



Private School Newsletter | August 2020

Reopening Schools

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is working with our individual private schools across the state to create safe and healthy learning environments for students to return to this fall. The Department has released numerous recommendations for schools including our [Reopening Florida's Schools plan](#). Additionally, on July 6 we provided further guidance to districts and schools in the form of an emergency order, [2020-EO-06: Further Guidance for Closing Achievement Gaps and Creating Safe Spaces for Learning](#). This Emergency Order provides private schools participating in scholarships the same flexibilities afforded to our traditional public and public charter schools.

Additionally, the Department has created the #COVIDStopsWithMe Toolkit designed to assist Florida's education family in lowering the impact in Florida's education institutions and slowing the spread of COVID-19. It includes guidance and tools to help administrators, educators, and families make decisions, protect their students and staff, and communicate with their communities. For a complete list of these documents and resources, please [visit our website](#). We encourage you to download and share these resources on social media, post in your hallways and classrooms, and share with your communities! As always, we encourage you to adhere to guidance issued by your local Department of Health as well as the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

2020 Presidential Scholars

Established in 1964, the United States Presidential Scholars Program recognizes high school seniors who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary, performing arts, and career and technical education fields. This year, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized 161 high school seniors for their outstanding academic achievement, community service, and leadership. Out of these 161 high school seniors, 27 nonpublic school students were named. For a complete list of 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars please visit, <http://www.ed.gov/psp>. Eligible [applications](#) for next year are due by 5:00 PM C.T., February 25, 2021.

Green Ribbon Schools

Each year the U.S. Department of Education releases a list of Education Green Ribbon Schools who are honored for their innovative efforts. This year, 39 schools, 11 districts, and five postsecondary institutions were honored for demonstrating a commitment to sustainable practices, including reduced environmental impact and costs, improved health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education. To see the list of institutions and districts recognized, click [here](#). Applications for next school year are due by September 20, 2020. Schools interested in applying may access the application [here](#).



McKay and Family Empowerment Scholarship Deadlines for 2020-2021 School Year

September 3

McKay and FES Enrollment deadline for the September payments.

September 2

McKay and FES Intent filing deadline for the November payments.

September 15

2019-20 Agreed Upon Procedures Reports submission deadline.

October 2

McKay and FES Enrollment deadline for the November payments.

October 5 - 12

McKay and FES Attendance Verification window for the 2nd payment period.

*Deadlines only apply to the 2020-21 school year.

Private School Annual Survey

Thank you to the private schools that submitted a Private School Annual Survey for the 2019-20 school year! The next school survey will be available on **September 1st** for the 2020-21 school year. Submitting a Private School Annual Survey is one of the requirements outlined in Section 1002.42(2)(b), Florida Statutes, which reads, "**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 2020-21 school year and take advantage of the benefits which include: Being listed in our Directory of Private Schools, serving as the first step in applying to participate in our Scholarship Programs, allowing eligible students in your school to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship, and receiving additional updates from the Department on issues or requirements.

To access the 2020-2021 Annual Survey, please visit the [School Choice website](#), click on "Private School Annual Survey," [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, 2021** in order to be included in the Directory of Private Schools.