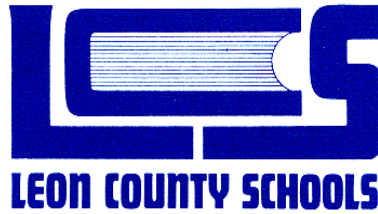


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SUPERINTENDENT
Rocky Hanna

February 8, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We would like to inform you that all Florida School districts are required to notify parents of students with disabilities that their student(s) may be eligible to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarship 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.

By participating in the McKay Scholarship Program, your student may receive a scholarship to attend a participating private school, may be able to attend a different public school Leon County School District that is consistent with Leon County School's choice plan, or attend a public school in an adjacent district. The student must have a current Individual Education Plan or a Section 504 Accommodation Plan and:

- Have been enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school (Grades K-12) for the school year prior to applying for a scholarship (foster students may be exempt from this requirement); 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 section 1002.66, Florida Statutes, 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 Program on the School Choice website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Select the *McKay Scholarships* link, then *Parents*, and then the link titled *Apply for a McKay Scholarship*. For additional information, you may also contact the Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice Information Hotline at 1-800-447-1636.

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 2021-2022 school year is July 3, 2021.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Catherine H. Shields'.

Catherine Shields, ED.S, CCC-SLP
Director II, Operations and Compliance
Office of Exceptional Student Education

3955 West Pensacola Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32304-2998 • Phone (850) 487-7158 • Fax (850) 487-7823 • www.leonschools.net
"The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex (including transgender status, gender nonconforming, and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status, or genetic information."

Building the Future Together