

FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

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Intent to Participate for the 2011-12 School Year

Special Points of Interest:

- New scholarship students must be enrolled by **January 2, 2012**, to be eligible to receive a February 1st payment (parent must have filed intent by December 3rd).
- **Last day** to file intent for the current school year is February 1, 2012.
- **Attendance Verification** for the February 2012 payment must be submitted between **January 3-9, 2012**.



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

[Filing for the 2011-12 School Year](#)—The last day to file intent for the 2011-2012 school year is February 1, 2012. Any new scholarship students who file intent on or before this date must be enrolled by March 2, 2012, to be eligible to receive a fourth quarter scholarship payment on April 1, 2012.

[Filing for the 2012-13 School Year](#)—**Intents filed after February 1, 2012, will be for the 2012-13 school year.** These students must be enrolled in a participating private school by August 2, 2012, in order to be eligible for a first quarter scholarship payment on September 1, 2012.

[Enrollment in the current school year with a 2012-13 Intent](#)—Although a 2012-13 student is not eligible for payment during the current school year, a parent with a valid intent for 2012-13 may choose to enroll an eligible student in a participating private school for the remainder of the 2011-12 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 or a 504 Plan that is valid for more than 6 months.

[Current McKay Students](#)—Please note that a new intent does not have to be filed for a student already participating in the McKay program in a private school. However, all students currently enrolled for the 2011-12 school year, regardless of whether or not they received payment, **must be re-enrolled** by August 2, 2012, to be eligible for a first payment next school year.



Mark Your Calendar

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

January 3-9—Attendance Verification week for the third payment period.

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

February 2—First day for new students to file an intent for the 2012-13 school year.

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

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

March 5-14—Attendance Verification week for the final payment period.

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 the September 1 payment.

August 2— Enrollment deadline for the September 1 payment.

Compliance Deadline — March 1st



Private schools wishing to continue participating in the **McKay and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Programs** for the 2012-13 school year must submit their Compliance documentation annually **by March 1, 2012**. The 2012-

13 Scholarship Compliance Form, Application and Renewal Packets are available on the School Choice Web site.

To renew participation, the Compliance Form must be:

1. submitted online,
2. printed, signed, notarized, and
3. postmarked by March 1, 2012.

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.

Reminder - FTC Norm-referenced Testing

This is a reminder to private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program to 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. The approved assessments and specific instructions are available on the School Choice Website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/CTC/norm_referenced_assessment.asp.

Participating private schools must make arrangements to administer one of the approved listed tests during the 2011-12 school year, unless the private school has requested and received approval to use an alternate assessment. If you have any questions related to this requirement, please review the [Technical Assistance Paper](#) posted on the School Choice Website, or contact your Regional Manager.



In the News

Family Café Request for Presenter Proposals

The 14th annual Family Café will be held June 15–17, 2012 in Orlando, Florida. Proposals for presentation should be submitted by **December 30, 2011**. The application form is available on the Family Café's website at <http://www.familycafe.net/images/stories/pdffiles/presenterproposalform2012.pdf>. Additional information about the conference, exhibit table forms, micro-enterprise forms, and more may be found at <http://familycafe.net/>.

What's on the Menu? Financial Education for Families

Are you looking for an easy and exciting way for students and their families to learn about everyday finances and smart money decisions? The "What's on the Menu? Financial Education for Families" program may be just what you're looking for. Teachers can also request free resources, including a classroom poster with tips, tricks and lesson plans that strengthen the connection between the classroom and real world financial situations, and access online materials that include lesson plans, videos and more. Sign up now at <http://volunteerusafoundation.org/programs/families/parent-workshops-tools/financial-workshop-for-families/> to schedule a free family-style workshop or to download materials. Contact Samantha Taylor at Samantha.taylor@volunteerusafund.org or call (352) 237-6685 for your free poster. Visit <http://volunteerusafoundation.org/> for more information and to register.



The 2012 regular Legislative Session opens January 10 and continues until March 9. At this time, one bill has been filed which, if passed, will affect School Choice scholarship programs.

HB 859 - Florida Tax Credit Scholarship

Program is a general bill which revises student eligibility requirements for participation in the program; increases the tax credit cap amount applicable to the program; revises provisions relating to reporting of test scores by private schools participating in the program; provides that a private school may choose to offer and administer statewide assessments at school; revises DOE duties relating to reporting of test scores and site visits; requires school district to provide statewide assessments & related materials to school that makes request; and revises conditions upon which the Commissioner of Education may base denial, suspension, or revocation of a private school's participation in the program or suspension of scholarship fund payment.

