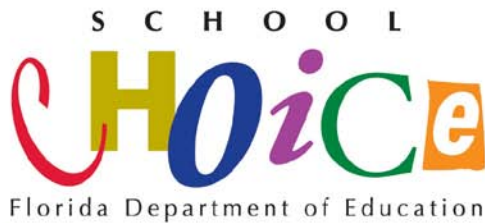


September 2011



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

The Private School Annual Survey for the 2011-2012 school year will be available September 1, 2011 on the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Completing the Annual Survey is one of the requirements outlined in Section 1002.42, 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.”

We encourage you to complete the Annual Survey as soon as possible and take advantage of benefits such as:

- 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 Futures Scholarship; and
- Receiving information from the Florida Department of Education on issues or requirements affecting private schools including IDEA, Title I, attendance requirements, record retention, and student immunizations.

The failure of any institution to submit the annual database survey form and notarized statement of compliance with the fingerprinting and criminal background provisions of Section 1002.42(c), Florida Statutes, shall be judged a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, proper authorities of such institution shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500. Submission of data for a nonexistent school or an institution providing no instruction or training, the purpose of which is to defraud the public, is unlawful and the person or persons responsible commit a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in Section 775.082, or Section 775.083, Florida Statutes. Persons owning or operating a private school found to have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude commit a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in Section 775.082, or Section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

Please visit the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org, click on "Private School Annual Survey," https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/login/login_private_school.asp, log-in using your four-digit school code and password, and complete your Annual Survey. Your completed survey must be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our toll-free School Choice Information Hotline at (800) 447-1636.

Private School Closure

When a private school closes, 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 that 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 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.)**

Emergency Planning

Practical tools for school emergency planning are available on the U.S. Department of Education's Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center website at: <http://rems.ed.gov/>. The site has links to publications and resources such as "Emergency Management Opportunities and Challenges for Non-Public Schools" (http://rems.ed.gov/views/documents/ERMgmtOppts_Challngs4N_PS.pdf). The site is updated regularly and includes a wealth of information on emergency preparedness for the education community.

Immunization Requirements for Children Entering or Attending Childcare, Family Daycare, Preschool and/or School

Florida immunization requirements are found in the *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities, and Family Daycare Homes*, <http://www.immunizeflorida.org/schoolguide.pdf>, which is incorporated by reference in Rule 64D-3.046, *Florida Administrative Code*. This guide provides technical assistance for healthcare professionals, schools, preschool, childcare and family daycare operators.

Prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to Florida schools (kindergarten through 12th grade), each child shall have on file a Florida Certification of Immunization, DH 680, documenting the following:

Public/Non-public Schools Kindergarten through 12th Grade (children entering, attending, or transferring to Florida schools):

- Four or five doses of DTaP vaccine
- Three, four or five doses of polio vaccine
- Two doses of MMR vaccine
- Two or three doses of hepatitis B vaccine
- Two doses of varicella vaccine* (kindergarten effective school year 2008-2009, then each year an additional grade)

*Varicella vaccine is not required if there is a history of varicella disease documented by the healthcare provider.

Additional Immunization Required for 7th Grade Entry:

In addition to compliance with all other immunization requirements, children entering, attending, or transferring to the seventh grade in Florida schools must complete the following:

- One tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine

For more information, call (850) 245-4342 or visit www.ImmunizeFlorida.org.

Florida KidCare

Florida KidCare is the state of Florida's health insurance program for children providing high-quality, low-cost health insurance for uninsured children under age 19. Studies show insurance coverage improves children's access to the medications and treatment they need to control childhood illnesses and may help decrease student absences. Being in good health helps children attend school regularly, and allows them to participate in classroom and recess activities—all essential parts of succeeding in school. Children enrolled in Florida KidCare receive comprehensive health care, including doctor visits, check-ups, shots, prescriptions, vision and hearing screenings, and more. To learn more about Florida KidCare or to apply online, visit www.floridakidcare.org today!

