



# Florida Scholarship Programs Newsletter

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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## Compliance Renewal 60 Days to Resolve Outstanding Issues

### Special Points of Interest:

- Intents currently being filed are for the 2011-2012 school year.
- **Attendance Verification** for the April 2011 scholarship payment must be submitted March 3-16, 2011.



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**March 1st is the deadline** for submission of the Compliance Form. Your form must be postmarked by the deadline to be eligible to participate in the Scholarships Program for the 2011-2012 school year.



Following the timely submission of the Scholarship Compliance Form, **renewing schools must resolve any outstanding compliance issues**, including the submission of inspection reports and fiscal soundness documentation (if applicable), **on or before May 1, 2011**.

Schools unable to resolve compliance issues by May 1st **will not be eligible** to participate in the scholarship programs for the 2011-2012 school year.

Upon demonstration of compliance for the 2011-12 school year, the Department will send the private school a letter confirming compliance.

If you have any questions related to your school's compliance status, please contact your regional manager.

## McKay Payment Discrepancies

The third quarter McKay Scholarship payments for the 2010-11 school year were recently distributed. It is very important for participating private schools to review these payments immediately, as well as other payment records from throughout the school year. **Any discrepancies must be submitted to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice by March 4, 2011**, for corrections to be reflected in the final payment of the school year that is scheduled for April 1. Any further payment correction requests for the current school year must be submitted to the Department no later than June 1, 2011 in order to receive payment.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional manager.

## Private School Employee Fingerprinting

As private schools continue to resolve compliance related issues, it is important for both renewing schools and new participants to know and understand the employee fingerprinting requirements. **Every employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact must electronically submit a set of fingerprints** through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for a state and national background screening. The screening results must be securely stored at the school's location and be available for inspection by the Department of Education should your school be randomly selected for a site visit.

Please note that Department of Children and Families (DCF) background checks **do not** meet the statutory screening requirements for participation in the state scholarship programs because DCF does not provide the results to the private school for screening against [s. 435.04, F.S.](#) Only teachers with a valid Florida teaching certificate are exempt from this requirement according to [s. 1002.421\(2\)\(i\), F.S.](#)

If you have any questions about these requirements, please review the related [Technical Assistance Paper](#) on the School Choice Web site.

### Q. What about personnel who only participate in before- or after-school programs?

A level 2 background screening is required only if all of the answers to the questions below are **Yes**.

- Is the person an employee or contracted personnel of the private school?
- Does the person have unsupervised access to or direct contact with a scholarship student?
- Is the private school responsible for the scholarship student?

## FTC Testing Reminder



As a reminder, private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program must **annually** administer or make provisions for FTC students in grades 3-10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education. A complete list of approved tests is available on the School Choice Web site at:

[www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/ctc/files/norm\\_CTC.pdf](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/ctc/files/norm_CTC.pdf).

Once the test is administered and the scores are received by the school, copies of the scores must be reported to the Project Director, Professor David Figlio. When sending the assessments to be scored, please be sure to **request national percentile rankings** (not just the number correct) from the scoring company. As in previous years, Professor Figlio will be collecting copies of each FTC student's test scores for the 2010-11 school year. Send copies of score sheets with the student's name, testing date, and national percentile ranking to: David Figlio, School Reporting Compliance Center, Department of Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7140.

## Mark Your Calendar

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

**March 3-16**—Attendance Verification period for the April 1 payment.

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

**April 30**—Date on which a 2010-11 intent expires if unused.

**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 to be eligible for the first 2011-12 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.

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





## In the News

### FROM JUST READ, FLORIDA:

#### WHY TEXT COMPLEXITY MATTERS



When teaching reading and engaging students in text reading, it is important to match students' ability with the text they are reading. Using complex text in English/ language arts, science, social studies, technical subjects, and content reading, supported by comprehension strategies like read-alouds,

deep discussion, multiple opportunities to model text understanding through written responses, and scaffolded thinking aligned to complex questions, will accelerate text understanding.

To read more on this topic go to: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/edextranet/Documents/LiteracyConveningWhyTextComplexityMatters.pdf>.

#### SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO AVOID AND TAKE CONTROL OF HEAD LICE (SCRATCH)

The [Head Lice Community Education Program](#) is supported through an educational grant to the National Association of School Nurses from Shionogi Pharma, Inc. Head Lice Community Education Program materials include the following web-based resources:

- PowerPoint Presentation: *Head Lice in Children: A Real Head Scratcher for the Community* available at [http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch\\_pptools\\_2010.ppt](http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch_pptools_2010.ppt)
- Fact Sheet for School Nurses available at [http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch\\_fact\\_nurse\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch_fact_nurse_2010.pdf)
- Fact Sheet for Parents in English at [http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch\\_fact\\_parent\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch_fact_parent_2010.pdf) and Spanish at [http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch\\_fact\\_parent\\_spa\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch_fact_parent_spa_2010.pdf)
- Dear Parent Letters in English at [http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch\\_parent\\_letter\\_2010.doc](http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch_parent_letter_2010.doc) and Spanish at [http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch\\_parent\\_letter\\_spa\\_2010.doc](http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/resources/scratch_parent_letter_spa_2010.doc)

