



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

KEVIN McCORMICK  
DIRECTOR

KEITH OSWALD  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT/CHIEF OF SCHOOLS

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION  
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, A-203  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406  
PHONE: 561-434-8740 / FAX: 561-434-8384  
[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE)

GLENDA SHEFFIELD, ED.D.  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

DIANA FEDDERMAN  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/TEACHING & LEARNING

The John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program, commonly known as the McKay Scholarship Program, is a school choice option that may be available to public school students with IEP's or 504 Plans. 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.
  - 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).

**McKay Public School Option students may receive transportation, consistent with their school district's Choice Programs, regardless of their proximity to the Choice school. Parents must provide transportation to the closest bus stop in order to be eligible. Bus stops will only be available within the Choice Transportation Zone for each school and additional stops will not be created. If a student requires an ESE bus as stated on their IEP, then the school of Choice must be within 10 miles from their home.**

To find out if your student is eligible, you may apply for the McKay Scholarship Program on the Florida Department of Education's School Choice website at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org). Select the **McKay Scholarships** link, then **Parents**, and then the link titled **Apply for a McKay Scholarship**. To learn more about your child's educational options, please contact your school district's Parental Choice Office at **561-434-8740**. You may also contact the Florida 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.**

#### **Deadlines for the Private School Option:**

- Apply by July 3, 2019\* and enrollment by August 2nd for the first payment of the 2019-2020 SY
- Apply by September 2, 2019\* and enrollment by October 2nd for the second payment of the 2019-2020 SY
- Apply by December 3, 2019\* and enrollment by January 2nd for the third payment of the 2019-2020 SY
- Apply by January 31, 2020\* and enrollment by March 2nd for the fourth payment of the 2019-2020 SY

These are projected dates, confirm on [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)

#### **Timelines for Public School Placements:**

- **Application Window for Fall Placement: April 1<sup>st</sup>- June 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Application Window for Winter Placement: September 1<sup>st</sup>- October 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **For Public School Option:**

1. Apply online at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) between February 1<sup>st</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup> and receive confirmation #
2. Go to [www.palmbeachschools.org/mckay](http://www.palmbeachschools.org/mckay) to download Public School Option Letter of Intent
3. Return Letter of Intent to District McKay Office by June 1<sup>st</sup> for August and October 31<sup>st</sup> for January

For questions, please call 561-434-8740.

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