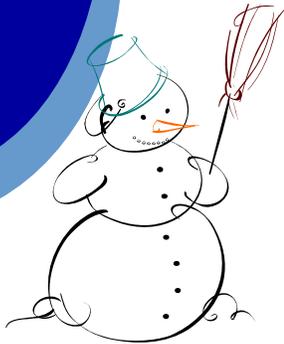


# Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Volume 5, Issue 6

January 2011



## Intent to Participate for the 2010-11 School Year

Time is running out for students wishing to enter the McKay Scholarship Program for the current school year.

### Special Points of Interest:

- **Attendance Verification** for the February 2011 scholarship payment must be submitted between **January 4-11, 2011**.
- New scholarship students must be **enrolled by January 2, 2011**, to be eligible to receive a February 1st payment (parent must have filed intent by December 3rd).



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**Filing for the 2010-11 School Year**—The last day to file intent for the 2010-2011 school year is January 31, 2011. Any new scholarship students who file intent on or before this date must be enrolled by March 2, 2011, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2011.

**Filing for the 2011-12 School Year**—**Intents filed after January 31, 2011, will be for the 2011-12 school year.** These students must be enrolled in a participating private school by August 2, 2011, in order to be eligible for a first quarter scholarship payment on September 1, 2011.

**Enrollment in the current school year with a 2011-12 Intent**—Although a 2011-12 student is not eligible for payment during the current school year, a parent with a valid intent for 2011-12 may choose to enroll an eligible student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year at his or her own expense. Of course, parents also have the option of keeping the student in public school for the rest of the current school year.

**Eligibility**—We would like to remind private school administrators assisting parents with filing, that all intents to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program **must be filed prior to the student withdrawing from public school.** Additionally, the student must have met prior year public school attendance requirements by being included for funding in the October and February FTE counts, and must have an active IEP.

**Current McKay Students**—Please note that a new intent does not have to be filed for a student already participating in the program in a private school. **All** students currently enrolled for the 2010-11 school year, regardless of whether or not they received payment, must be re-enrolled by August 2, 2011, to be eligible for a first payment next school year.



## Mark Your Calendar



**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.

**January 22**—Florida School Choice Expo in Tampa

**January 31**—Last day to file an intent to participate for the 2010-11 school year.

**February 1**—First day to file an intent for the 2011-12 school year.

**March 2**—Date by which students filing intent by January 31 must be enrolled to receive the April 1 payment.

**March 3-16**—Attendance Verification period for the fourth payment period.

**March 1**—Date by which Scholarship Compliance Form must be postmarked, after being submitted online, printed, signed and notarized.

**May 1**—Date by which all Compliance issues must be resolved.

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

**July 3**—Intent filing deadline for a student to be eligible for the first payment of the 2011-12 school year.

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

## Compliance Deadline — March 1st



Private schools wishing to continue participating in the McKay and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Programs for the 2011-12 school year must submit their Compliance documentation annually **by March 1, 2011**. The 2011-12 Scholarship Compliance Form, Application and Renewal Packets are available on the School Choice Web site.

To renew participation, the form must be:

1. submitted online,
2. printed, signed, notarized, and
3. postmarked by March 1, 2011.

Schools will then have 60 days to correct any outstanding issues. All issues must be resolved **on or before May 1, 2011**, in order to continue to participate in the scholarship programs for the upcoming year.

Please contact your Regional Manager if you have any questions.

## Compliance Workshops Coming Your Way

The School Choice Office will host **Scholarship Compliance Workshops** in an effort to provide technical assistance to schools in meeting compliance requirements.

The workshops will be held from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Regional Managers will be available to answer questions. To register or request more information, please e-mail [amy.gent@fldoe.org](mailto:amy.gent@fldoe.org) with your preferred date and number attending.

We encourage each school to send a representative, but space is limited, so register early.

Date	Location
January 20	Tallahassee
January 24	Tampa
January 26	Ft. Lauderdale
January 27	Miami
February 2	Orlando
February 3	Jacksonville



## In the News

### First Annual National Conference on Bullying

The **National Conference on Bullying** will take an in depth look at the causation, prevention and mitigation bullying. The conference will be held on **February 14-16, 2011**, at the Doubletree Resort in Orlando, Florida, and is sponsored by the School Safety Advocacy Council, in partnership with the Florida Association of School Resource Officers (FASRO) and Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). Special rates at this Disney Partner Resort apply and include FREE transportation to all Disney and Universal Parks. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.schoolsafety911.com/event05.html>.

### Summer Academy for Advancing Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Computing Now Accepting Applications

The Summer Academy seeks to find the top 10 deaf and hard of hearing students in high school and in college, ages 16 and over, who excel in and enjoy math, science and/or computing. The Academy is designed to introduce computing to deaf and hard of hearing students considering computer science, computer engineering, information science, information systems or information technology as a career, either in industry or academia. Tuition, room and board, and round-trip transportation are provided at no cost to selected applicants.

