



Private School Newsletter | Fall 2022

2022-2023 Private School Annual Survey

The 2022-2023 school survey is now available. 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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, 2023** 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.)

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: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/children-and-adolescents/schedules-and-requirements/index.html>

Parents or guardians may decline Florida SHOTS participation for their child by submitting a completed Florida SHOTS Notification and Opt Out Form (DH Form 1478) to the Immunization Section. If declined, the student's DH Form 680 or 681 must be on file at the school. DH Form 1478 available online at <https://flshotsusers.com/opt-out>.

- Children entering a Florida public or private school for the first time or transferring to another school in the same county/school district do not qualify for a 30-Day Exemption.
- Students who have not met the immunization requirement and do not have an exemption should not attend school until compliance is met. The parents of any child in attendance at a Florida public or private school, grades prekindergarten through 12, are responsible for assuring that the child is in compliance with the provisions of Florida immunization law.
- When reporting student immunization status via DH Form 684 in the fall, assign "out of compliance" for those children who have no DH Form 680 or 681 on file. Do not assign 30-Day Exemption.

Please call the Department of Health, School Health Services Program, at 1-877-888-7468 for more information.

Private Schools and Title I

Sections 1117 and 8501, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), require participating school districts, in consultation with appropriate private school officials, to provide eligible children attending *non-profit* private schools, their teachers, and their families with services or other benefits that are equitable to those provided to eligible public school children, their teachers, and their families. For more information, including equitable services allocations for the 2022-23 school year please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/finance/equitable-services/resources.stml>

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.

Visit website below for more information:

http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/Information/Private_Schools/assistance_resources/ftlfp.asp.

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 Spotlights

National Blue Ribbon Schools

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cadona recognized a total of 297 schools as the **2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools**. The School Choice office congratulates the following Florida elementary and secondary schools recognized in 2022!

- **Holy Spirit Catholic School**, 11665 Ft. Caroline Road Jacksonville, FL 32225-1645
- **Saint Thomas Aquinas High School**, 2801 SW 12th Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312-2953

The [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) program recognizes public and private schools each year. Each year, selected schools are honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC. In addition, the winning applications are posted on the U.S. Department of Education's [website](#)

For additional information on the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program for private schools, visit [The Council for American Private Education's \(CAPE\) website](#).

Other Resources:

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

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