding. The funding per student was reduced by approximately 2% so you may notice a small decrease in the expected February and April scholarship payment amounts.

An updated 2008-09 McKay Funding Chart and additional information about the adjustment will be mailed to participating private schools. The updated chart will also replace the previous version on the quick navigation bar of the School Choice Web site when logged in as a private school.

We appreciate your continued support of the program. Please contact our School Choice information hotline at (800) 447-1636 if you have any questions.

Upcoming Deadlines

The final enrollment deadline for the 2008-09 school year is **March 2, 2009**. Any student with a valid intent filed prior to February 1, 2009, must be enrolled and have a fee schedule created by March 2, 2009, in order to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment.

In addition, the final attendance verification for the 2008-09 school year will be open for submission from **March 2-13, 2009**. Please note that the final attendance verification for the April 1st payments

occurs while many schools are closed for spring break; therefore, the verification will be open for two weeks instead of the usual one week.

Please ensure the verification is completed during this timeframe because failure to submit attendance verification will result in a postponement of scholarship payments. If you have any questions or experience difficulties, please immediately contact the School Choice information hotline at (800) 447-1636.

Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit

Did you know 25% of chemicals in the cleaning products used in schools are toxic and contribute to poor indoor air quality, smog, cancer, asthma, and other disease? There is a better way to clean.

The Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit is a training tool for increasing knowledge and commitment to adopt best practices for green cleaning in schools and child-care centers. Four easy-to-use learning modules include audio presentations with PowerPoint slides that can be customized for schools to introduce and implement green cleaning for practices that help safeguard student and adult health.

The Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit is an open source resource, industry free, externally reviewed tool to develop programs and policy for school communities. The **free, online** Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit presentations are available online at <http://www.cleaningforhealthyschools.org/>.



Technical Assistance Meetings

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will be joining Children First Florida to bring you a set of winter Technical Assistance Meetings in North, West, and Central Florida. Scholarship staff will present information on the compliance renewal process and the new requirements established by the Ethics in Education Act. Meetings will be held from 4-6 p.m. on the following dates:



- **Feb. 23**, Treasure of Knowledge Christian Academy, 13001 Landstar Blvd, **Orlando**
- **Feb. 24**, Cedar Creek Christian School, 1372 S Lane Ave, **Jacksonville**
- **Feb. 26**, Pensacola Jr. Academy, 8751 University Pkwy, **Pensacola**
- **Mar. 2**, Seven Hills Academy, 1500 Miccosukee Rd, **Tallahassee**
- **Mar. 3**, Melbourne Palm Bay SDA Christian School, 210 W New Haven Ave, **Melbourne**
- **Mar. 5**, Saint Barnabas Episcopal School, Harwood Center, 322 W Michigan Ave, **Deland**

Minimum Attendance Requirements

Rule 6A-6.0970(5)(d) and (e), F.A.C., require private schools participating in the McKay Scholarship Program to return to the Department any scholarship funds issued for a student that did not attend the private school for ten or more school days during the payment period.

Sometimes private schools withdraw a student after payment is issued and indicate the student was not in attendance for 10 school days (based on the student's last date of attendance entered by the private school).

If your school receives a payment for a student who did not attend classes for at least

10 school days within the payment period, the warrant must be immediately returned to the following address:

Florida Department of Education
Independent Education and Parental Choice
Attn: Scott Lingo
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Failure to return scholarship funds issued in error may jeopardize the private school's ability to continue participation in the state scholarship programs.

Disability Disclosure Workbook

The 411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities was developed for the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth). The workbook helps students with disabilities make informed decisions about whether or not to disclose their disabilities. The workbook covers such topics as self-determination, the advantages and disadvantages of disclosure, rights and responsibilities, and accommodations. Students learn how the decision to disclose impacts employment, postsecondary education and training, and social and community activities.

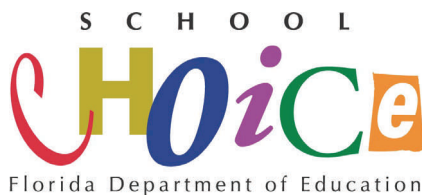
A PDF of the workbook can be downloaded for free on the NCWD/Youth Web site at: http://www.ncwd-youth.info/resources_&Publications/411.html.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Michael Kooi, Esq.
Executive Director

Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Toll-Free: (800) 447-1636
Fax: (850) 245-0875
E-mail: schoolchoice@fldoe.org



"Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Education Options"

ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

Current and previous newsletters are available in PDF format on the School Choice Web site when logged in as a private school administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link on the Quick Navigation bar on the left hand side of the screen.

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2008-09 IMPORTANT DEADLINES*

2008-2009 Payment Period	Payment Date	Parental Intent Deadline	Private School Enrollment Deadline	Attendance Verification Available Online	Attendance Verification Deadline
July 1 – Sept 30	September 1	July 3	August 2	N/A	N/A
Oct 1 – Dec 31	November 1	September 2	October 2	October 6	October 10
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 5	January 9
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	January 31	March 2	March 2	March 13

*Private schools participating in the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program must meet the deadlines set by the Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.

Please note that the deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines; therefore, the department cannot make exceptions if these deadlines are missed.

Failure to complete attendance verification will result in a postponement of scholarship payments until the next scheduled payment period.