Coordinated School Health Partnership

The Florida Department of Health, and the Department of Education, partner to promote a Coordinated School Health approach to assist in the development and enhancement of state, district and school-based infrastructures that protect and maintain student health and support academic achievement. The Coordinated School Health approach provides a strategy for improving the health and learning of Florida's school age children.

Visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/CSHP/index.html> for more information.

Healthy Child Development Can Prevent Problems

At every age, children must master the skills necessary to succeed in life. Making sure that children develop in a healthy way from the start may prevent many problems from ever occurring. Mental, emotional and behavioral problems are as common in children as a broken arm or leg. The latest statistics reveal that about 20% of children in the United States experience one or more of these problems.

Knowing what health development looks like is the first step. Focusing on healthy development is a chance to help them succeed and an opportunity to step in before problems occur. Parents, schools and communities all have a role to play in promoting child well-being.

From birth to age 5 children change more than during any other stage of their lives. This period is an opportunity to help them establish a firm foundation for the rest of their lives. Children must learn to focus their attention and express and manage their feelings so they can get along with others. They also begin to make friends and relate to peers.

During middle childhood children begin to attend school and develop academically, learning to read and write and do math. They learn to follow rules, develop positive relationships with friends and classmates, and learn to adapt to life's stresses.

During adolescence teenagers must develop the skills and abilities necessary to carry them into adulthood. They must establish good health skills, and a sense of being individuals who are also well connected to friends, family and the community.

There are a number of ways to identify children at risk for mental, emotional and behavioral problems. Doing so can prevent some problems before they occur and treat others when symptoms first appear.

Children experiencing problems in school, at home or with peers may be showing signs of mental, emotional, and behavioral problems. Examples of problems that come to parents are in reports of repeated fighting, rule-breaking, school failure, or substance use. Children may be reporting feeling sad, depressed or anxious. Parents should also note behaviors that display a sad, depressed or anxious state, as often times children do not know how to express how they are feeling.

Some life events make children vulnerable to mental, emotional and behavioral problems. When children experience divorce or the death or incarceration of a parent, they may develop mental, emotional, or behavioral problems. These children are more likely to have physical health problems, use alcohol or drugs, and drop out of school. Physical and sexual child abuse and emotional neglect are factors in the development of depression, anxiety and alcohol and drug abuse.

Children with a family history or certain mental, emotional, and behavioral problems may be a higher risk for these disorders themselves. When a parent suffers from depression or anxiety, has a psychological disorder such as schizophrenia, or abuse drugs or alcohol, their children are also much more likely to suffer from these disorders.

When children are bullied or victimized, experience academic failure, spend time with deviant friends, or use alcohol and drugs, they may develop mental, emotional, and behavioral problems. Witnessing violence increases the likelihood of developing posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, antisocial behavior, and the use of alcohol and drugs.

For specific information regarding child and youth development and mental, emotional and behavioral health in children, the following websites are a good place to start:

http://www.ounce.org/CAP2011/Parent_Booklet.pdf and

<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/ChildrensCampaign/parents.asp>

Supplemental Educational Services (SES)

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 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: http://www.fldoe.org/flbpos/nclbchoice/ses/ses_providerinfo.asp

For information related to applications, please call (850) 245-9947.

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

Beginning December 1, 2011 seniors may apply 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 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.

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/mw0306lc/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=suncom>

Choose the "Training Center" tab and then the "Upcoming" tab to register for the above online webinars.

Bright Futures Security- In order for private school students to earn a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, your high school must complete the Annual Survey with the Florida Department of Education. Then you may request from OSFA secured 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. Contact Beverly Lahtinen via e-mail at Beverly.Lahtinen@fldoe.org or (850) 245-1898 or toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 to obtain access to the Bright Futures Evaluation System.

FASTER Capability- We have a submission 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 Office of Application (OAS) technical support staff via e-mail at FSTR@fldoe.org if you are interested in implementing this new FASTER process for private high schools.

Legislative Updates- The 2011 Legislature made changes to Bright Futures for the **initial eligibility requirements**. These changes are outlined with other changes on our website at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/newsrenew.htm>. The 2011-2012 award amounts may be viewed at <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/awardamt.htm>.

