



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
AND PARENTAL CHOICE

Private School Newsletter | January 2018

It's National #SchoolChoice Week! Wondering what events are happening this week in your state? @schoolchoicewk can tell you:

<https://schoolchoiceweek.com/mystate/>



Apply to Administer the Florida State Assessment (FSA)

Any participating scholarship school with at least one Florida Tax Credit or Gardiner Scholarship student enrolled may have the opportunity to apply and participate in administering the FSA and/or the Florida End-of-Course Assessments to all students at your private school. The application to participate along with Frequently Asked Questions has been released, via links available through your secured log-in. The application window is currently open and will close on March 1, 2018, with school eligibility determinations finalized in August 2018. Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/private-schools/> for more information.

Take teaching to the next level with Mind Streams Education workshops for teachers!

The Florida Department of Education has selected Mind Streams Education to offer relevant, technology-focused tools to boost your classroom success. **Participate in the no-cost, upcoming workshop *Transformative Technology that Increases Student Engagement***
<http://mindstreams.petersonsvelocity.com/>

The IRIS Center

The IRIS Center offers a wide variety of resources and services to suit a diverse set of instructional needs and circumstances. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the IRIS Center is headquartered at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. Our primary objective is to create resources about evidence-

based practices for use in preservice preparation and professional development programs. IRIS then disseminates and offers trainings on those resources. Learn more about IRIS from their [informative brochure](#) or visit the [website](#) to get started!

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.

Apply to Be a 2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School

State education agencies (SEAs) are currently accepting applications for nominees for the 2018 [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) program, which recognizes schools in three primary areas known as [Pillars](#): (1) reduced environmental impact and costs, (2) improved health and wellness, and (3) effective environmental and sustainability education. States participate on a voluntary basis and are responsible for nominating eligible schools. Any school that wishes to be nominated should contact their [SEA contact](#) for application deadlines and further information.

Each SEA may submit as many as five Pre-K-12 schools or districts, including a private school. If more than two schools or districts are nominated, then one nominee must serve at least 40 percent of students from a disadvantaged background. Only one of the potential five nominees may be a private school. Additionally, once selected as an honoree, a school or district may not be selected again.

Nominations from states will be accepted by the Department **until March 31, 2018**. After nominees are submitted by the state, the Department of Education will review the nominees to ensure that progress is being made on all three Pillars. This review will determine the 2018 honorees that will be announced on Monday April 23, 2018.

Additional Information

This past spring, the Department recognized a total of 63 awardees, including six private schools, for their exemplary and comprehensive efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics, STEM, and green career pathways. The honorees include 45 schools, 9 school districts, and 9 postsecondary institutions.

To learn more about exemplary practices from ED-GRS cohort 2017, review the [Highlights from the 2017 Honorees](#) or visit the [Green Strides website](#) which provides resources, webinars, case studies, promising practices and collaboration opportunities for schools to make progress across every Pillar of the award.

Note: Dates posted to the ED-GRS website are subject to change. To sign up for updates, visit [ED-GRS listserv](#).

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

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>.

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, 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, 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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