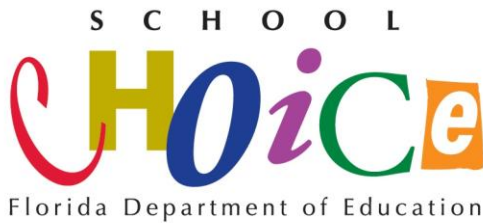


January 2011



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

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 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 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, 2011 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.)**

Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Council

The Office of the Governor has established a [Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council](#) to serve as its research arm and to guide the planning for the promotion of adoption and the prevention of abuse, abandonment and neglect. The Council comprises 31 members representing child serving and advocating agencies, organizations and parents across Florida.

To view the list of meetings and their materials for the Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council, please visit http://www.flgov.com/ca_meeting_info.

State Plan-

Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015

http://www.flgov.com/capp_plan_10_15

Local Planning-

Prevention and Permanency Plans: July 2010 – June 2015 http://www.flgov.com/capp_lpt_plan_10_15

To learn more about the Local Planning Teams, visit http://www.flgov.com/ca_lpt.

Archived-

State Plan and Local Plans: January 2009 – June 2010 (http://www.flgov.com/capp_plan_09_10)

Needs Assessment, State Plan and Local Plans July 2005 – June 2010

(http://www.flgov.com/child_abuse_prevention_old)

Click http://www.flgov.com/child_abuse_prevention to go back to the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection main Web site.

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Your seniors are currently applying for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships by submitting the *Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) online. Students who wish to earn a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship must submit a completed FFAA during their 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, we need you to submit (online data enter) a transcript--with 7th semester grades and courses in progress for the 8th semester--to the Bright Futures evaluation system (select PRACTICE 2011 EARLY) for each of your seniors, especially those who submitted an FFAA.

- These students are listed on your Florida Financial Aid Applicants list on the secure Bright Futures website for guidance counselors.
- Review each transcript for accuracy, then move the transcript to the Bright Futures Production evaluation system.
- Accuracy of the demographic information on both the FFAA and the transcript is crucial for completing the evaluation process.
- We have provided online tools to assist you in this process.

NEW this year

- 1) Award notifications for all state programs, including Bright Futures, will **ONLY** be posted to students' online accounts. Students should check their status often after they submit an FFAA. In March, they can begin viewing their mid-year transcript Bright Futures notifications (if you've provided their mid-year transcript) and in August, they can begin seeing their final transcript Bright Futures notifications.
- 2) Test score requirements will be increasing for future high school graduates. Check www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/newsrenew.htm for test score requirement changes.

FASTER capability for private high schools! We now have a process that allows private schools to send transcript data to Bright Futures via spreadsheet templates which can be converted by the FDOE to FASTER files. Please contact our technical staff at FSTR@fldoe.org if you are interested in implementing the FASTER process for private high schools.

Online Help – Our website (www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf) includes resources to assist you.

Help tab on secure guidance counselor Web site:

- PowerPoint presentation for students/parents on Bright Futures initial eligibility requirements.
- Template for Verification of Receipt of Information form (several to a page), printable version. This was developed at the request of high school guidance counselors to document each student's receipt of information on the initial eligibility requirements and to avoid miscommunication.
- Template for Bright Futures information for district publications which may be used in your communications to students.
- Training Manuals for Self-Study

Webinars – Sign up for a webinar! These hands on, instructor led, web-based trainings are offered August through May of each academic year. The following would be most helpful to private high school counselors:

- OSFA/BF Initial Eligibility Requirements for High School Guidance Counselors
- OSFA/BF CCT--Comprehensive Course Table for High School Guidance Counselors
- OSFA SSFAD/State Student Financial Aid Database for High School Guidance Counselors
- OSFA/BF Private HS Online Transcript Entry & Evaluation System for Private School Guidance Counselors

[Click here \(https://suncom.webex.com/\)](https://suncom.webex.com/) and choose the "Training Center" tab and then the "Upcoming" tab to register for the above online webinars.

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).

FL WIN: Florida Language and Writing Initiative Network

In the English language arts classroom, the writer's workshop provides a well- organized, social, learning environment where the purposes of writing – to persuade, to explain, and to convey experience - are studied and practiced.

Also embedded in the teaching of writing is the importance of responding to reading and engaging in active research.

Writing Instruction in the 21st Century Classroom

Reliable research in the teaching of writing has increased over 600 percent over the last twenty years. The information on this site reflects much of this research, highlighting especially the following concept:

- Content and form - idea and style - are dual components of writing proficiency.

Florida students are expected to be thoughtful, judicious writers who reflectively engage in both critical and creative thinking.

Florida students are expected to craft their words purposefully. Drafting and redrafting, often over a period of time, students pursue mode, sentence, and word that complement and reinforce their message.

How May the FL WIN site Help Teachers?

The new site is intended to assist Florida's K-12 teachers in their dedication to K-12 Florida writers and the students' increasing academic achievement in writing.

Many lessons and site recommendations also are linked to one or more grade-level Florida writing benchmark(s) for Florida SSS alignment.

