

Summer 2014

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Your Questions Answered:



If you and your child are new to the McKay Scholarship Program, you may have questions about your responsibilities as the parent of a scholarship student.

Here are some questions that parents frequently ask:

Q. *How do I find out the amount of my child's scholarship?*

A. If an email address was provided when you filed your Intent to Participate, you received a message when your child's eligibility was posted. Visit our [website](#), select Check Intent Status, and input your confirmation number. The school district posts eligibility status and matrix or 504 funding levels for intent students within 30 days.

Funding levels are based on the services a child was receiving in public school and determine, in part, the amount of scholarship funding. Once your child has been enrolled in a private school, you receive an email message with password for the [Parent Login](#) section of our website. There, you can not only see your child's funding level, but his scholarship amount, private school fee schedule, and eligibility status for the next scholarship payment.

Q. *How do I select a private school for my child?*

A. It is recommended that you visit the private schools you are interested in that participate in the McKay Program. Find out about the services they offer, their educational approach, policies, tuition and fees. Make sure the school that you have chosen provides the curriculum and services your child needs. It is your responsibility to make sure the program you have chosen is meeting your child's needs and to work with the school to resolve any problems.



Q. What if I am looking for another public school?

A. For the public school McKay Scholarship option, you should contact the local school district to make arrangements for your child's placement. District contact information is available on our [website](#). The district can provide you with information on public schools within their choice plan which can accommodate your child. The district will also be able to tell you whether or not transportation is available.

Q. When can I enroll my child?

A. Check with your local school district about transfer deadlines if you are interested in the McKay public school choice option. To use your scholarship at a private school, your child must be registered and enrolled as a McKay student in a participating school at least 30 days before a payment date in order to be eligible for funds during that payment period. For the 2014-15 school year, an eligible intent is valid for the private school option through **April 30, 2015**.

Money Matters Scholarship Payments

Scholarship payments are made four times a year, and the amount on your child's check is one fourth of the total scholarship amount for the year OR one fourth of the annual tuition and fees indicated on the Student Fee Schedule, whichever is less. You are

responsible for paying the private school for any tuition or fees not covered by the scholarship amount. To review your child's fee schedule, you may use the [Parent Login](#) section of our website.

When a private school receives McKay Scholarship checks, the school is required to stamp the back of each check "For Deposit Only" followed by the name of the school's bank account. The school should notify you that the checks have arrived and ask you to come in to the school to sign the check.

Only the parent or guardian whose name is on the front of the check may sign it. If a change in the household requires a different person to sign the check, you should request the school to submit a McKay Guardian Issue Form so that the check may be issued in the



appropriate name. Under no circumstances may a power of attorney be issued to anyone associated with the school to sign the check.

While there may be issues which need to be resolved with the school, failure of the designated parent to sign the check may cause the child to lose scholarship eligibility.

Parent Affidavit

The rules of the McKay Scholarship Program require that parents of participating students must have a Parent Affidavit on file with the Department in order to receive scholarship payments. The form, which is available through our [website](#), must be signed and notarized to affirm the validity of your signature.

If you have not yet completed an affidavit, check with your private school to find out if they have a notary available to assist you with this task.

Important Deadlines

The deadlines for intent filing, private school enrollment, and quarterly payments are set by Florida Statute.

For the 2014-15 school year...

If you filed intent by:	July 3	Sept. 2	Dec. 3	Jan. 31
Your child must be enrolled by:	Aug. 2	Oct. 2	Jan. 2	Mar. 2
For the school to receive payment on:	Sept. 1	Nov. 1	Feb. 1	April 1

Questions? Please contact us at schoolchoice@fldoe.org or 800.447.1636.
