



K-12 Scholarship Programs

Private Schools | August 2015

Upcoming Deadlines

August 15

Date by which FTC standardized testing results must be submitted.

September 2

Intent filing deadline to be eligible for the November 1 McKay payment.

October 2

Enrollment deadline for the November 1 McKay payment.

October 5-9

McKay Attendance Verification week for the 2nd payment period.

More Information

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[McKay Calendar](#)

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[Application & Renewal Instructions](#)

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Sales Tax Holiday!

From August 7th through the 16th, 2015, no sales tax will be collected on certain types of clothing, footwear, and school supplies; or on the first \$750 for certain computers and accessories. Check with dor.myflorida.com for more

New Employee Screening

Remember that private schools accepting state scholarship students must conduct employment history checks for new personnel and use the educator screening tools available through our website.

Be sure to complete the screening before new employees begin to work with students, and remember to document the findings. This employment screening process is in addition to the Level II criminal background screening obtained through the VECHS program. Contact your regional manager if you have questions about either process.

Restrictive Endorsement Requirements

Student scholarship payments for both the FTC and McKay Scholarship programs are made payable to the student's parent or guardian.

Remember that Florida law requires parents to restrictively endorse payments to the private school for deposit into the account of the private school. Endorsed scholarship payments are reviewed after each payment period to confirm compliance with the restrictive endorsement requirements. It is strongly recommended that scholarship checks not leave the possession of the private school, and students should not take scholarship checks home for a parent signature.

FTC Norm-Referenced Testing

Private schools participating in the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program must make provisions for FTC students in grades 3-10 to take one of the nationally norm-referenced tests identified by the Department of Education. Approved assessments and specific instructions are available on our website at: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/ftc/annual-assessment-requirement.stml>. Any request for an alternate assessment must be submitted to the Department in writing by September 15, 2015.

information.

Other Resources

Educational Strategies and Student Engagement Institute

The 2015 ESSEI conference will be held September 21–23, 2015, in Orlando. The conference will explore factors that impact students' decisions to drop out and provide resources to help keep students in school and help them graduate college and career ready. Registration is now open. Additional information can be found at <http://www.cvent.com/d/1rqqxs>.

McKay and FLVS

McKay scholarship students may take up to two courses from FLVS without jeopardizing scholarship eligibility. However, scholarship payments will be reduced for students enrolled in or successfully completing FLVS courses. Please contact your regional manager if you have questions about how FLVS courses affect students' McKay scholarship amounts.

McKay Parent Affidavits

Parents and guardians of McKay scholarship students must have a signed and notarized Parent Affidavit on file with the Department affirming the validity of the parent's signature. Log in to our website and check your "McKay Student List" to find out which of your current students do not have a valid affidavit on file. A "Denied" message usually means that the name on the affidavit does not match the parent name associated with the student, and a new affidavit is required.

Staff Welcome

Welcome to **Erich Martin**, the new Regional Manager for Broward, Glades, Hardee, Hendry and Palm Beach counties. Erich has been with our office for two years and looks forward to assisting private schools and parents participating in state scholarship programs.

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