



Next Steps for Parents

JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

McKay Parent Responsibilities

For children entering private school, here are some things parents should know

▶ **The Florida Department of Education does not regulate private schools**

Make sure the school you have chosen provides the curriculum, services, and educational approach your child needs. You must work with the school to design a program that meets your child's needs and to resolve any problems.

▶ **You are responsible for paying any tuition or fees above the allowed scholarship funding amount**

You should be aware of your child's scholarship amount and review your child's fee schedule to see how the funds are being applied. You may view the fee schedule on-line using the parent password supplied when you enroll.

▶ **You will need to provide transportation for your child if it is not provided by the private school**

This includes transportation to the designated test site if you wish your child to participate in the statewide assessment test.

▶ **The scholarship check is made out to you as the parent or guardian**

It is your responsibility to endorse the check over to the school for each quarterly payment period.

▶ **You and your child must comply with the private school's published policies**

▶ **Your child's private school McKay eligibility will terminate if your child:**

- becomes a District Virtual School or FLVS Full Time student, or
- re-enters public school, even if under a summer program or the public school McKay program, or
- reaches the age of 22, or
- graduates from high school, whichever occurs first.



For more information,
please visit
www.floridaschoolchoice.org
or call the
School Choice Information
Hotline at
1-800-447-1636
E-mail:
schoolchoice@fldoe.org



What is my next step if I'm considering a private school?

► Check the School Choice website to learn your child's matrix number

If an email address was provided when you filed your intent, you will receive a message when eligibility is posted. Go to www.floridaschoolchoice.org, select **McKay Scholarship**, then **Parents** to find the **Check Intent Status** link, and input your Confirmation Number. The school district will post the intent status and, if eligible, the matrix number or 504 funding plan for your child within 30 days of your intent filing. The matrix number or 504 funding plan is based on the level of services your child currently receives in public school. It is one of the factors used to determine your scholarship funding amount.

► 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 fee schedule and

accreditation status. Ask to observe a class and talk to other parents as well. A directory of participating private schools can be found on our website.

► You may register and enroll your child in the private school any time after filing intent

Your child **must** be enrolled as a McKay student at least 30 days before the payment date in order to be eligible for funds during that payment period.

► To continue the scholarship, the private school must re-enroll your child each year at least 30 days before the new school year's first payment date

You also have the option of transferring your child to a different participating private school during the school year or at the end of the year. Your child's private school McKay status will continue as long as he or she remains in a participating private school.

What if I am looking for another public school?

► For the public school McKay Scholarship, the parent should contact the local school district to make arrangements for the child's placement

You can find district contact information at www.floridaschoolchoice.org by selecting **McKay Scholarship Program**, then **Directories**. The district will provide you with information on public schools which can accommodate your child. Depending on the district's choice plan, you may have to provide your own transportation to the public school. The district will be able to tell you if transportation is available.

► You also have the option of choosing a public school in a neighboring county

If you select a school outside your home district, you will need to contact that district. You will be responsible for providing transportation for your child.

► It is recommended that you visit the schools you are interested in and discuss your child's needs

Ask about the programs offered and their educational approach. You may also want to observe a class and talk with other parents. When you have decided on a public school, the district office can help you to transfer your child to the new school.

Important Deadlines For the 2021 22 school year

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

The scholarship amount is the state maximum amount or the private school tuition and fees, whichever is less. The scholarship amount is divided into four quarterly payments for the school year. If the intent is filed or the student is enrolled after a deadline, the student will not be eligible to receive that quarter's scholarship payments, but the student will have met the deadline to receive payment the next quarter. A valid 2021-22 intent will expire if unused by April 30, 2022. A new intent may be filed for the following year.

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| 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 |
| Maximum scholarship amount for the rest of the school year: | 100% | 75% | 50% | 25% |
| Payment Period: | July 1 - Sept 30 | Oct 1 - Dec 31 | Jan 1 - Feb 28 | Mar 1 - June 30 |