### REGISTER FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL FAMILY CAFÉ

The **13th Annual Family Cafe** will be held **June 3-5, 2011** at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort and Convention. Register now at [www.FamilyCafe.net](http://www.FamilyCafe.net). As part of the registration process, you will also be able to request financial assistance to cover the cost of your hotel stay at the Disney Coronado Springs. Financial assistance will be distributed through a lottery process prior to the event. A [PDF version of the registration brochure](#) is currently available on the website. If you wish to send in your registration form instead of registering online, you may fax it to (850) 224-4674 or mail it to: The Family Café, 1332 N. Duval St., Tallahassee FL 32303. There is no need to register again if you have already completed your registration by mail or fax. Please remember, whether you register online, by fax, or by mail, your chances of receiving financial assistance remain the same.



## Spotlight on... New Regional Manager Scott Earley

The School Choice Office is pleased to announce the addition of a new Regional Manager. **Scott Earley** will serve districts and participating private schools in Region 1, covering the north of Florida from Pensacola to Jacksonville. This is familiar territory for Scott, who grew up in Tallahassee and graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Psychology. Following a Masters in Divinity with an emphasis on counseling, Scott worked with the United Way in New Orleans and later in management.

Scott feels very lucky to be working with school choice. "This is something I not only care about, but feel I have some background in. I went to private schools, my wife and I home school our children - and it's working really well for us - and I have worked with non-profits most of my life." As he completes his regional manager training, Scott is looking forward to getting to know his schools and districts and helping them with their scholarship questions.



*Scott Earley will take on responsibilities for Region 1.*

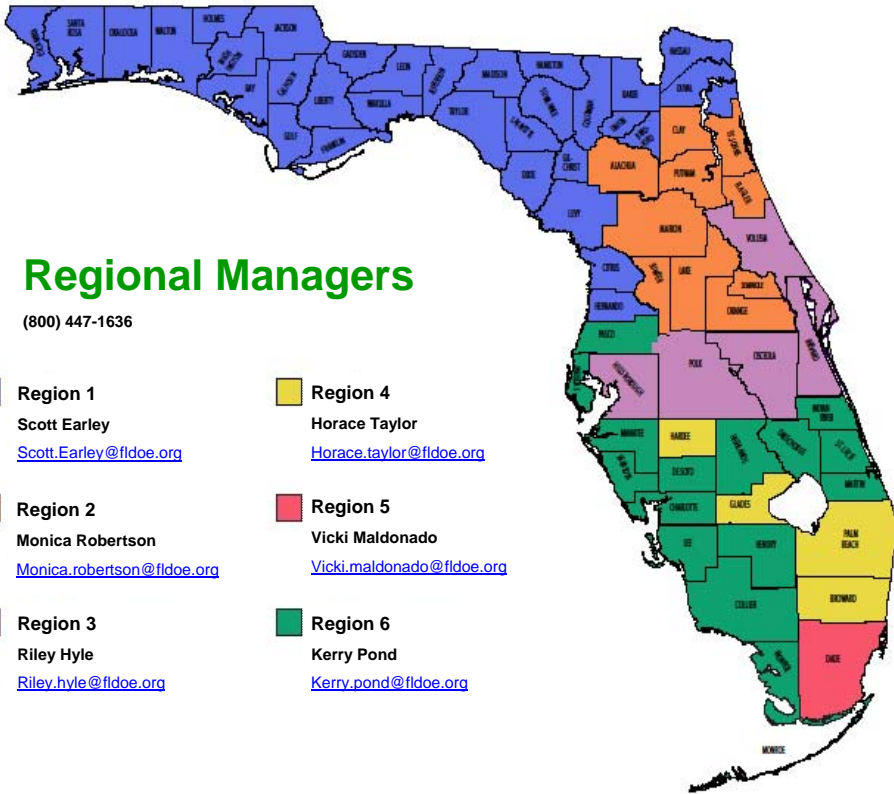
# Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

## 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:**

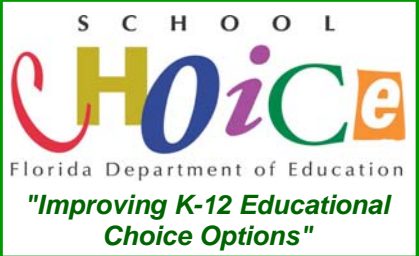
- Private schools participating in the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** must meet the deadlines set by their Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.
- The deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines. Therefore, the Department cannot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



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