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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PAPER**

**Reporting Educational Choice Information on the  
Automated Student Information System – 2010-11**

The purpose of this Technical Assistance Paper is to provide information on reporting educational choices for students on the Department of Education's (DOE) Automated Student Information System. This reporting requirement is based on provisions of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and chapter 1002 of Florida Statutes. These federal and state regulations emphasize school choices for students to increase student learning gains. More information regarding school choice can be accessed online at <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/>.

The NCLB Act, previously known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), was enacted in 2001 "to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind," Public Law 107-110, 107th Congress. One important provision of this law for schools with Title I funding requires measurement of student learning gains and schools' Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Schools that do not make AYP for three or more consecutive years are designated as "schools in need of improvement" (SINI 2+) and must offer parents a public school choice.

The NCLB Act also provides students with school choices to transfer away from a school designated as a Persistently Dangerous School, or from a school in which a student was a Victim of Violent Crime. (More information regarding safe schools in Florida can be found online at <http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/>).

Chapter 1002, Florida Statutes provides students with numerous public and private school choice options. One important provision allows a student to transfer from a school that received a School Grade of F for two school years in a four-year period. Other choices include Controlled Open Enrollment, Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools, Charter Schools, Florida Virtual Schools, Private Schools, Home Education, and special programs such as Magnet, Alternative School, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and others.

The data element [Educational Choice](#), a part of the Automated Student Database System, was first reported in 2004-05 and was designed for reporting information about several of the federal and state school choice options. This information is

reported using the file format Prior School Status/Student Attendance in Surveys 2 (October), 3 (February), and 5 (end of year).

### ***Educational Choice Codes***

The following codes indicate the **primary** type of educational choice option that applies to a student's enrollment in the reported School Number, Current Enrollment:

#### CODE DEFINITION

**A** Controlled Open Enrollment (Public School Parental Choice) – s. 1002.31(1), F.S., a public education delivery system that allows school districts to make student school assignments using parents' indicated preferential school choice as a significant factor.

Note: This option does not require the district to provide transportation. A lottery procedure may be used by the school district to determine student assignment.

**B** Special Program (Public School Parental Choice) – s. 1002.31(2), F.S., programs such as magnet, alternative school, special program, Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate, International Baccalaureate, A Business-Community (ABC) school and others including the New World School of the Arts (District 13, School 7901) as specified in section 1002.35, F.S.

**C** Choice with Transportation - Transfer from a Title I school that failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress for three or more consecutive years – Title I, Sec. 1116, ESEA.

Note: This option **must** include transportation for all eligible students. If demand for transportation exceeds available funds, the district must prioritize transportation to the lowest achieving of the low-income students. Prekindergarten students are not eligible students.

**D** Transfer from a Persistently Dangerous School - Title IX, Sec. 9532, ESEA.

**E** Transfer due to having been the Victim of Violent Crime - Title IX, Sec. 9532, ESEA.

**F** Transfer to another public school from a school that received a School Grade of F for two school years in a four-year period – s. 1002.38, F.S.

**M** McKay Scholarship – Transfer of a student to another **public school** other than the one to which the student is assigned in accordance with the John

TAP: Educational Choice

M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program – s. 1002.39, F.S.

Note: Students attending a **private school** under the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program are coded “Z” and reported using school 3518.

**Z** None of the above or not applicable.

**Notes:**

1. Select the most appropriate code above for Charter School students. Charter Schools (as per s. 1002.33, F.S.) are flagged as “Charter Schools” on the Master School Identification file. Prior to July 1, 2008 all charter school students were coded “Z” on this element.
2. The following choice options should be coded “Z”; these options are identified via other means:

Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools – s. 1002.32, F.S.; Districts 72, 73, 74, and 75.

Charter Technical Career Centers – s. 1002.34, F.S.

- District 55, school number 0231
- District 64, school number 7821

Florida School for the Deaf and Blind – s. 1002.36, F.S.; District 68

Dozier/Okeechobee – District 69.

Florida Virtual Schools

- The Florida Virtual School – District 71, school numbers 0500 (Grades 6-8), 0600 (Grades 9-12) – s. 1002.37, F.S.
- Florida Virtual School Franchises – school number 7004 – s. 1002.37(2)(i), F.S.
- School District Virtual Instruction Programs – school number 7001 – s. 1002.45, F.S.

John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program - students enrolled in a **private** school – s. 1002.39, F.S.; school number 3518.

Home Education – s. 1002.41, F.S.; school number N998.

Private Schools – s. 1002.42, F.S.; DOE online data collection form.

Private Tutoring Programs – s. 1002.43, F.S.; no data available.

## **Questions & Answers**

### *1. When and how is the data element Educational Choice reported to the DOE?*

This data element is collected on the Prior School Status/Student Attendance format and reported to the DOE in Surveys 2, 3 and 5.

### *2. What Educational Choice code should be reported for students who attend a Charter School?*

If a student chooses the Charter School as a result of one of the choices listed on the Educational Choice data element, then the student should be reported with the appropriate code. For example, if a student transfers from a Title I school that failed to make AYP for three or more consecutive years to a Charter School (with transportation), then the student should be coded “C.” If none of the codes are applicable, use code “Z”.

Charter Schools are “flagged” on the MSID file which facilitates the identification of these students as attending the school due to choice. Prior to July 1, 2008 all charter school students were coded “Z” on the Educational Choice element.

### *3. How should students in Department of Juvenile Justice Programs (DJJ), Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs be coded on the Educational Choice element?*

The Educational Choice element is to be used to code choices offered by the district or school based on the requirements of NCLB, Florida’s choice legislation or other regulations cited in the element. If the student’s reason for attendance in the school or program is not on the district or school list of choice options and the student’s attendance in the school or program is not solely a parent selection, then this element should be coded “Z”. If the student’s reason for attendance in the school or program is part of the district or school choice options and the student’s attendance in the school or program is due to a parent selection, then use the appropriate code for the choice option that applies.

### *4. If a student qualifies for a McKay Scholarship , but opts to stay in the district and transfer to another public school, would this still be coded as an Educational Choice?*

A student who qualifies for a McKay Scholarship who opts to remain in the public school system at a public school other than the one to which the student is assigned would be coded “M”. If the student chooses to attend a private school, the student would be coded with a “Z”.

*5. What Educational Choice code would be used if a student is given a zoning waiver?*

The policy for determining under what conditions students may be transferred to another school that is not in their school zone is a local decision which allows school districts to make student school assignments using parents' indicated preferential school choice as a significant factor. Code "A", Controlled Open Enrollment (Public School Parental Choice), should be used for these students.

*6. How do you know which schools are classified as "Dangerous Schools"?*

"Dangerous Schools" are identified by the Office of Safe and Healthy Schools. Districts should not use the "D" code unless a school in the district has been officially identified as a dangerous school.

*7. What Educational Choice code would be used if a student transfers from a Title I school that did not meet AYP for three or more years to a receiving school that met AYP; however, during the next school year the same school does not meet AYP and parents choose to have the child remain in this school?*

The parents have a right to choose to have the child remain at the receiving school even if this receiving school does not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Code "C", Transfer from a Title I school that failed to make AYP, should continue to be used in this situation.

*8. How should students be reported in subsequent years for transferring to another school pursuant to NCLB school choice?*

Once a student has exercised the option to transfer to another school (receiving school), the district must permit the student to remain in that receiving school until the student has completed the highest grade offered by that receiving school. These students should be reported using code "C" during the first and all subsequent years of attendance at the receiving school.

It should be noted that the district obligation to provide transportation to the receiving school expires at the end of the school year in which the original school is no longer identified as a school in need of improvement.