

Summer 2010



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

Private School Newsletter

Private School Annual Survey

If your school has not yet completed the Private School Annual Survey for the 2009-10 school year, please log on to the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org, to complete the survey. The survey must be submitted by mail, **postmarked no later than May 1, 2010**. 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 2010-2011 Private School Annual Survey is completed and submitted by mail. The 2010-2011 Private School Annual Survey will be available September 1, 2010.

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 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 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 2009-10 school year, please contact the Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice at (800) 447-1636.

New Format for the "Private School Newsletter"

Future editions of the "Private School Newsletter" will be distributed to schools and other parties electronically, through e-mail. Moving to an e-mail only format will not only eliminate costs in materials, printing, handling, and postage, but will also reduce environmental impact by saving paper and other resources involved in the distribution of the newsletter to the over 2,000 private schools throughout Florida. In order to facilitate this change and provide a smooth transition to the new electronic format, please ensure all school e-mail addresses have been entered correctly in your Annual Survey. A school may also update its Contact E-mail address at any time by logging in as a private school administrator on the School Choice Web Site. Under the Administration heading on the left side of the screen, click on the link to "Update Contact Info" and make the appropriate changes. After the newsletters have been sent out via e-mail, an archived version will be made available at http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private_Schools/assistance_resources/news_events.asp.

2010-2011 Updates Regarding School Immunization Requirements

- Students entering Kindergarten through Grade 2 need documentation of 2 doses of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine;
- Students entering Grades 3 – 9 need documentation of 1 dose of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine;
- Students entering Grades 7 & 8 need documentation of Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis);
- Students entering Kindergarten and Grade 1 need documentation of 2 doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

For questions regarding school immunization requirements, please contact Dianne Mennitt at (850) 245-7851 or via email at dianne.mennitt@fldoe.org.

Schools may print the Department of Health brochure to share with parents/guardians via http://www.immunizeFlorida.org/files/school_shots_web.pdf.

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Security: In order for your private school students to earn a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, your high school must:

- be registered as a private high school with the Florida Department of Education, and
- request, from OSFA, secure access to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program's Evaluation System to submit your high school students' transcripts online for evaluation for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. Be sure to indicate at least one senior on your private school annual survey, so your high school will be listed on the required Florida Financial Aid Application.

Web site: Refer students to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/ApplyHere.htm to submit the required **Initial State Student Application**. Refer to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/acadrequire.htm to view the academic requirements for each Bright Futures Scholarship.

Before you go home for the summer:

Please be sure to submit final transcripts with final grades and high school graduation dates to Summer Production for all your seniors who submitted a Florida Financial Aid Application. A standard Florida high school diploma is a requirement for earning a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. When you indicate the diploma type online, the links "standard" and "accelerated" will direct you to the listing of the coursework required for these diplomas. By checking the radio button next to these links, you are indicating the student has earned a standard Florida high school diploma.

Webinars: Sign up for a webinar! These hands on, instructor led, web-based trainings are offered free August through May of each academic year. Sessions for guidance counselors covering eligibility requirements, course table information, state student financial aid database, and private high school online transcript entry & evaluation systems are available.

Go to <https://suncom.webex.com/> and choose the "Training Center" tab and then the "Upcoming" tab to register for the above online webinars.

Contact Beverly Lahtinen via e-mail at Beverly.Lahtinen@fldoe.org or (850) 245-1898 or toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 for assistance with any of the above.

Private School Legislation

The Florida Legislature session is from March 2—April 30, 2010. 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 [2010 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>.

Florida Digital Educator Teaching and Learning Summer Institutes



Several professional development opportunities are available this summer at the 2010 Florida Digital Educator (FDE) Teaching and Learning Institutes.

Florida's Digital Educator program provides a forum for educators to collaborate, learn, and engage in learning experiences for themselves and their students using digital tools to produce meaningful curriculum content. Educators attending the institutes are prepared to integrate technology into their curriculum with authentic learning experiences that are engaging and focused on content knowledge.

FDE's Teaching and Learning Institutes bring educators together for four days in workshops where they learn, share ideas, explore engaging teaching practices, and create projects using digital tools.

Please visit <http://etc.usf.edu/fde/institutes.php> for more information including dates and locations of the institutes, costs and registration details.

Florida on iTunes U

New digital content is being loaded into the *Florida on iTunes U* site every week! Check out the new and useful courses, such as, **Florida Learn and Serve**, **Student Tech Tips**, and the **Pre-Algebra** course from the Florida Virtual School.

For more information and to open the site in iTunes, visit our launch page at <http://floridaitunes.org/>.



Information and Resources for Enrolling Students from Haiti

Free information on health assessment and immunization services is available from the Florida Refugee Health Program at <http://www.fldoe.org/haiti/pdf/FRHP.pdf>. For more information, contact the Florida Refugee Health Program at 850-245-4350.

"Frequently Asked Questions Related to Students from Haiti" is available at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5696/dps-2010-41a.pdf>.

Department of Education Newsletter

The Core is a Department of Education electronic publication providing education-related news, and is distributed via e-mail biweekly. To sign up, please go to <http://data.fldoe.org/listserv/thecore/default.cfm>. Archived editions are available at <http://www.fldoe.org/newsletter/>.

