



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
3378 FOREST HILL BLVD., A-203
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813
PHONE: 561-434-8626/FAX: 561-434-8384
WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE

WILL J. GORDILLO
DIRECTOR

JANIS ANDREWS, Ed.D.
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

KEITH OSWALD
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

March 14, 2013
Bulletin #P-14541-CLS/ESE

Contact(s):

Amy Brown, PX 48377
amy.brown@palmbeachschools.org

Action By:
April 1, 2013

TO: All Principals

FROM: Janis Andrews, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer *JA*

SUBJECT: PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

The School District of Palm Beach County and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) continue to work toward increasing the quantity and improving the quality of educational options for Florida students. Public school districts share in the important task of communicating the available School Choice Options to parents.

Section 1002.39(5)(a)1, Florida Statute states that by April 1 of each year **and** within 10 days after an Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting or 504 meeting, a school district shall notify the parent of the student with disabilities of all available options related to the McKay Scholarship Program. This includes informing the parent of the availability of the FDOE toll-free information hotline, Internet website, and offering the parent an opportunity to enroll the student in another public school within the district.

A copy of the attached letter must be provided to parents at each IEP and 504 meeting and to all students with disabilities during the week of March 18-21, 2013. Letters must be sent home with students during this distribution period.

EWG/JA/KO/WG/AB:jb
Attachment

Approved: 
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent



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March 11, 2013

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We would like to inform you that your child **may** be eligible to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, commonly known as the McKay Scholarship Program. This program was created to provide educational options to parents of students with disabilities. Currently, more than 30,000 Florida students are participating in this program.

By participating in the McKay Scholarship Program, your student may be able to attend a different public school in your district, attend a public school in an adjacent district, or receive a scholarship to attend a participating private school.

In order to be eligible for the McKay Scholarship Program, a student must apply for the program prior to withdrawing from public school. The student must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), or 504 Accommodation Plan issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (with duration of more than six months), and

- Have been enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school for the school year prior to applying for a scholarship (Grades K-12); or
- Have been a pre-kindergarten student who was enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the school year prior to applying for a scholarship; or
- Have attended the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during the preceding school year's student membership surveys (Grades K-12).

To find out if your student is eligible, you may apply for the McKay Scholarship on the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Select the **McKay Scholarships** link and then the link titled **Apply for a McKay Scholarship** on the menu bar on the left.

To learn more about your child's educational options, please contact your school district's Parental Choice Office at 561-434-8287. You may also contact the Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice Information Hotline at 1-800-447-1636, or visit the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org and click the **McKay Scholarships** link.

In order for a student to be eligible for the program, intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program must be filed on the School Choice website prior to withdrawing from public school. The deadline to apply for the first payment period of the 2013-14 school year is July 1, 2013.

Please note this letter serves to notify you that your child may be eligible to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program. **This letter does not guarantee your student's eligibility.**

Sincerely,

Will J. Gordillo

WJG/AB/jb



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Estimados padres {o} tutores:

Esta carta es para informarle que su hijo(a) puede ser elegible para la Beca de John M. McKay. El programa de Becas John M. McKay fue formado para estudiantes con Discapacidades. Este programa tiene los objetivos de asistir y aumentar las opciones educativas en las escuelas públicas, y también para el beneficio de los padres que tienen hijos (a) con Discapacidades. Actualmente, más de 30 mil estudiantes en el estado de la Florida toman parte en este programa.

Cuando el estudiante participa en el programa de Beca John M. McKay; el estudiante puede asistir a una escuela pública diferente dentro de su distrito, solicitar una escuela pública en un distrito adyacente de su escuela pública; o recibir una Beca para poder asistir a una escuela privada que participe en el programa de John M. McKay.

Para que su hijo(a) pueda calificar para el programa de Becas John M. McKay, el estudiante tiene que obtener estos requisitos primero: Su hijo(a) debe haber aplicado para el programa antes de retirarse de su escuela actual pública. Igualmente, su hijo(a) debe tener un plan de educación individualizado (IEP) obtenido en la escuela pública, o un plan de acomodaciones 504 obtenido a través del Rehabilitation Act de 1973 en la sección 504 (con duración de más de seis meses). Segundo, lo siguiente es necesario:

- Haber sido inscrito y reportado por fondos en una escuela pública de la Florida el año antes de aplicar para una Beca escolar (Grados kindergarten-hasta el High School).
- Haber sido estudiante de PRE-kindergarten, fue inscrito y reportado por fondos en una escuela pública de la Florida durante el mismo año escolar antes de solicitar una Beca.
- Haber asistido a la escuela de Florida para estudiantes con problemas de Audio-Visión (Deaf & Blind), durante las encuestas de admisión precedente del año escolar.

