

January 2010



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 2009-2010 school year! To complete the Annual Survey, please visit the School Choice website. 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 2009-2010 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 Florida 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 Login". 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, 2010** 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.)**

## **Bright Futures Scholarship Program**

Seniors are currently applying for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships by submitting the *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) online. A completed FFAA must be submitted during the last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation). An FFAA provides the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) authorization to evaluate a student's transcript.

At the conclusion of the fall semester, you need to submit (online data enter) a transcript--with 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades and courses in progress for the 8<sup>th</sup> semester--to the Bright Futures evaluation system (select PRACTICE 2010 EARLY) for each of your seniors, especially those who submitted an FFAA.

Should you have questions regarding the FFAA or identification of your Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program applicants, please call our Bright Futures Guidance Counselor line toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 (option 2).

- **Webinars – Sign up for a webinar!** Offered August through May of each academic year.  
Registration: <https://suncom.webex.com/mw03061/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=suncom> Choose the "Training Center" tab and then the "Upcoming" tab to register for the above online webinars.
- **FASTER capability for private high schools!** Please contact the technical team at [FSTR@fldoe.org](mailto:FSTR@fldoe.org) or (850) 245-9775 for information about sending transcript data to Bright Futures via spreadsheet templates which can be converted by the FDOE to FASTER files.
- **National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM)** - NT4CM 2010-11 academic year initiative is under way!  
NT4CM provides **free** training and resources related to federal, state, and local financial aid programs for counselors and mentors. Register at <https://www.osfaffelp.org/osfatraining/> for Central Florida sites (Ocala, Orlando, and Tampa) offered during the week of January 18, 2010. Watch for Web Ex NT4CM sessions to be offered in February 2010.
- **Online Help** – Our Web site ([www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf)) includes resources to assist you.

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

**The Kinsey Collection Now Available on iTunes U:** Through a partnership between the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, the Florida Education Foundation and Apple, The Kinsey Collection is now available through Florida's iTunes U page, allowing teachers to incorporate the collection in their classrooms and lesson plans. The Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey is a breathtaking exhibit of more than ninety rare books, sculptures, paintings, documents manuscripts and vintage photographs which tell the story of African Americans in the Americas from 1632 to the present.

Florida recently launched its iTunes U Web site, a new digital sharing platform that connects students, teachers, parents and communities to free multimedia content designed to enhance learning. To find out more information about The Kinsey Collection, visit [www.thekinseycollection.com](http://www.thekinseycollection.com) or [www.thebrogan.org](http://www.thebrogan.org). To visit Florida on iTunes U, go to [www.floridaitunesu.org](http://www.floridaitunesu.org).

## **Florida Virtual School Creates New Learning System**

The Florida Virtual School recently announced a partnership with Giunti Labs to create a state-of-the-art Learning Content Management System (LCMS). The new system will enable current course content to be transformed into personalized learning opportunities for each student via a range of delivery methods – traditional, virtual school setting, mobile devices or the learning management system supported by their school. For more information about the LCMS at the Florida Virtual School, contact Jodie Pozo-Olano at (540) 349-2311 or [Jodie@Sequoiapr.com](mailto:Jodie@Sequoiapr.com).

## **U.S. Department of Education**

ED is conducting a series of webinars to assist ED grantees and sub-grantees in managing grants under the Recovery Act. The goal is to provide information and enhance communication as we all work together to spend Recovery Act funds effectively and achieve the goals of the Act. These webinars will cover a broad range of topics, such as basic federal grant, program, and fiscal management requirements, Recovery Act-specific topics, innovative projects/best practices, and fraud prevention, and equitable participation provisions for private school students in ARRA programs. Staff from across ED will present and will reply to questions as time permits. Information, materials, and archives are available at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/web-conferences.html>.

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

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, community, and school. Every year on May 25<sup>th</sup>, National Missing Children's Day, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) commemorates the valiant and unselfish acts of those who bring our missing children home. The DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, DC. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, are flown to Washington to attend this special ceremony.

Local schools submit a winning poster for judging at the state level. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement/Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (FDLE/MEPIC), along with the Florida Department of Education, and other organizations work together to select a winner to represent the State of Florida. The FDLE/MEPIC submits the winning poster to the U. S. Department of Justice for the national judging.

