



## New Requirement for Private Schools Participating in State-Funded Scholarship Programs

Effective July 1, 2018, each owner or operator of the private school must undergo a level 2 background screening. The fingerprints for the background screening must be electronically submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement and may be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints. The complete set of fingerprints of an owner or operator may not be taken by the owner or operator. The owner or operator shall provide a copy of the results of the state and national criminal history check to the Department of Education.

If you would like further information regarding this new requirement, please contact your regional manager at 800-447-1636.

## 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/>.

## Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations (RESTART)

Under Restart, the Department is authorized to award funds to eligible State educational agencies (SEAs), including those of Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas and U.S. Virgin Islands. These SEAs, in turn, will provide assistance or services to local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools, and private schools to help defray expenses related to the restart of operations in, the reopening of, and the re-enrollment of students in elementary and secondary schools that serve an area affected by a covered disaster or emergency.

The Department of Education will provide further information to private schools in the near future.

## 20h Annual Family Café

June 15, 2018 - June 17, 2018

The Annual Family Café brings Floridians with all types of disabilities together, offering three days of information, training and networking opportunities. Attendees can expect a range of individual breakout sessions, a packed Exhibit

Hall, and a series of special events including Keynote speakers and The Governors' Summit on Disabilities. To find out more information or to register for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Café, please visit <https://familycafe.net/19th-annual-family-cafe>.

The Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice's breakout session overviewing the available state-funded scholarship programs for students with disabilities will be held from 1:30-2:30 on June 15, 2018.

## **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 April 30, 2018. Course access is 24/7. The deadline to complete all course requirements is June 7, 2018. The memorandum may be viewed at <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8194/dps-2018-20.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 11-13, 2018. To register, go to

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef2q7xf6356400a8&oseq=&c=767ee610-9b7e-11e4-9fef-d4ae5292bb50&ch=7682b6a0-9b7e-11e4-9fef-d4ae5292bb50>.

## **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: [OSEP](#) and [RSA](#).

## **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:**

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp>

### **Contact:**

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

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

### **Email:**

[NSLPprospectivesponsor@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:NSLPprospectivesponsor@freshfromflorida.com)

## **Private School Annual Survey**

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 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](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org), click on "Private School Annual Survey," [https://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/login/login\\_private\\_school.asp](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, 2018** 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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