



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL**

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION  
3300 FOREST HILL BLVD., A-203  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813

PHONE: 561-434-8626/FAX: 561-434-8384  
[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE)

**WILL J. GORDILLO**  
DIRECTOR

**CHERYL C. ALLIGOOD**  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

**FRANK J. RODRIGUEZ, PH.D.**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

March 14, 2014  
**Bulletin #P-14817-ES/ESE**

**Contact Person:**

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**Action By:**  
**March 25, 2014**

**TO:** All Principals

**FROM:** Cheryl C. Alligood, Chief Academic Officer *CCA*

**SUBJECT: PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION**

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 25-28, 2014. Letters must be sent home with students during this distribution period.

EWG/CCA/FJR/WJG:ab/jb

Approved:   
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent



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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

March 25, 2014

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.

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 received specialized instructional services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program from an approved provider pursuant to s. 1002.66 during the previous school year; 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](http://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](http://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 2014-15 school year is July 1, 2014.

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  
Director



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Estimados padres o tutores:

Esta carta es para informarle que es posible que su hijo(a) sea elegible para la Beca de John M. McKay para estudiantes con discapacidades, conocido como el programa de becas McKay. Este programa tiene como objetivo aumentar las opciones educativas para estudiantes con discapacidades. Actualmente, más de 30 mil estudiantes en el estado de la Florida toman parte en este programa.

Al participar en el programa de la becas McKay; es posible que su estudiante pueda asistir a una escuela pública diferente dentro de su distrito, asistir a una escuela pública en un distrito adyacente; o recibir una beca para asistir una escuela privada que participe en el programa de John M. McKay.

Para calificar para el programa de Becas John M. McKay, su estudiante debe haber aplicado para el programa antes de retirarse de su escuela pública. El estudiante debe tener un plan de educación individual (IEP) o un plan de acomodaciones 504 obtenido a través del Rehabilitation Act de 1973 sección 504 (de más de seis meses), y

- Haber sido inscrito y reportado por fondos en una escuela pública de la Florida el año escolar antes de solicitar la beca (entre K y 12 grado), o
- Haber sido un estudiante de pre-kindergarten que haya sido inscrito y reportado por fondos en una escuela pública de la Florida el año escolar antes de solicitar la beca, o
- Haber recibido servicios de instrucción especializados del Programa de Educación Pre-Kindergarten Voluntario a través de un proveedor aprobado conforme con s. 1,002.66 durante el año escolar anterior, o
- Haber asistido la escuela de la Florida para Sordos y Ciegos durante las encuestas de admisión del año escolar anterior (entre K y 12 grado).

Para saber si su estudiante es elegible, puede aplicar para la Beca John McKay en la página web de School Choice en [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://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 opciones educativas para su hijo(a), por favor comuníquese con la oficina de Selección Paternal en el distrito escolar al 561-434-8287. Igualmente puede comunicarse con en el Departamento de Educación, en la Oficina de Educación Independiente y Selección Paternal al llamar la línea gratuita 1-800-447-1636, o visite la página web en [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) y seleccione la opción **McKay Scholarships**.

Para que un estudiante sea elegible para el programa, la solicitud para participar debe ser completada en la página web antes de retirar a su hijo(a) de la escuela pública. El ultimo día para aplicar para el primer pago del año escolar 2014-15 es Julio 1, 2014.

Tenga en cuenta que esta carta sirve para notificarle que su hijo(a) puede ser elegible para participar en el Programa de Becas McKay. **Esta carta no garantiza la elegibilidad de su estudiante.**

Sinceramente,

Will J. Gordillo  
Director



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Chè Paran oswa Gadyen:

Nou ta renmen enfòmè w ke pitit ou ka kalifye yo patisipe nan Bous John M. McKay pou elèv ak enfimite, souvan li te ye kòm Bous Etid McKay pwogram nan. Pwogram sa a te kreye yo bay opsyon edikatif bay paran elèv ki gen andikap. Kounye a, plis pase 30,000 elèv nan Florid la ki patisipe nan pwogram sa a.

Lè yo patisipe nan Bous Etid McKay pwogram a, elèv ou a ka ap kapab ale nan yon lòt lekòl piblik nan distri ou a, ale nan yon lekòl piblik nan yon distri adjasan, oswa resevwa yon bousdetid a ale nan yon lekòl prive kap patisipe.

Pou kalifye pou Bous Etid McKay pwogram nan, yon elèv dwe aplike pou pwogram la anvan yo sòti nan lekòl piblik la. Elèv-la dwe gen yon Plan Edikasyon Endividyèl (IEP), oswa 504 pou akomodasyon Plan bay anba a. 504 Lwa Reyabilitasyon 1973 la (avèk dire nan plis pase sis mwa), ak

- pitit ou te dwe rapòte pou finansman nan yon lekòl piblik nan Florid pou ane lekòl la anvan yo aplike pou yon bous etid la (klas K-12); oswa
- pitit ou te yon elèv pre-matènèl ki moun ki te dwe rapòte pou finansman nan yon lekòl piblik nan Florid pandan ane lekòl la anvan yo aplike pou bous etid, oswa
- Èske ou te resevwa sèvis espesyalize enstriksyon ki nan pwogram Edikasyon Prekindergarten Volontè soti nan yon founisè yo apwouve selon s. 1002,66 pandan ane a anvan lekòl la; oswa
- te nan Lekòl la Florid pou Moun Soud ak Avèg la pandan sondaj rapòte elèv ane lekòl la anvan an (klas K-12).

Pou chèche konnen si elèv w la kalifye, ou ka aplike pou Bous etid McKay Scholarship sou sit entènèt la School Choice nan [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org). Chwazi lye ki **McKay Scholarship** ak Lè sa a, lye ki gen tit **Apply for McKay Scholarship** sou ba meni an sou bò gòch la.

Pou aprann plis sou opsyon edikatif pitit ou a, tanpri kontakte paran Biwo Chwa distri lekòl ou a nan 561-434-8287. Ou ka kontakte tou Depatman Edikasyon an, Ofis Edikasyon Endepandan ak Paran Chwa Liy Dirèk Enfòmasyon sou nan 1-800-447-1636, oswa ale sou sit wèb la Chwa Lekòl nan adrès [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) epi chwaze opsyon an ki **McKay Scholarships**.

Nan mwayen pou yon elèv pou yo kalifye pou pwogram nan, entansyon yo patisipe nan Bous Etid McKay pwogram nan dwe depoze sou sit entènèt la Chwa Lekòl anvan yo sòti nan lekòl piblik la. Dat limit la pou aplike pou peryòd peman (lajan) an premye nan ane a 2014-15 lekòl la se 1ye jiyè 2014.

Tanpri sonje lèt sa a sèvi fè ou konnen pitit ou ka kalifye yo patisipe nan Bous Etid McKay pwogram nan. **Lèt sa a se pa yon garanti kalifikasyon pitit ou.**

Sensèman,

Will J. Gordillo  
Director