



## Green Ribbon Schools

Created in 2011, The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools is a recognition award given to schools demonstrating efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, and provide education about effective sustainability methods. This is an outreach initiative that helps promote innovative school sustainability practices and resources and multi-agency, multi-sector collaborations on a variety of levels.



### **2020 Application Cycle**

If you are interested in being a Green Ribbon School now is a great time to begin preparing for the 2020 Application process! You can learn how your school can become green by visiting the resources and programs available to you on [Green Strides](#). For more information, visit [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#).



## Every Kid in a Park – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students

[Every Kid in a Park](#) provides free passes to fourth-graders and their accompanying families to access hundreds of parks, and natural sites for a year. To find out how it works, or to obtain your pass, please visit <https://everykidinapark.gov/> for further information.

## School Certification for the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

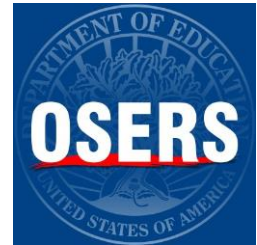
Schools that apply and receive certification for the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program will be placed on the annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits, and will give the opportunity for certain teachers currently repaying a Perkins Loan or a Stafford/FFEL Loan to contact their loan providers and possibly have a portion of their loan forgiven. 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.

Once you have determined school eligibility and believe the school meets all the above criteria, please complete the Nonprofit Private School Eligibility Application form to request certification. 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. Please visit [http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private\\_Schools/assistance\\_resources/ftlfp.asp](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private_Schools/assistance_resources/ftlfp.asp) for more information.

## Educational Technology, Media, and Materials for Individuals with Disabilities Program



The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is inviting schools to apply for new rewards for the fiscal year. The National Center on Accessible Educational Materials for Learning is issuing new awards in educational and technology materials for learning for students with disabilities, to improve the development, demonstration, and use of technology for these students. These rewards will further facilitate high quality learning programs, improve assessment results, meet academic standards, and provide an easy transition to postsecondary education or the workforce, for students with disabilities. The deadline for application is September 3, 2019. For more information, please visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/08/01/2019-16354/applications-for-new-awards-educational-technology-media-and-materials-for-individuals-with->

## 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. The Department shall waive this requirement if the failure to immunize the child is because of religious reasons or other good cause. School immunization and readiness information is posted at: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-peopleand-families/childrens-health/school-health/enrollment.html>. Please call the Department of Health, School Health Services Program, at (850) 245-4475 for more information.

## Private School Annual Survey

Thank you to the private schools that submitted in the Private School Annual Survey for the 2018-2019 school year! The next school survey will be available on **September 1<sup>st</sup>** for the 2019-2020 school year. 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 2019-2020 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.

To access the 2019-2020 Annual Survey, 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, 2020** in order to be included in the Directory of Private Schools.

## 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 the school is in 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 the location 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.)** Upon closing, Private schools must submit a Declaration of Non-Participation to the Florida Department of Education, if they wish to close their school. Contact the Florida Department of Education to complete this process.

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