

OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AND PARENTAL CHOICE

Private School Newsletter | April 2017

Child Abuse Awareness Month

In celebration of Child Abuse Awareness month, many schools and private businesses have planted blue pinwheels to bring attention to abused and neglected children. In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America established Pinwheels for Prevention® to bring awareness to child abuse and neglect. Resources to educate students on this issue are available to schools at no cost. To view these resources, go to http://preventchildabuse.org/resource/pinwheels-for-prevention/.

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.)

Florida Tobacco Prevention Training for Educators

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding tobacco prevention training. Registration is open until May 5, 2017. Course access is 24/7. The deadline to complete all course requirements is June 6, 2017. The memorandum may be viewed at https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7856/dps-2017-18.pdf.

Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education Summer Leadership Institute

"Cultivating a Climate of Diversity, Integration and Inclusion for All Students" will be in Bonita Springs on June 12-14, 2017. To register, go to

http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=s6ub7psab&oeidk=a07edug43jj67879fee. For more information, see the attached document.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (Federal)

OSERS supports programs that help educate children and youth with disabilities and provides for the rehabilitation of youth and adults with disabilities. OSERS provides a wide array of supports to parents and individuals, school districts and states in two main areas—special education and vocational rehabilitation—through its two main components: <u>OSEP</u> and <u>RSA</u>.

Getting enough sleep? Visit https://www.girlshealth.gov/body/sleep/index.html



What's up with sleep? It may seem like a waste of time when you've got so much going on. But sleep can help you do better in school, stress less, and generally be more pleasant to have around. Sound good?

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:

<u>Jeremy Taber</u>, (850) 617-7417 <u>Matthew Cherry</u>, (850) 617-7426

Email:

NSLPprospectivesponsor@freshfromflorida.com

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.)

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