Please visit the **FL WIN** Web site for more information: <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/fl-win/>

Arts for Life! Scholarship

Students graduating from public, private or home schools in 2011 are eligible to apply for the Arts for Life! Scholarship. Interested high school seniors who demonstrate excellence in visual art, music, dance, drama or creative writing may submit a completed application, a brief essay explaining "How the arts have positively influenced my life," and a portfolio of work by Feb. 1, 2011. Twenty-five graduating students will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. If you have questions, contact Lisa Kammel Raguso, Arts for Life! Program Director, at (850) 391-4090 or Lisa@ExcelinEd.org. For complete scholarship details, visit the Foundation for Excellence in Education website at http://excelined.org/Pages/Programs/Arts_For_Life.aspx.



Volunteer USA Foundation “Behind the Cupboard Door” Contest



Florida students in grades four through seven in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties are encouraged to enter the Behind the Cupboard Door contest sponsored by the Volunteer USA Foundation. Students should write an original poem or essay based on one of the cupboards left unexplored in the book “100 Cupboards” by N.D. Wilson. The entry must be typed and able to be read aloud in three minutes or less. Fifteen winners will have the opportunity to be honored at the Celebration of Reading Children’s Breakfast with the book’s author. The contest deadline is Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. Full contest details can be found on the Volunteer USA Foundation website at www.volunteerusafoundation.org. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Vega-Melendez at (850) 559-2208 or via e-mail at Contest@VolunteerUSAFund.org.

Deadline Approaching to Enter the 2011 Severe Weather Awareness Week Poster and Video Contests

There is still time for students across the state to enter the 2011 Severe Weather Awareness Week Poster and Video Contests. The Florida Division of Emergency Management and the American Red Cross encourage Florida students to submit an entry for the poster and video public service announcement contests by Jan. 10, 2011, that shows how to be prepared for the natural hazards that affect the Sunshine State. The winning entries will be featured during the 2011 Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign and students will win tickets to Disney World, weather radios and other great prizes. Complete contest rules and information for both contests can be found at www.FloridaDisaster.org/SWAW/2011.



Bureau of Federal Educational Programs-Supplemental Educational Services

SES is a part of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. SES providers offer high-quality, research-based instruction designed to increase academic achievement for eligible students who are enrolled in Title I schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress for three consecutive years in reading or math.

Eligible students are public school students from low income families, as determined by the school district for the purpose of allocating funds under Title I. Students attending private schools are not eligible to receive funding for SES.

Private schools are eligible to be SES providers. Private schools that are approved as providers of SES may only receive funding for supplemental educational services provided to public school students.

Information for potential providers is at: http://www.fldoe.org/flbpos/nclbchoice/ses/ses_providerinfo.asp.

We encourage all applicants (new and currently approved) to sign up to receive electronic notification regarding the SES program. The Department uses a Paperless Communication System for all official announcements and other important provider information. The Request for Applications, including notifications regarding procedures and deadlines, will be issued through this system. To access the Paperless Communication System and register to receive announcements, go to <http://data.fldoe.org/communications/>.

All entities wishing to provide State-Approved Supplemental Educational Services in Florida must apply on an annual basis to the Department of Education. The application will be available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/flbpos/>. We encourage you to register on the Department’s paperless communication system to receive automatic notification of the official release of the application by visiting: <http://data.fldoe.org/communications/>.

Contact Samantha Love at (850) 245-0479 for more information.

Events

School Choice Expo

Jan. 22, 2010
Florida State Fairgrounds
Tampa, FL



As part of Florida School Choice Month in January 2011, the School Choice Expo will bring together parents, educators and interested stakeholders to learn about and celebrate school choice in Florida. The schedule will include presentations, choice showcases, music, celebrity speakers, student performances and much more.

More information can be found at www.floridaschoolchoiceexpo.com, including details on making a booth reservation.

Transitions 2011: High School to Higher Education

Jan. 28, 2011
Lynn University
Boca Raton, FL

Educators interested in helping students with learning differences transition from high school to higher education can join national experts to discuss tactics and strategies for success at the Transitions 2011 Conference on Jan. 28, 2011. The conference is designed for guidance counselors, administrators, special education teachers, parents and students and will feature breakout sessions on a variety of learning differences. For more information, visit <http://www.lynn.edu/about-lynn/news-and-events/events/transitions-2011?searchterm=Transitions+2011>

Florida Educational Technology Conference

Jan. 31 – Feb. 3, 2011
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL

The 2011 Florida Educational Technology Conference will be held Jan. 31 – Feb. 3 in Orlando and offers a wealth of information for all education professions in how to integrate technology throughout the curriculum. The conference will offer more than 200 concurrent sessions and nearly 70 professional development workshops in addition to lectures and hands-on workshops by local and national technology experts. For more information, visit <http://fetc.org>.

National At-Risk Education Network National Conference

Feb. 22 – 24, 2011
Edgewater Beach Resort
Panama City, FL

The National At-Risk Education Network will hold their 8th Annual National Conference Feb. 22 – 24, 2011, in Panama City, Fla. The conference will focus on successful programs and practices for at-risk learners. The keynote speaker to kick off the conference is nationally-known writer and educator Lynn Stoddard, author of “Educating for Human Greatness.” For more information about the conference, visit <http://atriskeducation.net/>.



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/>.

