



McKay Scholarship Parent Bulletin | Summer 2021

Returning to In-person Learning for 2021-22

The Spring 2021 Education Plan remains effective until the end of the 2020-21 school semester as implemented by Commissioner Corcoran, specified in DOE Order NO. 2020-EO-07. The 2021-22 school year will proceed as normal under the current Florida Statute and Administrative Code which means **scholarship students must return to participating school's campus to resume face-to-face instruction in order to receive scholarship coverage for the upcoming school year.** Private schools should plan accordingly to transition students back to your campuses in the Fall.

Help Choosing a Private School

The McKay private option gives parents the opportunity to choose a private school that is best suited to meet their child's educational needs. It is important to keep in mind that private (non-public) school educational programs are not regulated, controlled, approved, or accredited by the Florida Department of Education; therefore, we only have limited information on the curriculum, services, or programs offered by these private schools.

How to search for private schools

A private school directory is located at www.floridaschoolchoice.org in the K-12 Private Schools section. Although we are unable to recommend a private school that will be best suited to meet your child's needs, there are parent resources provided on the School Choice web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/private-schools/parent-info.stml>

A list of questions that may be useful to ask a prospective private school is also available on the School Choice web site at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/private-schools/choosing-a-private-school.stml>.



Private School Enrollment Deadline

If your child is approved for the McKay Scholarship, then keep in mind that **August 2 is the deadline for your private school to enroll your child in the online portal in order for the 1st payment to be released by September 1.**

You can view all the McKay deadlines on our [website](#).

- Click on “McKay Scholarship,”
- click on “Parents,” and
- click on “McKay Scholarship Payment Deadlines;”

McKay Questions Answered

If you and your child are new to the McKay Scholarship Program, you may have questions about scholarship payments. Where does that money go? How does it get spent? For answers to those questions, you will want to have a look at your child’s **Student Fee Schedule**.

Once a private school enrolls your child on the School Choice website, they create a Student Fee Schedule for your particular child. The Fee Schedule can be modified throughout the year as needed, but keep in mind that changes during the school year would only affect future payments and would not be retroactive.

Parent Login - You can view the Student Fee Schedule by logging in using the password sent to you at the time the private school enrolls your child in the School Choice portal. From www.floridaschoolchoice.org, select Parent Login in the Secured Login section. If you do not have your password, please contact us for help.

McKay Scholarship Funding Amounts

The updated amounts for the upcoming school year can be accessed when you login with your unique user id and password or confirmation number if you **filed an intent after February 2, 2021**. As a result of House Bill 7045, funding for 251-253 and current McKay 504 students is now averaged into one amount. Funding amounts for the various matrix levels are set annually by the legislature during the budget process, and may vary from year to year. Keep in mind that qualified students with an IEP that are matriculating from 3rd to 4th grade or from 8th to 9th grade usually see a difference in their funding for the new school year, as do traditional public school students.



Please note:

The department has received questions regarding the awarded amounts for students with a 253 matrix code. For a student who received a McKay Scholarship during the 2020-21 school year, the 2021-22 **funding amount shall be the greater** of the amount calculated for the 2021-22 school year **or** the amount the student received for the 2020-21 school year.

What does the McKay Scholarship Cover?

The services that you can see on your child’s Student Fee Schedule are selected from the private school’s School Fee Schedule, which includes all the services and fees offered by the school to all students. Think of the School Fee Schedule as a restaurant menu. Your child’s Student Fee Schedule would be the meal check listing your selections from that menu. What might be on your child’s Student Fee Schedule? It will list tuition, but it may also include a number of other academic items or services that relate to your child’s education. You may see listed various fees, special programs, tutoring, therapy, or summer school. Schools may also charge for supplies, materials, transportation, uniforms, insurance, field trips, or other items or activities related to the child’s education (Non-academic items such as meals or extracurricular activities or before/after school care cannot be included on the Student Fee Schedule.)

The Student Fee Schedule lists the total charges for your child for the school year. If this amount is less than your scholarship, the payment checks will be issued for the lesser amount. If the total comes to more than your scholarship, you will be responsible for coming to an arrangement with the school to deal with the difference. If you have any questions about your child’s fee schedule, arrange to discuss them with your school administrator.

Parent Affidavit

Parents of participating students are required to have an approved [Parent Affidavit Form](#) 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. Parent affidavit forms should be emailed directly to parentaffidavit@fldoe.org



McKay Payments – Restrictive Endorsement

When a private school receives McKay Scholarship checks, the school is required to stamp the back of each check "For Deposit Only" along with the name of the school and their bank account number. **Scholarship checks should not leave the possession of the private school, and students should not take scholarship checks home for endorsement (signature).** The private school should notify you that the checks have arrived and ask you to come in to the school to restrictively endorse (sign) the checks. It is essential that the parent whose name is on the scholarship check be the individual that endorses the check when received by the private school. Under law, power of attorney cannot be given from the parent to the private school.

2021-22 McKay Scholarship Deadlines

July 3

Application of intent filing deadline for the September 1 McKay payment.

August 2

Private school online enrollment deadline for the September 1 McKay payment.

September 2

Application of intent filing deadline for new students to be eligible for the November 1 McKay payment.

2021-22 McKay Payment Coverage Deadline Schedule for Private School Enrollment

Parent intent filed by:	Private school must enroll student by:	For the school to receive payment on:	Scholarship percentage:	Payment Period:
July 3	August 2	September 1	100%	July 1 - Sept 30
September 2	October 2	November 1	75%	Oct 1 - Dec 31
December 3	January 2	February 1	50%	Jan 1 - Feb 28
January 31	March 2	April 1	25%	March 1 - June 30



Other Resources

MyCareerShines

A service of FloridaShines

[MyCareerShines](#) is an age-appropriate online planning tool designed to help middle and high school students assess their interests, explore careers, plan for education and prepare for work. The online tools under [MyCareerShines](#) are available for free to all Florida students and school personnel. To learn more about this new education and career planning system, please visit [MyCareerShines Learning Center](#).



[Florida Students Achieve](#) is a website that provides a central location where parents and families can access the information they need to make the best education decisions for their students. The site contains links to both traditional public school options as well as other school choice options.

Florida Center for Students with **UNIQUE ABILITIES**

The Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities was created by the Florida Legislature to provide financial support so students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences and employment opportunities through degree, certificate, or non-degree programs. Support provided by the Center includes scholarship funding for students and grant funding to support postsecondary institutions as they develop new opportunities. For more information, go to fcsua.org.