



## Help Choosing a Private School

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.

A private school directory is located at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://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>.

## Your 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.

You can view the Student Fee Schedule by logging on, using the password sent to you at the time your child was enrolled by the

## Enrollment Deadline

If your child is approved for the McKay Scholarship, then keep in mind that August 2 is the enrollment deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> payment 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."

## Going Through Changes? Update Your Info!

If you have changes in your contact information, let us know right away so we can keep you informed on issues involving your child. You can keep your address, email, and phone number up-to-date through the Parent Login on our main webpage. Once logged in, you'll see: "Click here to Change your Contact Information." Simply enter any changes and click "Save Changes."

If you want to change or correct your name or Social Security Number, though, you'll need to get a Guardian Issue Form from your school. This is the same form that's used to change the person who will be signing the scholarship payment checks. Don't delay in reporting any changes to this critical information, or you just may miss a quarterly payment!

private school. From [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org), select Parent Login in the Secured Login section. If you do not have your password, please contact us for help.

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, of course, 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.

## 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 your 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.

## Parent Affidavit

Parents of participating students are to have an approved Parent Affidavit 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.

## Other Resources



[MyCareerShines](http://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](http://MyCareerShines) are available free to all Florida students and school personnel. To learn more about this new education and career planning system, please visit [MyCareerShines Learning Center](http://MyCareerShines Learning Center).



[FloridaStudents.org](http://FloridaStudents.org) is a free tool designed to aid students and provide Florida Standards Student Tutorials and Resources. The website currently has over 2,000 resources aligned to Florida Standards in ELA, mathematics, science and civics, some web-based, as well as original tutorials created by Florida educators. The website also contains a link to the Official SAT® Practice website, a free resource for

You should make sure that the back of the scholarship check states that the money is to be deposited into the private school's account. If not, you should write the statement "For deposit only into the account of (name of private school)" before signing the check. You should also verify before signing that the information on the front of the check is correct.

students that is provided by the College Board and Khan Academy.

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