

**John M. McKay Scholarships**

**For**

**Students with Disabilities**

**Program**

**Exceptional  
Student Education**

**The School District of  
Osceola County, Florida**

817 Bill Beck Boulevard  
Kissimmee, FL 34744

May, 2008

The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program is established to provide the option to remain at assigned school, attend a public school other than the one to which assigned, or to provide a scholarship to a private school of choice, for students with disabilities for whom an individual education plan has been written in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education. Students with disabilities include Kindergarten (K) through grade 12, students who are mentally handicapped, speech and language impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired, dual sensory impaired, physically impaired, emotionally / behaviorally disabled, specific learning disabled, or with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may request and receive from the state a John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

The student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by a school district for funding during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in K through grade 12.

The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to a private school that is eligible for the program and has notified the school district of the request for a scholarship at least 60 days prior to the date of the first scholarship payment. The parental notification may be made electronically on the Florida School Choice Scholarships website at

[www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)

The scholarship shall remain in force until the student returns to a public school or graduates from high school. However, at any time, the student's parent may remove the student from the private school and place the student in another participating private school or back in a public school.

### **Private School Fees and Funding**

Allowable:	Tuition Registration Testing/evaluation Therapy/tutoring
Not Included	Lunch Non-academic expenses

The amount of the John M. McKay Scholarship shall be the lesser of the State generated dollars or the private school's fees.

The District submits a matrix number based on the student's current individual education plan to the Choice Office within 30 days of the parent filing intent.

## Testing and Evaluations

1. Parent decides whether student takes statewide assessments
2. Parent must coordinate test taking with the District
3. Parent must comply with the three-year reevaluation requirements for exceptional students

### Private School Intent Deadlines

July 3rd	Eligible for all 4 payments
September 2nd	Eligible for 3 of 4 payments
December 3rd	Eligible for 2 of 4 payments
January 31st	Eligible for 1 of 4 Payments

### Student Enrollment Deadlines

August 2nd	Eligible for all 4 payments
October 2nd	Eligible for 3 of 4 payments
January 2nd	Eligible for 2 of 4 payments
March 2nd	Eligible for 1 of 4 payments

### Public School Intent Deadline

July 3rd	Eligible to attend another public school
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## Parent Responsibilities

Decide which option is appropriate for your child:

1. Remain at current school
2. Select a public school within the district's choice zone and receive transportation
3. Select a participating private school

If you prefer another public school, you must:

1. File intent online at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)
2. Notify District at (407) 343-8700 to indicate interest in public school option
3. Upon receipt of the McKay Zones brochure, choose a school within your Zone Choice, and transportation will be provided

If you prefer a participating private school, you must:

- 1 File intent. Electronic filing is available at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)
- 2 Enroll student in participating private school (it is important that you withdraw your child from the public school prior to complete the enrollment process)
- 3 Ensure that your child remains in attendance
- 4 Ensure that your child complies with the school's code of conduct
- 5 Comply with the private school's parental involvement requirements

## **Student Eligibility**

- 1 The student must have attended a Florida public school for the prior school year.
- 2 The student must have a disability and have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- 3 The intent must be filed prior to the Intent deadlines listed inside.
- 4 The student must be in public school at the time the intent is filed

**For questions** or additional information

**Contact:**

The Choice Office at  
800-447-1636 or  
[www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)

Exceptional Student Education  
805 Bill Beck Boulevard Kissimmee,  
FL 34744

407-343-8700 or  
[www.es.e.osceola.k12.fl.us](http://www.es.e.osceola.k12.fl.us)

**Terry Andrews, Superintendent**  
**The School District of Osceola County, Florida**