

Private School Newsletter



Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

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Private School Annual Survey

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2014-2015 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."

We encourage you to complete the Annual Survey for the 2014-2015 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, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, and Personal Learning Scholarship Account 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 www.floridaschoolchoice.org, click on

Contact Us

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"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. The surveys must then be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice by May 1, 2015 in order to be included in the Directory of Private Schools.

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. 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.

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.)**

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

School

Students in Florida public schools and private schools must meet minimum health readiness and immunization requirements. Requirements are determined by grade level.

School immunization and readiness information is posted at: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-people-and-families/childrens-health/school-health/enrollment.html>

Please call the Department of Health, School Health Services Program, at (850) 245-4475 for more information.

Bullying Prevention

Bullying in schools is of increasing focus for Florida public and private schools, districts, and for the Florida Department of Education.

Florida Statute 1006.147, also known as The Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act, requires Florida public school districts to adopt an official policy prohibiting bullying and harassment of students and staff on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, and through school computer networks.

Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/bullying.asp> for more information.

Just for Parents

The mission of the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach is to empower families and communities with resources and information needed to promote a high quality education for their children. The Bureau reaches out to serve Florida's diverse families and communities in a number of ways, including the Just for Parents online community. We encourage you to participate in our online community and hope you will share this resource with your family and friends. <http://www.fldoe.org/family/>

Bright Futures Scholarship Program

A New Generation of Bright Futures Students

Before a Florida private high school is permitted to submit student transcripts for a Bright Futures evaluation, the school is required to be registered with the Florida

Department of Education. Once your school completes the survey, your students will be able to select your school on their Florida Financial Aid Application, and authorized staff will be provided Bright Futures and State Student Financial Aid Database (SSFAD) security logons to facilitate transcript submissions.

The *2014-15 Florida Financial Aid Application* (FFAA) opened December 1, 2014, for 2014-15 high school graduates. Students who will graduate mid-year (December) of the 2014-15 academic year and desire funding for spring term 2016 must apply by August 31, 2015. The FFAA closes August 31, 2015.

Tools and Contacts

See below for locations where you can find the tools that will help you, your students, and their parents stay informed about the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

- **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program website:**

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/

- **Bright Futures Brochure:**

Includes a “Verification of Receipt” form,

at https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/pdf/bf_brochure.pdf

- **Communications and Training Resources:**

Training Manuals for Self-Study and an initial eligibility PowerPoint presentation are available for high school counselors, after a secure login, at <https://www.OSFAffelp.org/bfiehs/>.

Select the Communications and Training Resources tab for additional information.

- **Bright Futures and SSFAD security contact information:**

OSFASecurity@fldoe.org, or toll-free at 1-888-827-2004

Private Schools and Title I

Under Title I, Part A, local education agencies (LEAs) are required to provide services to eligible private school students, staff who instruct these students, and their parents. The scope of the Title I services provided to private schools must be equitable (not necessarily identical) to those provided in public schools.

Title I provides supplementary instruction to private school students who are most at risk of failing to meet high academic standards and who live in Title I attendance areas.

Instruction may take place before or after school, in the summer, or during the school day. Title I services may be provided on site at a private school, including religiously affiliated schools, or at other locations by public school teachers or through a third-party contractor. Services must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological. Services may include books, materials, and equipment necessary to implement the Title I program, extended-day services, summer programs, Saturday programs, counseling programs, and computer-assisted instruction (CAI) with non-instructional computer technicians who supervise computer labs, maintain discipline, and escort students to and from class.

Funding for Title I services is based on the number of private school students from low-income families who reside in Title I public school attendance areas. To receive services, a student must live in a Title I attendance area and have been identified as failing or at risk of failing academic achievement standards.

LEA officials must meet and consult with appropriate private school officials annually to notify them of the intent and purpose of Title I and to design the program. Consultation between the LEA and private school officials must occur before any decision is made that could affect the ability of private school students, teachers, parents and other instructional staff to receive benefits under Title I. Consultation usually starts in November and/or December in preparation for the next school year. Consultation is an ongoing process and must be timely and meaningful.

The goal of the consultation process is to design and implement a program that will provide equitable services and meet the needs of eligible private school students, their teachers, and parents. The consultation must continue throughout the implementation and assessment of activities. This ongoing process addresses issues such as: timelines, methods for feedback, data collection, the size and scope of equitable services, the proportion of the Title I funds the LEA will allocate for services, the identification of eligible private school children's needs, decisions about the delivery of services, how, where, and by whom the services will be provided, an assessment of the services, program improvement, services provided to teachers and families of participating private school children, using a third-party provider, the complaint process, implementing LEA-wide activities, and a review of policies/procedures related to ownership of equipment and materials purchased with Title I funds.

