

January 2009



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice  
325 West Gaines Street • Suite 522 • Tallahassee, FL • 32399-0400 • 1-800-447-1636 • [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)

## Private School Newsletter

### Private School Annual Survey

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2008-2009 school year! If you have not already completed the Annual Survey, please visit the School Choice website as soon as possible. Submitting a Private School Annual Survey is one of the requirements outlined in Section 1002.42(2)(b), Florida Statutes, which states in part:

**"Each private school shall annually execute and file a database survey form on a date designated by the Department of Education."**

Private schools that do not submit a current annual survey will be removed from the Directory of Private Schools. We encourage you to complete the Annual Survey for the 2008-2009 school year and take advantage of the benefits which include:

- Being listed in the Directory of Private Schools, where parents can access and view your school's information;
- Serving as the first step in applying to participate in the McKay and Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Programs;
- Receiving timely updates on federal initiatives or changes affecting private schools;
- Allowing eligible students in your school to qualify for a Bright Future's Scholarship; and
- Receiving informational updates from the Florida Department of Education on issues or requirements affecting private schools including IDEA, Title I, attendance requirements, retention of records, and student immunizations.

Please visit the School Choice website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org> click on "Private School Annual Survey" in the green section, log-in using your four-digit school code and password, and complete your Annual Survey. The surveys must then be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice by May 1, 2009 in order to be included in the Directory of Private Schools.

To verify that the Department of Education has received your annual survey, please login as a private school administrator on the School Choice website. Under *Step One: Annual Private School Survey*, a date will appear after the bolded text stating "Hard-Copy Received." If there is no date, the Department has not received a hard-copy of the survey.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our toll-free School Choice Information Hotline at 1-800-447-1636.

### Private School Closure

When a private school shuts down, or has no students, it is required to transfer all permanent student records to the superintendent of the public school district in which it was located. If a member of a private school system or association, the school may transfer records to the principal office of the system or association. The school should then notify the Department of Education of the date of transfer of student records, the location of storage, the custodian of such records, and the number of records to be stored. The department acts as a clearinghouse and maintains a registry of transfers of student records.

It is not the intent of the Legislature to limit or restrict the use or possession of any student records while a school is operational, but to facilitate access to academic records by former students seeking to continue their education or training after a private school has become defunct. **(Section 1002.42, F.S.)**

### **U.S. Department of Justice National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest**

This year the Department of Justice is sponsoring a national poster contest and will announce the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony on May 25<sup>th</sup>, in Washington, DC. This contest and ceremony commemorates the acts of the many groups and people who bring our missing children home. The contest also helps to focus our attention on children who have been recovered, as well as those who are still missing. You are invited to join the effort to educate children across the country about safety issues by giving your 5<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest.

The Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Law Enforcement/Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (FDLE/MEPIC), AMBER Alert partners, and other organizations will work together to select a winner to represent Florida. The FDLE/MEPIC will submit the winning poster to the U.S. Department of Justice for the national judging. The national winner will travel to Washington, DC, accompanied by his/her teacher and parents to receive an award. This national winning poster will be used in 2010 as the pictorial theme for Missing Children's Day.

The theme for the poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home". A complete packet of information relating to the poster contest can be found at: <http://ojidp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>.

Each school should select one winning poster per 5<sup>th</sup> grade class that participates. The schools should submit their poster(s) to the FDLE/MEPIC (postmarked by March 4, 2009) for state-level judging:

Donna Hodges  
FDLE/MCIC  
2331 Phillips Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

If you have any questions or need additional information, please send an email to [mcic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mcic@fdle.state.fl.us) or [mc.day.2009@fvtc.edu](mailto:mc.day.2009@fvtc.edu).

### **Got 2B Safe! Contest**

To encourage elementary school teachers to help their students learn how to be safe, Honeywell and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children launched the Got 2B Safe! Contest in 2005 where teachers were invited to submit brief lesson plans emphasizing Got 2B Safe's rules for personal safety. Information about this competition, along with lesson plans created by teachers themselves, can be found on the following web site: [www.got2bsafe.com](http://www.got2bsafe.com). Please share these innovative and creative ideas with your teachers.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please send an email to [mcic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mcic@fdle.state.fl.us) or [mc.day.2009@fvtc.edu](mailto:mc.day.2009@fvtc.edu).

### **Revision of Sunshine State Standards- Social Studies, Physical Education and Health**

Private schools that choose to offer a curriculum similar to the Sunshine State Standards may be interested in noting that the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies, Physical Education and Health Education were approved by the State Board of Education on December 2, 2008. Now that the new standards have been approved, the next step will be to revise the course descriptions for public schools. For more information regarding the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/BII/curriculum/SSS/>.

### **Office of Technology Learning and Innovation**



Check out our newly designed website! <http://www.flinnovates.org>. Our office assists districts and schools with assessing technology use and identifying needs for successful integration of technology into the curriculum. The new website highlights tools to help districts and schools evaluate technology access and proficiency, and provides resources to help meet technology goals. Please contact Jenny Black at [jenny.black@fldoe.org](mailto:jenny.black@fldoe.org) or 850-245-9470 with any questions.