The first deadline is **December 31, 2010**; however applications received after that date will be considered on a space available basis. More information is available at <http://www.washington.edu/accesscomputing/dhh/academy/>. It includes program information, the program brochure, a video on the Summer Academy, and an online application form.

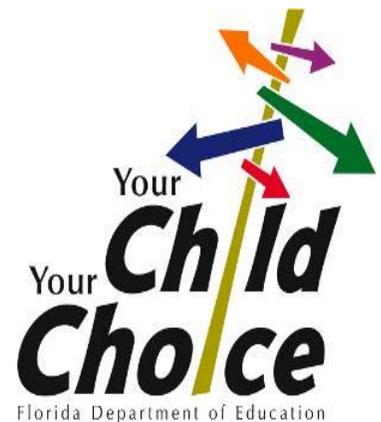
## How will you celebrate School Choice Month?

January is **School Choice Month** in Florida! Proclaimed by Governor Crist, School Choice Month is about empowering parents to make the best choices for their children's education.

During the month of January, School Choice Awareness events will be held throughout the state, including:

- Featured success stories highlighting statewide students who have benefited from Florida's variety of school choice options
- Spotlights of private, charter, magnet, career academies and other school choice programs
- Local parent informational school choice expos throughout Florida in Pensacola, Quincy, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, and Miami, hosted by the Florida School Choice Parent Resource Centers (PRC)

The month will culminate in our very first **School Choice Expo** on **January 22, 2011**, at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Parents, kids, educators, and other stakeholders will enjoy this day-long celebration, featuring choice presentations, school performances, celebrity speakers, food, music and more!



Join us at the **SCHOOL CHOICE EXPO** on January 22!

To learn more about School Choice Month and to **reserve your booth for the EXPO**, go to [www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com](http://www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com).

See you there!

# Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

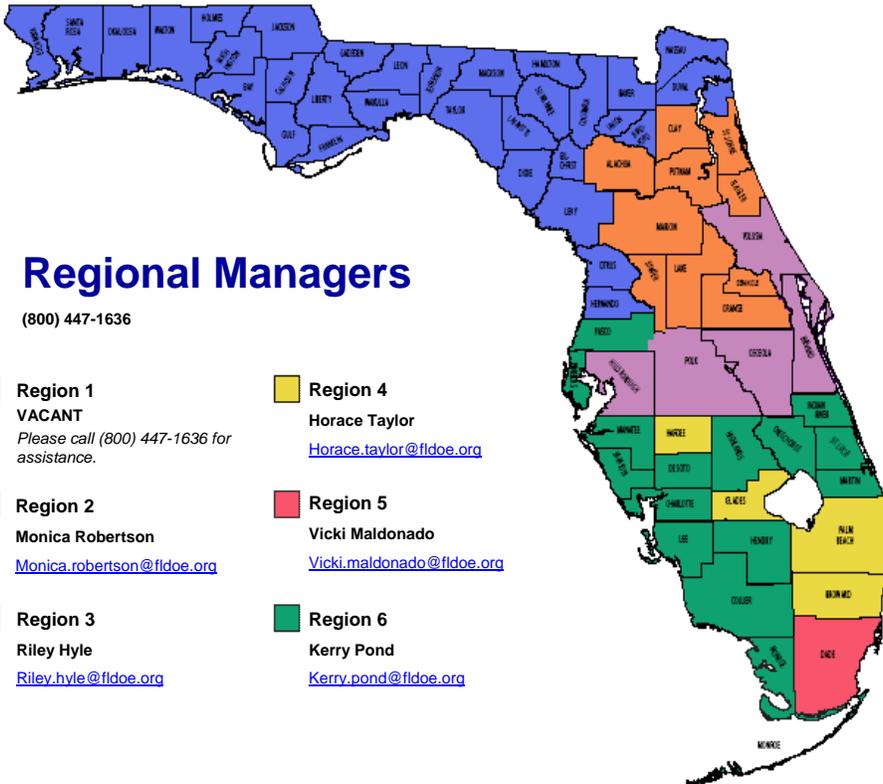
## McKay Scholarship Program

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:**

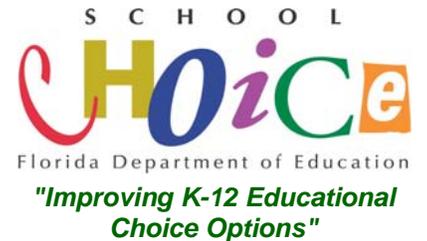
- Private schools participating in the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** must meet the deadlines set by their Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.
- The deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines. Therefore, the Department cannot make exceptions if these deadlines are missed.



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