Curriculum Guides/Publications/Newsletters- Thank you for including information about the Bright Futures Scholarship Program in your communications to students. For your convenience, we have posted a template of Bright Futures information to include in your communications available by the HELP tab after you logon. **Please be sure to refer students and parents to our website** <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>

Contact Information: OSFA@fldoe.org or toll-free 1-888-827-2004

Providing Services to Eligible Private School Children

Summary: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that receive Title I, Part A, funds must ensure that private school students receive equitable services.

The Department of Education has issued a technical assistance paper (DPS: 2009-060) regarding providing Services to Eligible Private School Children. This document describes the funding process, services that LEAs must provide, the process LEAs must follow, and the documentation LEAs must keep. The technical assistance paper may be viewed at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-5461/dps-2009-060.pdf>.

New Content Available on iTunes U

The Florida Department of Education has partnered with The Florida Channel to provide new civics content including Historic Markers and Florida Facts, Florida Portraits, Florida's Attic, Great Floridians, 60 Second Civics and Florida Symbols, utilizing The Florida Channel's extensive library of public affairs programs and educational content to engage students in the workings of Florida government. To learn more or to download content from Florida on iTunes U, visit www.floridaitunesu.com.



Literacy League Podcast

Latest Literacy League Podcast Now on YouTube

Florida resident and author M.C. Finotti answers student questions about her book *The Treasure of Amelia Island*, in the latest podcast from the Florida Department of Education's Literacy League book club. The podcast features students asking questions about the popular book inspired by one of Florida's well-liked destinations along the state's East Coast. Throughout the year, the Literacy League book club connects prominent authors with Florida middle school students through a podcast question-and-answer session about a featured book. Upcoming book selections include *Zora and Me* by Victoria Bond, with questions due from students by Oct. 31, and *The Spy Who Came from the Sea* by Peggy Nolan, with questions due from students by Jan. 30, 2012. To view the podcast, visit the Department's new YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/educationfl>. For more information about the Literacy League book club, visit www.fldoe.org/literacyleague.

U.S. Department of Education-Private School Universe Survey (PSS)

Institute of Education Sciences-National Center for Educational Statistics

With increasing concern about alternatives in education, the interest and need for data on private education has also increased. NCES has made the collection of data on private elementary and secondary schools a priority.

The purposes of this data collection activity are; a) to generate biennial data on the total number of private schools, teachers, and students; and b) to build an accurate and complete list of private schools to serve as a sampling frame for NCES surveys of private schools. The PSS began with the 1989-90 school year and has been conducted every two years since.

Information: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/>

Private school search: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>

Request Addition of Your School: http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/school_requestform.asp

Events

Florida Reading Association Annual Conference

*Sept. 8 - 11, 2011
Shingle Creek Resort
Orlando, Fla.*

The Florida Reading Association Conference on Sept. 8 - 11, 2011, is an opportunity for educators to build potential partnerships that help expand their educational and professional network. In addition, the conference features pre-conference institutes as well as a host of speakers and authors. Registration is now open at <http://www.flreads.org/>.

Florida Association for Staff Development Leadership Conference

*Sept. 19 - 21, 2011
Tradewinds Resort
St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.*

The Florida Association for Staff Development (FASD) Leadership Conference will provide attendees with a full-day general session with nationally-known speaker Marcia Tate, and a variety of break-out sessions on current topics in education. For more information or to register, visit www.fasdonline.org.

Florida Distance Learning Association Annual Conference

*Sept. 23 - 24, 2011
Nova Southeastern University Orlando Campus
Orlando, Fla.*

The Florida Distance Learning Association will host its annual conference at the Orlando campus of Nova Southeastern University Sept. 23 - 24, 2011, with the theme "Distance Learning: Best Practices and Beyond." The conference seeks to raise awareness of the best practices in distance learning, promote greater participation in dialogue and exchange, and strengthen distance education in the state and nation. For more information or to register, visit www.fdlia.com or contact Conference Program Coordinator Tara Kobel at tconsultants@aol.com.

Department of Education Newsletter

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