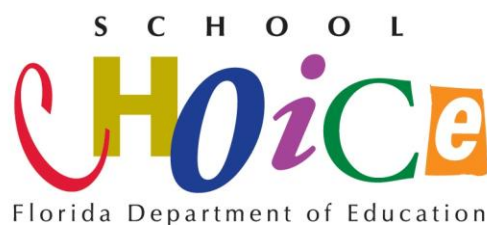


January 2012



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 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 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, 2012 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

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 (enter data online) a transcript--with 7th semester grades and courses in progress for the 8th semester--to the Bright Futures evaluation system 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.

Recent Changes...

2011-12 Awardees

- Students are **now required** to submit a complete, error-free **FAFSA** for Bright Futures, Florida Resident Access Grant, and Access to Better Learning and Education Grant initial and renewal eligibility any time prior to disbursement. No FAFSA = No \$

2011-12 High School Graduates

- Increase in **community service requirement** (and hours increase for Florida Academic Scholars) for all three Bright Futures award levels. Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), and Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) during the 2011-12 academic year, and thereafter, must complete:
 - FAS – 100 hours
 - FMS – 75 hours
 - GSV – 30 hours
- A pilot program was created at the University of Florida to provide for a Bright futures cohort of initial students whose program funding will be limited to spring and summer on-campus classes beginning with the 2012-13 academic year.

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: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf

Telephone: toll-free at 1-888-827-2004.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Resources

Teen dating violence is a pattern of emotional, verbal, sexual, or physical abuse used by one person in a current or past dating relationship to exert power and control over another when one or both of the partners is a teenager. Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, stalking, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive partner uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior to gain power and maintain control over the dating partner. This may also include abuse, harassment, and stalking via electronic devices such as cell phones and computers, and harassment through a third party, and may be physical, mental, or both.

The Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools has recently posted a web page that addresses Teen Dating Violence and provides useful resources for schools:

<http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/TeenDatingViolence.asp>

School Immunization Requirements

Form Required for Immunization Documentation

The Florida Certificate of Immunization, DH Form 680, must be used to document the immunizations required for entry and attendance in Florida schools. This form is not available to the public and must be completed by a Florida physician or a Florida county health department. If moving to Florida, it is recommended that parents obtain a copy of their child's complete immunization history before leaving the current state of residence. The county health department that serves the area where the child will be residing will need this information to transfer the information to a DH Form 680.

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](#), 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.

Immunizations Required for Childcare and/or Family Daycare (up-to-date for age):

- Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP) vaccine
- Polio vaccine
- Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine
- Varicella vaccine (chickenpox)
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine
- Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine

Public/Non-public Preschool Entry (up-to-date for age):

- DTaP vaccine
- Polio vaccine
- MMR vaccine
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Varicella vaccine
- Hib vaccine

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:

Effective 2009-2010, 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, contact your [county health department](#) or private healthcare provider.

Green Ribbon Schools (GRS)

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) recently announced a new initiative: Green Ribbon Schools (GRS). Modeled after the Blue Ribbon Schools Program, the Green Ribbon Schools award will recognize exemplary achievement in environmental impact, health, and environmental education.



The USED is looking to identify schools that have the least impact on the environment, the most positive impact on the health of students and staff, and the most effective preparation of students for careers and citizenship in the 21st century. As Education Secretary Arne Duncan has said, *"Green schools support our shared objectives of well-rounded education, healthy students, and STEM achievement."*

The Florida Department of Education is pleased to announce that Florida will participate in the Green Ribbon Schools program. We are eager for your schools to apply for a Green Ribbon Schools Award by submitting an application for this important and new national recognition. Each state will be allowed to nominate up to four schools for the 2012 national award. Of the four nominees, at least one must be a private school and one must be a school with at least 40 percent of its students from disadvantaged backgrounds determined by free and reduced lunch.

The selection process will be based on demonstrated progress toward the goals of each of the three USED-Green Ribbon School Pillars:

- 1) Pillar One: the school has a net-zero environmental impact.
- 2) Pillar Two: the school environment has a net positive impact on the health and performance of students and staff.
- 3) Pillar Three: 100 percent of the school's graduates are environmentally and sustainability literate.

These are ambitious goals and few schools may achieve all three goals. However, it is important for schools to demonstrate concrete accomplishments, using quantified measures wherever possible. Your continued support of your schools' exemplary achievement in environmental impact, health, and environmental education is greatly appreciated.

Qualifying schools may apply for this honor online using this link: [Florida GRS Application](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html). Applications must be submitted by February 17, 2012. If a school in your district is selected as a finalist, a brief summary of strengths and accomplishments will be required along with your signature and the principal's signature. For further information about the Green Ribbon Schools Award, visit the USED website at: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>

If you have any questions about this award, please feel free to contact Romina Sola, Florida Green School Network Coordinator, at Romina.Sola@dep.state.fl.us or 850-284-3298 or Penny Detscher, Office of Healthy Schools, at Penny.Detscher@fldoe.org or (850)245-5089.

