



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY

www.escambiaschools.org
Office of School Choice
30 East Texar Drive | Suite 123
Pensacola, Florida 32503 | Ph. (850) 469-5580

March 22, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

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 K-12**. This program provides eligible students the opportunity to transfer to another public school in our district, attend a public school in an adjacent district based on space availability, or attend a participating private school. Students of active duty military families from other states or countries may also be eligible. Foster students may also be eligible.

Eligible students include students who have been enrolled and reported for funding by a Florida school district the year prior to applying for a scholarship. **Additionally**, one of the following criteria must be met:

1. Students who have been issued an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which must be current.
2. Students who have been issued a 504 Accommodation Plan (not temporary) and must be current.
3. Students who have a current IEP and have been a pre-kindergarten student enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the year prior to applying (example: pre-kindergarten going to kindergarten).
4. Students who have an IEP and received specialized instruction services under the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program from an approved provider the previous school year.
5. Students who have a current IEP and attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (Grades K-12) the school year prior to application.

If you are interested in selecting a **PUBLIC SCHOOL OPTION**, please come to the Office of School Choice. You will need to bring proof of residence which is the most current utility bill (gas, electric, or water), or lease agreement. As with any other school choice option outside the student's residential zoned school, it is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation. Scholarships cannot be provided to an over-capacity school.

If you are interested in applying for a **PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**, you must register online at www.floridaschoolchoice.org by the **July 3, 2021** deadline and contact the private school of your choice. **Select the McKay Scholarship link, then Parents, and then the link titled Apply for a McKay Scholarship.** Application must be made for the scholarship **PRIOR to withdrawing from public school. Deadlines apply for quarterly payments to private schools.**

This letter provides information to notify you that your child may be eligible to participate in the McKay Scholarship and does not guarantee your student's eligibility.

Eligibility questions regarding the McKay Scholarship contact School Choice at 850-430-7534 or Florida Department of Education at 800-447-1636.

If your child already has a public McKay Scholarship and will remain at their current public school, you DO NOT HAVE TO REAPPLY.

If your child already has a public McKay Scholarship and is progressing from elementary to middle or from middle to high school, then YOU MUST REAPPLY.

Sincerely,

Chris McFarland, Coordinator
Office of School Choice