

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Items
December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Rule 6A-6.0960, FAC., Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

220.187(9)(i), 220.187(12)(c), Florida Statutes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of the proposed rule governing the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program is to clarify administrative procedures and establish requirements for student and nonprofit scholarship-funding organization participation in a scholarship program for children of families with limited financial resources supported by tax credit contributions from eligible taxpayers. The proposed rule also identifies the nationally norm-referenced tests that participating private schools may select to administer annually to assess the academic improvements of scholarship students. The proposed rule outlines eligibility and participation requirements for scholarship funding organizations, students, and private schools, the measurement of student achievement, the complaint and inquiry process, and responsibilities of the Commissioner of Education for the Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

Rule development workshops were held in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale on August 28, 29 and 31. Workshops were also held in Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale and Panama City on February 17, 20 and 23. At the workshops, DOE staff presented an overview of the scholarship rulemaking process and reviewed the proposed timelines. Rule text was available at the August workshop. The rule development workshops conducted in February were for the purpose of hearing ideas about scholarship rules and the current workshops focus on proposed language. In addition to providing comments at the workshops, staff encouraged participants to submit comments on the school choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-6.0960, FAC., Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Facilitators/Presenters: Virginia Gentles, Executive Director, Office of Parental Choice and Independent Education