



# McKay Scholarship Program

## Quick Reference Guide

**What is the McKay Scholarship Program?** The McKay Scholarship Program is a state-funded program which allows parents of students with disabilities to choose the academic setting that is best for their child's educational needs. Eligible students may attend a participating private school, or may be able to attend another public school in their home district or a neighboring district.

**Who is eligible?** To be eligible to receive a McKay Scholarship, a student must:

- Have an active 504 Plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP) which documents a disability,
- Be at least 5 years old and younger than 22 by September 1 of the scholarship year,
- Be a current Florida public school student, and
- Have attended public school in Florida during the prior school year (by being reported in both the October and February FTE counts).

**Note 1: Prior-Year Attendance Waiver** - The prior year requirement is waived for foster children and the children of military families relocating to Florida.

**Note 2: VPK SIS** - For rising Kindergarteners, the prior year requirement may be met by having received specialized instructional services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program from an approved provider pursuant to s. 1002.66, F.S., during the previous school year. The matrix assigned to these students should reflect the full-time services they would receive in Kindergarten.

**Note 3: Pre-K students** receiving district services through an IEP who are claimed for FTE funding in both October and February may be eligible for the McKay Scholarship in Kindergarten. The matrix assigned to these students should reflect the full-time services they would receive in Kindergarten.

**How to apply:** File an Intent to Participate on the FLDOE School Choice website, [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org).

1. Select **McKay Scholarships, Parents**, then **Apply for McKay Scholarship**, and follow the directions on the screen.
2. When finished, save the Confirmation Number. It will be needed to check the application status.
3. The district will post the eligibility status and, if eligible, the child's matrix number on the website within 30 days of filing the Intent. The parent will be notified by email if an address was provided.

The Intent must be filed before the child withdraws from public school.

**For more information, contact:**

- Your school district ESE Department
- The Department of Education's School Choice information hotline: 1-800-447-1636
- [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)