



# Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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## Registration and Enrollment Tips



### Special Points of Interest:

- **To be eligible for the September payment,** new students must have a valid intent filed by July 3rd and be enrolled by August 2. Returning or transferring students must be reenrolled by August 2.
- Requests for missed payments must be made by **June 1** of the fiscal year in which they are due.



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With the current school year coming to a close, now is the time for schools to ensure McKay enrollment for the upcoming school year is in order. Students who will be returning to the same school in August must be reenrolled, new students must be registered and enrolled, and students who will not be returning should be withdrawn.

In order to make the process less troublesome over the summer, students who have not been reenrolled in their current school by May 31st, are now available in the system to be picked up by another school, even if the student was not officially withdrawn from their current school.

**Statutory deadlines**—The McKay Scholarship enrollment deadline is **August 2**. Enrollment includes creating an individual student fee schedule and providing a first date of attendance. All current and new scholarship students must be enrolled by August 2 to be eligible for a September 1st payment.

Please note that any student who filed intent after July 3, 2010, will not be eligible for a September 1st payment regardless of their enrollment date.

**Accurate information**— It is important to enter accurate information. Please ensure students are enrolled in the correct **grade level** with the correct **parent Social Security Number (SSN)** and contact information. Incorrect parent SSNs may result in delay of scholarship payments.

**Dates**—As you know, scholarship students must maintain continued attendance in a participating private school to remain eligible for the program; therefore, please be accurate when entering first dates of **attendance** or student **withdrawal** dates.

**Withdrawal from public school**—We recommend that private schools advise parents of scholarship students, **especially new students**, to notify the public school district that their student is withdrawing from public school to attend a private school. Prior to payment, public school districts are required to verify that scholarship students are not enrolled in public school. If the parent does not notify the district that the student is attending private school, the district may report the student as still enrolled in public school; the scholarship payment then will be delayed until a correction is made.

If you encounter problems or need assistance withdrawing, transferring, or enrolling a scholarship student, **DO NOT WAIT** until after the deadline. Please contact your Regional Manager or the School Choice hotline as soon as possible.



## Professional Development Opportunities

### New Resource on Job-Embedded Professional Development –

Several major pieces of recent federal education regulations call for the implementation of "job-embedded professional development," particularly in low-performing schools. A new Issue Brief: [Job-Embedded Professional Development: What It Is, Who Is Responsible, and How to Get It Done Well](#) provides:

- A description of the research on job-embedded professional development
- Several examples to help distinguish this type of professional development from other valuable learning opportunities
- A detailed list of the conditions necessary for successful implementation
- Important recommendations for how states, districts, and schools can support high-quality job-embedded professional development to advance teaching and learning in *all* schools

View this resource and many other informative publications on the Teacher Quality Center website: <http://www.tqsource.org/>.

### Training for Kindergarten Teachers in Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener –

Each public school is required to administer a kindergarten readiness screening to all kindergarten students in the school district within the first 30 school days of each school year, per s.1002.69(1), F.S. To ensure that kindergarten students attending non-public schools who participated in VPK are screened, school districts also provide training to non-public school kindergarten teachers on the administration of the **Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) each year.**

Please visit the Department of Education's Office of Early Learning website at <http://www.fldoe.org/earlyLearning/> for information regarding the dates for the fall 2010 FLKRS trainings that will be available in your district.

## Checking Intent Status

After filing 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 Web site. Simply enter the student's last name, birth date, and the intent confirmation number provided by the parent. Please note that the School Choice information hotline can provide student status information only to the parent or with the parent's permission.



## In the News

### Compliance Renewal Summary Reflects Program's Rapid Growth

Over 1323 private schools have renewed participation in a scholarship program for the upcoming year. Additionally, thirty-six new schools applied and demonstrated compliance to participate in one or both of the state scholarship programs. We are also working with applications from another 401 schools that may become eligible in the near future.

In summary, over 1359 private schools throughout Florida are currently eligible to accept McKay or Florida Tax Credit Scholarship students, with the possibility of as many as 1760 schools eligible for the 2010-11 school year.

### Payment Packet Changes

Starting with the next September 1 payment, payment packets will contain only the student warrants and reconciliation reports. Other documents previously enclosed in the packets will now be available on the School Choice Web site when logged in as a private school. These include: District Verification Forms, District Verification Form Instructions, and Reconciliation Report Instructions. As always, if you have questions, please contact your Regional Manager for assistance.

## Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

McKay Scholarship Program					
2010 - 2011 IMPORTANT DEADLINES*					
Payment Periods	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 4	October 8
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 4	January 11
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	January 31	March 2	March 3	March 16

\* Please note:

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



### Mark Your Calendar

**May 31**—McKay students not re-enrolled by their current school will be available in the system to other participating schools.

**June 1**—Date by which requests for missing payments must be submitted.

**July 3**—Intent filing deadline to be eligible for the first 2010-11 payment on September 1.

**August 2**—Date by which new and renewing McKay students must be registered and enrolled in order to receive the September 1 payment.

**September 2**—Intent filing deadline to be eligible for the November 1 payment.

**October 2**—Date by which students filing by September 2 must be enrolled to receive the second quarterly payment.

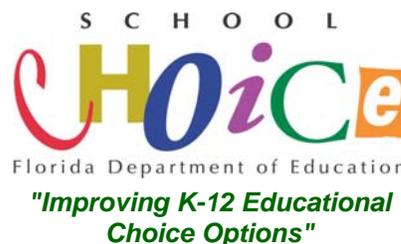
**October 4-8**—Attendance Verification week for the second payment period.

**December 3**—Date by which students with a valid 2010-11 intent must be enrolled in order to receive the February 1 payment.

**January 2**—Date by which students with a valid intent must be enrolled to receive the February 1 payment.

**January 4-11**—Attendance Verification week for the third payment period.

*Please contact your Regional Manager with questions regarding these deadlines.*



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*Current and previous newsletters are available on the School Choice Web Site.*