



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES
SONJA CLAY
www.browardschools.com

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School Board of Broward County, Florida Exceptional Student Education

03/13/2017

Dear Parent,

The John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program was enacted by the state legislature to provide parents with a choice about the school their child will attend. Parents of eligible students are offered a public or private school choice option. Your child may qualify for this program if he/she has a current IEP or 504 Accommodations plan, and:

- Have been enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys (Grades K-12); or
- Have been a pre-kindergarten student who was enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys and was at least 4 years old; or
- Have been a pre-kindergarten student who was reported as having received Specialized Instructional Services by the Office of Early Learning and was at least 4 years old; or
- Have attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind during the preceding October and February student membership surveys (Grades K-12).

Parents interested in the *private* school option may apply to the State to receive funds to be applied towards tuition at a participating private school. If the scholarship amount awarded is less than the tuition and approved costs, the parent is responsible for the difference. Funding is awarded based on the student's ESE eligibility and matrix number at the time of their application. The parent must contact the District ESE Department at 754-321-3445 to have any changes in ESE status or matrix reflected on their intent. Failure to make changes known may cause an incorrect eligibility to appear on the student's application. If you would like more information on this option or to apply for a McKay Scholarship and have your child attend a participating *private school*, you may log on to <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/mckay/>. You may also call the Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at 800-447-1636. **You must submit your intent by July 1 and enroll in a participating private school by August 1 in order to be eligible for the full amount of your scholarship.**

Parents may also request enrollment in another public school in Broward County or an adjacent Florida school district. Approval for the request of a public school is on a first come, first serve basis according to the District's Choice Plan and service(s) to meet child's current IEP or 504 Plan requirements. If you would like more information about this option or to apply for the John M. McKay Scholarship Program and have your child attend a Broward *public school*, beginning May 15, you may log on to http://www.bcps-esandsupportservices.com/html/mcKay_scholarship.php and complete the "Request for Public School Choice" application. **You may submit one request for public school choice between May 15 and April 30.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Broward McKay Scholarship Office at 754-321-3445 or McKay@browardschools.com.

This letter is to provide you, the parent, with general information about the John M. McKay Scholarship Program. This letter does not serve as an approval of eligibility for the program, an offer of money, or guarantee that your application will be approved by the participating public or private school of your choice. As a choice program you, the parent, must meet your responsibilities by law. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, retrieving specific information on eligibility, submitting applications by the deadline date and completing registration and enrollment procedures at the participating private or public school of your choice.

I have received a John M. McKay Scholarship notification letter. I have read the letter and understand its contents. I understand I may apply for this program and that it is my responsibility to notify the District ESE Office of any changes to my child's ESE status or matrix number that may affect award eligibility.

Parent Signature

Date