Para ver si su estudiante es elegible, puede aplicar para la Beca John McKay en el School Choice Web site que se encuentra en www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Seleccione la opción **McKay Scholarships**, y en la pagina que sigue a la mano izquierda seleccione la opción **Apply for McKay Scholarship**.

Para aprender más acerca de sus opciones educativas, puede comunicarse con el distrito de su escuela pública, en la Oficina de Selección Paternal en el numero 561-434-8287. Igualmente puede comunicarse con en el Departamento de Educación, en la Oficina de Educación Independiente y Selección Paternal (Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice). La línea de información para este servicio es el número 1-800-447-1636, o visite nuestra página de Internet en www.floridaschoolchoice.org y seleccione la opción **McKay Scholarships**.

Para que un estudiante sea elegible y participe en el programa de John M. McKay, la solicitud de intento para participar debe ser completada en el website: <http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org> antes de retirar su hijo (a) de la escuela pública. El ultimo día para aplicar recibiendo el primer pago para el año 2013-14 es Julio 1, 2013

Por favor note que esta carta sirve solamente para notificar que su hijo (a) puede tener derecho para participar en el Programa de Becas John M. McKay. **Esta carta No garantiza la elegibilidad.**

Sinceramente,

Will J. Gordillo
WJG/AB/jb



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Chè Paran oubyen responsab elèv la:

Lèt sa se pou nou enfòmè paran ke pitit li a kapab elijib pou fè pati nan Bous Etid pou timoun ki andikape yo oubyen ki pakab aprann byen e ki pa nòmàl. (timoun ki estopye, ki pa ka pale byen, oubyen ki soud, timoun ki fèt avèk yon defèt). Pwogram John M. McKay an genyen yon non ki rele: McKay Bous Etid Pwogram. Pwogram sa a te kreye nan yon fason pou paran ka genyen yon chwa nan edikasyon pitit li paran ki genyen timoun ki andikape yo. Kounyeya genyen plis ke 30000 elèv nan Florid la ki patisipe nan pwogram sa a.

Elèv ki patisipe nan pwogram sa ki rele McKay a ka genyen yon mwayen pou ale nan lòt lekòl piblik ki nan lòt arondisman oubyen ki tou prè arondisman kote ou rete a.

Nan mwayen pou pitit ou ka kalifye pou Bous Etid Pwogram sa a, pitit ou dwe genyen kalifikasyon sa yo: Elèv la dwe genyen yon grenn pa grenn edikasyon Plan (IEP) oubyen plan hébergement 504 a anba Ameriken 504 restorasyon an, Acte de 1973 (ak durée de plis ke sis mwa), ak:

- pitit ou te dwe rapòte nan zòn distrik lekòl piblik ou anvan mwa fevriye avèk oktòb kontwòl distrik lekòl yo avan ou aplike pou bous etid la (klas jadin anfan a 12 ane)
- Rapòte nan zòn distrik lekòl piblik kote ou rete a avan elèv la te antre nan premyè ane lekòl epi ki te rapòte pou jwenn lajan pou peye lekòl sa dwe pase avan ou aplike pou bous etid la
- Si pitit ou te ale nan lekòl timoun ki avèg oubyen soud nan Florid la avan timoun nan antre nan (jadin anfan a 12 ane).

Pou aprann plis de chwa edikasyon pitit ou tanpri kontak distrik lekòl ou nan 561-434-8287.

Paran ka kontak biwò depateman edikasyon an chwa paran avèk edikasyon endepandan enfòmasyon nan nimero gratis la 1-(800)-447-1636 oubyen ale sou entènèt nan adrès www.floridaschoolchoice.org epi chwazi McKay Scholarships opsyon an.

Nan mwayen pou elèv yo ka elijib pou tout lè kat vèsman lajan yo, li dwe aplike pou McKay Bous Etid pwogram elèv la dwe aplike nan website (entènèt) anvan paran deside pou li retire elèv la nan lekòl piblik la. Pou resevwa premyè versman (lajan) pou bous etid la pou ane lekòl 2013-2014, paran dwe aplike avan denyè delè a 1 jiyè, 2013.

Ankò, lèt sa a se sèvi pou fè ou konnen pitit ou genyen yon mwayen pou yo ka patisipé nan Bous Etid McKay pwogram nan. **Lèt sa a se pa yon garanti kalifikasyon pitit ou.**

Avèk tout sensèrite,

Will J. Gordillo

WJG/AB/jb