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Fifth grade students throughout Florida are invited to submit an entry for the Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. Using the theme, "Bring Our Missing Children Home," students should design and draw a poster that reflects the theme and complete an application describing the importance of the theme. Each school can submit a poster for each 5th grade class that participates and the statewide winner will be chosen for entry into the national competition. The statewide winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Tallahassee for Florida Missing Children's Day in September 2012.

A complete packet of information can be found at: <http://mecptraining.org/poster-contest/>. If you have any questions or need additional information about this national contest, please send an email to mepic@fdle.state.fl.us or mc.day@fvtc.edu.

Schools will need to submit their poster(s) to the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) by Jan. 31, 2012, for state-level judging to Jessica Davenport with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse, 2331 Phillips Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Title I, Part A Services Available to Eligible Students Attending Private Schools

The Title I program provides supplemental educational services so that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Generally, to qualify for assistance under Title I, a student must reside within the attendance area of a participating public school located in a low-income area and be failing, or at risk of failing, to meet student academic achievement standards.

Under Title I, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to provide services for eligible private school students, as well as eligible public school students. In particular, §1120 of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), requires a participating LEA to provide eligible children attending private elementary and secondary schools, their teachers, and their families with Title I services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families.

The Title I services for private school students must be developed in consultation with officials of the private schools and the LEA. The NCLB strengthened these requirements by, among other things, requiring meetings with private school officials and the LEA and a written affirmation signed by private school officials that the required consultation has occurred.

The amount of Title I funds allocated to each participating public school attendance area is determined mainly on the basis of the total number of low-income students—both public and private – residing in each area. Expenditures for private school students in each area generally are determined based on the proportion of students from low-income families residing in that area who attend private school.

The Title I services provided by the LEA for private school participants are designed to meet their educational needs and supplement the educational services provided by the private school. These services may be provided by the LEA, or by a contractor who is independent of the private school and any religious organization. Title I services or benefits must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological.

If you are interest in having supplemental Title I services provided to your eligible students, teachers, and their families, please contact the Title I office in your district.

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/flbpsi/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/flbpsi/>. 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.

National STEM Video Game Challenge

The 2012 National STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Video Challenge is a new initiative in partnership with President Obama's Educate to Innovate Campaign, the U.S. Dept. of Education and Digital Promise, and is designed to unlock breakthrough technologies to transform teaching and learning. The Challenge is a multi-year competition with the goal to motivate interest in STEM learning among America's youth by tapping into students' natural passion for playing and making video games. The contest is open to students and game designers in four levels: middle school, high school, college and graduate students, and educators. Entrants have until March 12, 2012, to submit their games and ideas.

For complete details, visit <http://stemchallenge.org/Default.aspx>.

Events

Transitions 2012: High School to Higher Education

January 27, 2012
Lynn University
Boca Raton, Fla.

Join national experts to discuss tactics for helping students with learning differences transition from high school to higher education at the Transitions 2012 conference on Jan. 27, 2012. Renowned learning differences expert Rick Lavoie, Debbie Phelps, mother of Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps, and Ellen Goosenberg Kent, producer of an HBO documentary on learning differences headline the day-long conference along with breakout sessions that include adaptive technology demonstrations and discussions about students with autism and other learning differences. For more information, visit <http://www.lynn.edu/transitions>. The conference is designed for guidance counselors, principals and administrators, special education teachers, parents and students.

Florida Educational Technology Conference

January 23 – 26, 2012
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL

Roll up your sleeves and dig deep into education technology when you sign up for any one of **100+ in-depth workshops** offered at FETC 2012. These workshops, in bring-your-own-device and hands-on formats, are led by local and national experts and focus on the cutting-edge programs and processes that can innovate and energize your classroom, school and district.

New This Year: 2-Hour 'How To' Workshops

Presented in a classroom setting, these cost-effective options provide maximum interaction with both the technology and fellow participants—experience and practice technological tools and solutions that you can put into action at your school or district without delay. Learn how to use online tools, blog, engage with social media, edit digital photos, tweet, use various apps, screencast, embed video and much more! For more information, visit <http://fetc.org>.

National At-Risk Education Network National Conference

Feb. 21 – 23, 2011
Edgewater Beach Resort
Panama City, FL

Please join us for our 9th Annual NAREN National Conference! Pre-conference seminar with Anthony Dallmann-Jones, and a post-conference seminar with Frank Kros, are also available!

PLUS! New for the 2012 NAREN National Conference, we have a triple theme: *What Works in the Classroom?*; *Addiction in Youth*; and *Administrative Issues in Alternative Education*.

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/>.