The full text of this bill may be viewed at: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=48101>.



Check your Contact Information

*A new year often brings changes such as new staff or a new location. Incorrect contact information or typos may prevent you from receiving important scholarship program communications. Please log in to the School Choice Website and click "View School Info" to ensure your school's **address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address** are up to date. If corrections are necessary, please contact your Regional Manager as soon as possible.*

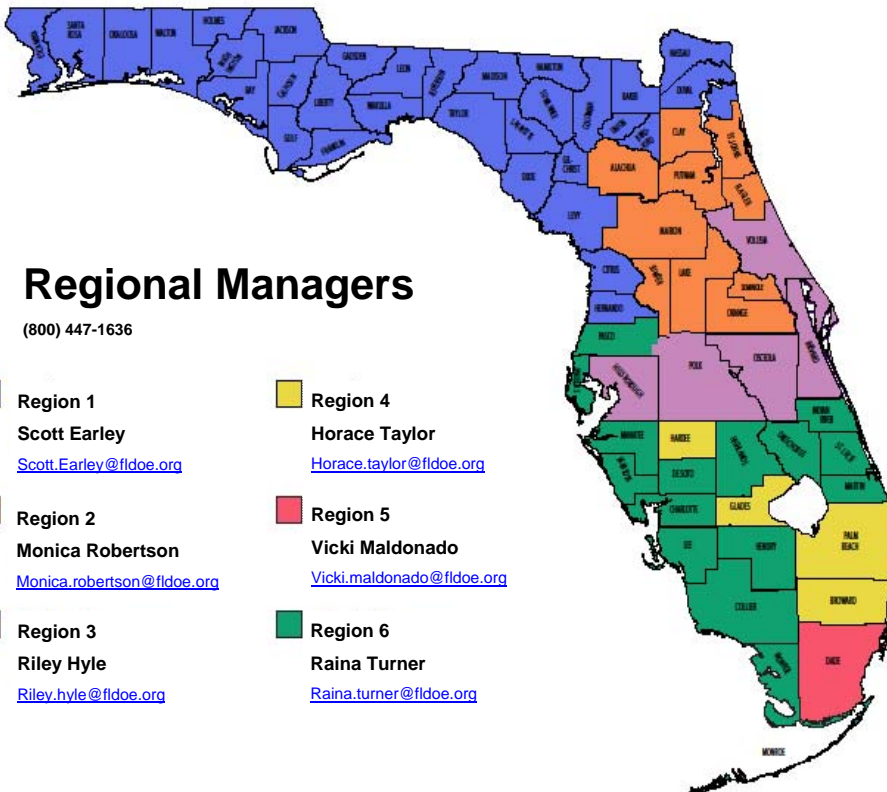


Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

McKay Scholarship Program 2011 - 2012 IMPORTANT DEADLINES					
Payment Periods	Payment Date	Parental Intent Deadline	Private School Enrollment Deadline	Attendance Verification	
				Available Online	Submission 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 3	October 10
Jan 1 – Feb 28	February 1	December 3	January 2	January 3	January 9
Mar 1 – June 30	April 1	February 1	March 2	March 5	March 14

Please note:

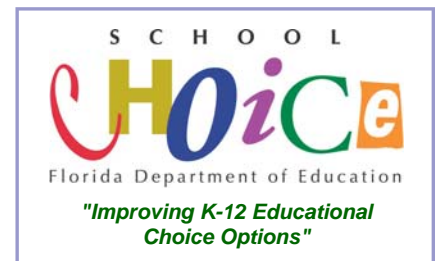
- Private schools participating in the **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program** must meet the deadlines set by their Scholarship Funding Organizations to receive payment.
- The deadlines for filing a parental intent and private school enrollment are statutory deadlines. Therefore, the Department cannot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



Regional Managers

(800) 447-1636

- **Region 1**
Scott Earley
Scott.Earley@fldoe.org
- **Region 2**
Monica Robertson
Monica.robertson@fldoe.org
- **Region 3**
Riley Hyle
Riley.hyle@fldoe.org
- **Region 4**
Horace Taylor
Horace.taylor@fldoe.org
- **Region 5**
Vicki Maldonado
Vicki.maldonado@fldoe.org
- **Region 6**
Raina Turner
Raina.turner@fldoe.org



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

On the Web at:
WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

Current and previous newsletters are available on the School Choice Website.