Under Title I, Part A, LEAs are required to maintain written affirmations that the required consultation has occurred annually and was timely and meaningful. These affirmations should be signed by an agency official for each participating private school.

Fast Facts

- Only private schools with an official nonprofit status are eligible for Title I, Part A,

services.

- Individual students, parents, and teachers that instruct those students are eligible for services, not the private school.
- Services are available for Title I private school students' families and teachers.
- LEAs must establish, in consultation with private school officials, multiple educationally related, objective criteria to identify private school students for Title I services.
- The LEA, in consultation with private school officials, must administer the agreed upon program.
- The LEA may not delegate responsibility for program planning, design, and implementation to private school officials, staff, or third-party contractors.
- The teachers who provide private school Title I services must be independent of the private school.
- LEAs that hire teachers to provide services must ensure they are highly qualified.
- Private schools are not entitled to receive a share of the funds for administrative costs, school and district improvement activities, or choice with transportation and SES.
- Private school services cannot be provided to all students, only academically needy students.
- Equipment for eligible private school children cannot be used by other non-participating students.

Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/>, or contact the Bureau of Federal Educational Programs at (850) 245-9939 for more information.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness administers Child Nutrition Programs for the State of Florida. We know that good nutrition is imperative to a child's growth, development and learning. It is our vision that every child in Florida will have access to a nutritious meal full of fresh fruits and vegetables and will be educated on making healthy choices and the importance of those choices on their life.



Schools with high school grades or under that are public or private nonprofit may participate in the school lunch program. Schools that choose to take part in the lunch program receive cash subsidies and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve lunch meals that meet federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced-price lunch meals to eligible children. Schools can also be reimbursed for snacks served to children through age 18 in afterschool educational or enrichment programs.

Any child at a participating school may purchase a meal through the National School Lunch Program. Currently, children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price meals for which the students can be charged no more than 40 cents. Children from families with incomes over 185 percent of poverty pay a full price, though their meals are still subsidized to some extent. The income levels are updated by USDA effective July 1. Schools set their own prices for full-price paid meals but must operate their meal services as nonprofit programs.

For more information on how to participate in the National School Lunch Program, check out our website or contact us at the phone number or email address listed below.

Website: <http://www.freshforfloridakids.com/Sponsors/Programs/NationalSchoolLunchandSchoolBreakfastProgram/HowtoApply.aspx>

Phone:

Ms. Brenda Dekle, at 1-800-504-6609, Extension 7439

Email:

NSLPprospectivesponsor@freshfromflorida.com

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Two upcoming contests for 5th grade students focus on personal safety and missing children. The National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest theme is "Bring Our Missing Children Home."

The 2015 Florida Missing Children's Day Statewide Essay Contest theme is "This is how I stay safe all day" and should encourage students to research personal safety and think about what they can do to minimize risk in their daily lives. Essays must be submitted by February 16, 2015. Contest rules are

at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7234/dps-2014-187.pdf>.

Posters must measure 8 ½ x 14 inches and be submitted for state-level judging by February 16, 2015. Details are

at: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7233/dps-2014-188.pdf>.

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

With increasing concern about alternatives in education, the interest and need for data on private education has also increased. The Institute of Education Sciences-National Center for Educational Statistics (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.

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

School Certification for the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

Certification of a school will result in the school being placed on the annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits, a federal list of schools which will then allow certain teachers currently repaying a Perkins Loan or a Stafford/FFEL Loan to contact their loan providers and possibly

have a portion of their loan forgiven through the Federal Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers.

The criteria for determining school eligibility for certification are:

- Applicants for certification must be registered as a nonprofit private school with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). ;
- Private schools must be nonprofit. A copy of IRS correspondence determining the school's Nonprofit Status is needed with the Private School Eligibility Application form and;
- School grades must be Elementary and/or Secondary (K-12);
- Schools must determine that 35% or more of their students are considered low income in relation to the total membership (K-12) of the school* and;

Once you have determined school eligibility and believe the school meets all the above criteria, complete the Nonprofit Private School Eligibility Application form to request certification. A separate form is needed for each school. You can submit qualifying information for past years by changing the school year on the form and providing appropriate data for that year following the same process as for the current application school year. New forms must be completed each school year.

Visit http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private_Schools/assistance_resources/ftlfp.asp for more information.

NOTE: The Florida Department of Education does NOT make determinations as to teacher loan forgiveness. All questions about loan reductions need to be made by the teachers to the teacher's loan company and not to the FLDOE. Information concerning the cancellation or reduction of loans can be found at the following Federal site: <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>.

Department of Education Paperless Communication System

By signing up for the Paperless Communications System, you will be able to receive e-mail notices containing links to messages, reports, legislative updates, technical assistance papers and official memorandums issued by the Department. Please visit <http://data.fldoe.org/communications/> to sign up.

