



Private School Annual Survey

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 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 and Gardiner 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 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. The surveys must then be printed, signed, notarized, and mailed to the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice by May 1, 2017 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.)**

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Private schools have the opportunity to register with and provide data to the NCES for the purposes of education research. If your school has not provided information for this national database you may register by visiting http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/school_requestform.asp.

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

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! Schools and organizations across the country are encouraged to come together in an effort to educate on the impact of bullying and raise awareness for bullying prevention. Whether it's wearing blue shirts on October 3, 2016 for "Blue Shirt Day" as promoted by www.stompoutbullying.org or wearing orange on October 19, 2016 for "Unity Day" as promoted by www.pacer.org, we know there are many fun and interesting activities and events taking place in schools throughout the state. The Florida Department of Education encourages you to share those with us and we will, in turn, highlight some of these efforts for others to see and learn from. Please send highlights of your events and activities to Brooks Rumenik at brooks.rumenik@fldoe.org.

Bullying in schools is of increasing focus for Florida 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 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.

[Bullying Resources for Educators](#) | [Bullying Resources for Parents](#) | [Bullying Resources for Youth](#)

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/>

Financial Assistance for College

[The Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) Information on possible sources of financial assistance, such as the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Program, and other resources.

[Florida Prepaid College Board](#) Children grow every day, and the cost of college is growing even faster. That's why the State of Florida now has two affordable 529 college plans with more options and flexibility to fit your family's growing needs.

[Scholarships for Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans or Children of Servicemen Classified as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action](#)

The State of Florida provides scholarships for dependent children of Florida veterans or servicemen who died from service-connected diseases or disabilities or have been verified by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs as having service-connected 100% total and permanent disabilities. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs will certify the official status of the veteran or serviceman.

In-State Tuition

Florida law specifies that active duty members of the Armed Services residing or stationed in Florida, their spouses, and dependent children, and active members of the Florida National Guard who qualify for the tuition assistance program, are considered residents for tuition purposes. Furthermore, active duty members of the Armed Services and their spouses attending a public community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida are also considered residences for tuition purposes. Also, a person shall not lose his or her resident status for tuition purposes solely by reason of serving, or, if such person is a dependent child, by reason of his or her parent's or parents' serving, in the Armed Forces outside this state.

[Florida Department of Education, Division of Colleges and Universities](#)

This web site provides information and links to Florida's public and independent colleges and universities.

[Florida Department of Education, Florida Community Colleges and Workforce Development](#)

Click here for a directory of Florida's community colleges, a community college program search, and workforce development information.

[The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities \(FCSUA\) Scholarship](#)

The FCSUA at the University of Central Florida will distribute scholarship funds for students who are accepted into an approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program directly to the institution. The scholarship money may be used by the student for tuition, fees, books, on-campus housing, and campus meal plans. For more information or to apply please visit <http://fcsua.org/>.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for funding, students must have exited the K–12 school system and must:

- meet the student eligibility requirements established in subsection (4) (i.e., student with an intellectual disability, physically attends the institution, and submits documentation regarding the intellectual disability);
- be enrolled in a Florida approved FPCTP program; and
- not be funded through the FEFP or a scholarship under part III of chapter 1002 (e.g., McKay Scholarship, Gardiner Scholarship, Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, etc.)

[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.

National School Lunch Program

What Is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally funded program that assists schools and other agencies in providing nutritious meals to children at reasonable prices. In addition to financial assistance, the NSLP provides

donated commodity foods to help reduce lunch program costs. The United States Department of Agriculture [NSLP](#) is responsible for overseeing the program nationally.

[Florida Statute on School Food Service](#)

Requirements

Schools must apply through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness and complete the requirements prior to the operation of these programs. Once approved, schools will be reimbursed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for each lunch and breakfast meal served provided they meet established state and federal regulations.

- Complete the application process.
- Attend a Child Nutrition Program training.
- Maintain documentation and verification of children's eligibility category and count meals by eligibility category (free, reduced-price and paid meals).
- Maintain meal production records and inventory records that document the amount and types of food served.
- Maintain records of on-site accountability reviews.
- Maintain records of all program income and expenditures.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness will conduct periodic reviews of the school lunch and breakfast programs to ensure that program sponsors comply with state and federal regulations.

Website:

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

Contact:

[Jeremy Taber](#), (850) 617-7417

[Matthew Cherry](#), (850) 617-7426

Email:

NSLPprospectivesponsor@freshfromflorida.com



Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents in Private Schools: An IDEA Practices Toolkit

developed by the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) and
the IDEA Local Implementation by Local Administrators (ILIAD) Partnership

Children with Disabilities Placed by Their Parents in Private Schools: An IDEA practices Toolkit.

The toolkit was developed to help parents, private school officials, and public school officials understand the provisions of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that relate to children with disabilities who have been placed by their parents in private schools. Cost: Free. [Download Toolkit](#)

Advisory: When the toolkit went to press (July 2003), the U.S. House of Representatives had approved legislation to reauthorize the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act and the Senate was taking up its own version of the legislation. The House bill included significant changes in provisions relating to IDEA services to children placed by their parents in private schools, and those changes or others may make their way into the final law. To keep the toolkit up to date, any changes in the law, regulations, and U.S. Department of Education guidance relating to services for parentally placed children in private schools will be posted on the [Toolkit Update Page of CAPE's Web site](#).

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.

Private School Teacher Job Satisfaction Higher than Public School Teachers

The U.S. Department of Education's [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) at the Institute for Educational Sciences (IES) just released a new [Data Point](#) on teacher job satisfaction. A NCES Data Point, generally two pages, presents information on education topics of current interest. The Data Point used data from the [Schools and Staffing Survey](#) (SASS) public and private school teacher questionnaires from the 2003–04, 2007–08, and 2011–12 school years.

Of particular note, higher percentages of private school teachers than public school teachers reported that they were satisfied with their jobs in each of the 2003–04, 2007–08, and 2011–12 school years. Explore the [Data Point](#) for more findings.

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>.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice
Turlington Building, Suite 1044 | 325 W. Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Toll-Free Information Hotline: 1-800-447-1636
Fax: 850-245-0875

