

Summer 2009



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

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## Private School Newsletter

### Private School Annual Survey

If your school has not yet completed the Private School Annual Survey for the 2008-09 school year, please log on to the School Choice website at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org), to complete the survey. The survey must be submitted by mail, **postmarked no later than May 1, 2009**. Completing a Private School Annual Survey is a requirement outlined in Section 1002.42(2)(b), Florida Statutes.

Private schools that do not complete and submit a current Private School Annual Survey by mail, postmarked by the May 1 deadline, will be removed from the Private School Directory and will not be able to be listed again until a 2009-2010 Private School Annual Survey is completed and submitted by mail. The 2009-2010 Private School Annual Survey will be available September 1, 2009.

Removal of your listing in the directory may affect your school's ability to participate in other state and federal programs such as the Bright Future's Scholarship Program or the National School Lunch Program.

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

### Closing Requirements

Florida law requires all private schools that close to 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. Closed private schools are required to transfer all permanent information contained in student records to the public school district in which the private school was located or to the principal office of the private school system or association of which the private school is a member. It is important to comply with these requirements in order to facilitate access to academic records by former students seeking to continue their education. If your private school is closing at the end of the 2008-09 school year, please contact the Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice at (800) 447-1636.

### Florida Student Voices Podcasting Event – (<http://flstudentvoices.org>)

The [Florida Association of Computers in Education](http://www.floridacomputersineducation.org), in collaboration with The [Florida Digital Educator](http://www.floridadigitaleducator.org) program, has officially announced a statewide event called STUDENT VOICES. Students will be podcasting from their individual schools (or other locations) on the same day, at the same time, and on the same theme: "Learning is Cool". We want to have as many students as possible across Florida raise their voices about the importance of 21st century skills.

Contact your [FACE Regional President](#) for additional details and locations in your area.

- Theme: Learning is Cool
- When: Saturday, April 25, 2009
- Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Where: Your School or a Neighboring School



## **Teaching and Learning Summer Institutes and Workshops –**

(<http://etc.usf.edu/fde/training.html>)

Training provided by the Florida Digital Educator program prepares educators to integrate technology into their curriculum as they explore methods that engage students with content knowledge. The FDE program offers two types of training: institutes and workshops. [Institutes](#) provide opportunities for educators to work collaboratively over the course of multiple days on projects that explore instruction in differentiated ways using digital tools. [Workshops](#) are focused on teaching specific digital skills and include pedagogical methods focused on improving content knowledge. Institutes and workshops are offered in a variety of formats including: face-to-face, on-line, and blended. All sessions include follow-up activities that encourage educators to use what they learn back in their classrooms by posting to forums, uploading student artifacts, and participating with other classes on projects.



## **Next Generation Reading/Language Arts Standards**

Private schools that choose to offer a curriculum similar to the Sunshine State Standards may be interested in noting that the revision process for the Reading and Language Arts Next Generation Sunshine State Standards has begun. When the new standards have been approved, the next step will be to revise the course descriptions for public schools. Follow the process at the Sunshine State Standards review and revision Web site at [FLStandards.org](http://FLStandards.org). For more information regarding the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/BII/curriculum/SSS/>.

## **Private School Legislation**

The Florida Legislature session is from March 3—May 1, 2009. There are several bills this year that, if approved by the Governor, will affect Florida private schools.

A list of proposed legislation affecting private schools and schools participating in the school choice scholarship programs is available on the School Choice website at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org>. Click on [News and Upcoming Events](#), and then click on the link for the [2009 Legislative Session: Summary of Bills Related to Scholarship Programs and Private Schools](#).

For more information on the legislative session, please visit Online Sunshine, the official site of the Florida Legislature, at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>.

## **New from the U.S. Department of Education**

### **Education Options in the States: State Programs That Provide Financial Assistance for Attendance at Private Elementary or Secondary Schools (Rev. February 2009)**

The Office of Non-Public Education updated "Education Options in the States." The publication provides descriptions of state programs such as education scholarships and tax credits that provide financial assistance for families to send their children to private elementary and secondary schools.

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/schools/choice/educationoptions/educationoptions.pdf>