



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT EDUCATION
AND PARENTAL CHOICE

Private School Newsletter | December 2019

[Apply to Be a School Ambassador Fellow at the U.S. Department of Education](#)

The U.S. Department of Education (the Department) is accepting applications for the [School Ambassador Fellowship](#) 2020-2021 cohort. Launched in 2007, the School Ambassador Fellowship is a year-long professional engagement experience hosted by the Department. It is designed to improve outcomes for students by leveraging the expertise of school-based practitioners in the creation, dissemination, and evaluation of national education policy. Private school professionals are eligible to apply. The fellowship seeks to bring all members of the community together to collaborate with the Department of Education leaders on national education issues.



Fellowship Tracks: Full-Time and Part-Time

The School Ambassador Fellowship offers two separate year-long tracks: full-time and part-time. The full-time appointment is based at the Department's Headquarters in Washington, DC and provides opportunities to engage with Department officials daily on a range of important matters. Part-time fellows maintain their regular school responsibilities in their home communities and have scheduled time to collaborate with Department officials on a range of important issues, on a part-time basis.

The deadline to [apply](#) for the 2020-2021 School Ambassador Fellowship is Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

[Federal Student Aid](#)

The 2020-21 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA®) launched on October 1. New and returning students who plan to attend college between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible. For tips on how to fill out your FAFSA Application visit: "[7 Things You Need Before You Fill Out the 2020-21 FAFSA Form](#)" and "[11 Common FAFSA Mistakes](#)."

[Education Freedom Scholarships](#)

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) President Robert Doar hosted Counselor to the President, Kellyanne Conway, Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, and AEI's Education Policy Studies Director, Rick Hess to discuss their [Education Freedom](#)



**EDUCATION
FREEDOM
SCHOLARSHIPS**

[Scholarship Proposal](#). This proposal will provide a \$5 billion annual federal tax credit for voluntary donations to state-based scholarship programs that empower families to choose the learning environment and style that best meets their students' unique needs. This groundbreaking solution will improve educational outcomes and will expand equal opportunities for all students across the county.

[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.



[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.

[Private School Annual Survey](#)

Thank you to the private schools that have already submitted the Private School Annual Survey for the 2019-2020 school year! The deadline to submit the 2019-2020 annual survey is **May 1, 2020**. 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, 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, 2020** in order to be included in the Directory of Private Schools.

And from all of us at the School Choice office,



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