The theme for the poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home". Schools should start as soon as possible on the posters and class discussions. Each school will select one winning poster per 5<sup>th</sup> grade class that participates. January 13, 2010, which is national AMBER Alert Awareness Day, is the suggested conclusion date for the local and regional competitions. Schools need to submit their poster(s) to the FDLE/MEPIC, postmarked by February 5, 2010, for state-level judging, to the address below.

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

A complete packet of information can be found at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>. If you have any questions or need additional information about this important national contest, please send an email to [mepic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mepic@fdle.state.fl.us) or [mc.day.2010@fvtc.edu](mailto:mc.day.2010@fvtc.edu).

## **Nominate Students for Children's Week "Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting**

The Children's Week "Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting provides a forum for students from across the state to pose poignant questions to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet about important children's issues in Florida. The 20-member Cabinet, led by Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, will hear from a student panel selected from a statewide pool of applicants. The event will take place Tuesday, April 13, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public.

To nominate a middle or high school student to participate on the 12-member student panel, download the Student Panel Application at [www.childrensweek.org/events/CWStudentPanelApplicationForm2009.pdf](http://www.childrensweek.org/events/CWStudentPanelApplicationForm2009.pdf) (PDF). Completed Student Panel Applications must be received by Monday, Feb. 1, 2010. For more information about the "Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting, download the "Kids Only" fact sheet at [www.childrensweek.org/events/factsataglance.pdf](http://www.childrensweek.org/events/factsataglance.pdf) (PDF) or contact Jason Zaborske at (850) 251-7274 or e-mail [info@childrensweek.org](mailto:info@childrensweek.org).

## **Arts for Life! Scholarship**

The Foundation for Excellence in Education is accepting applications for the Arts for Life! scholarship from graduating high school seniors for their outstanding achievement in the arts. To be considered for the scholarship, public, private or home education program students must submit a completed application, a brief essay explaining "How the arts have positively influenced my life," and a sample of their work in creative writing, dance, drama, music or visual arts. Each of the 25 winners will receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship toward their pursuit of the arts in higher education, and have an opportunity to showcase their arts discipline through performance and exhibition at a luncheon in their honor. The deadline to submit an application is Feb. 1, 2010. Contact the Foundation for Excellence in Education at (850) 391-4090 or visit [www.ExcelinEd.org](http://www.ExcelinEd.org) for more information.

## **The Effectiveness of Nonviolent Civic Action Essay Contest**

High school students in grades nine through 12 are encouraged to submit an entry for the Effectiveness of Nonviolent Civic Action essay contest sponsored by the National Institute of Peace. Essays must be no longer than 1,500 words and consist of three sections which lay out and develop a position in response to the essay contest question. Each student must have a contest coordinator who can review their essay and act as the key contact between the participant and the Institute. One national award totaling \$10,000 will be conferred as well as two other national awards worth \$2,500 and \$5,000 respectively, in addition to 53 state awards each worth \$1,000. The deadline for submitting an essay is Feb. 2, 2010. For more information, including the essay question, comprehensive guidelines and submission requirements visit [www.usip.org/npec](http://www.usip.org/npec). A study guide can also be found at [www.usip.org/npec/sq10.pdf](http://www.usip.org/npec/sq10.pdf) (PDF).

## **Find out more:**

- **The Core**, formerly referred to as the Monday Report, is a Department of Education electronic publication providing education-related news, and is distributed via e-mail biweekly.



Subscribe: <http://data.fldoe.org/listserv/thecore/default.cfm>

- **Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs**

The mission of this office is to lead statewide efforts to close the achievement gaps affecting students whose educational opportunities are limited by low-performing schools, to increase awareness among parents and other community members about public school options in Florida and to ensure all students are well-served and No Student Is Left Behind.

<http://www.fldoe.org/flbpso/>

Includes information on how a private school may become an approved Supplemental Educational Services provider. <http://www.fldoe.org/flbpso/nclbchoice/ses/ses.asp>

- **Online Sunshine: Official Internet Site of the Florida Legislature**

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=63558777&CFTOKEN=40776280>

Online Sunshine provides convenient access to the Statutes, Constitution, and Laws of Florida. Online Sunshine for Kids is also available and provides fun facts, activities, and information for the younger crowd. <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/kids/>

- **2010 Florida Legislative Session**

The 2010 Legislative Session begins March 2, 2010. The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice will be posting a summary of bills related to private schools and the scholarship programs at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/news.asp>.

- **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program**

<http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/ctc/>

- **McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program**

<http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/McKay/>