

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF JACKSON COUNTY



Steve R. Benton Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

2903 Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 5958
Marianna, Florida 32447
Telephone 850-482-1200
Fax 850-482-1299

March 1, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

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, commonly known as the McKay Scholarship Program. This program was created to provide educational options to parents of disabled students. 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. The student must also 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).

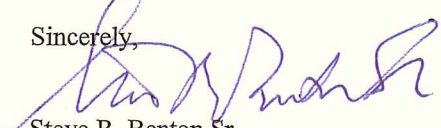
To find out if your student is eligible, you may apply for the McKay Scholarship on the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Select the **McKay Scholarships** link, then **Parents**, then the link titled **Apply for a McKay Scholarship**.

To learn more about your child's educational options, please contact your school district's Parental Choice Office at (850) 482-1200, ext. 236. 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 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. The deadline to apply for the first payment period of the 2016-2017 school year is July 1, 2016.

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

Sincerely,


Steve R. Benton Sr.
Superintendent

SRB/SI/ntm
Terry E. Nichols
District 1

Kenneth R. Griffin
District 2

Stacey B. Goodson
District 3

Chris M. Johnson
District 4

Charlotte M. Gardner
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