



SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

"Preparing the next generation today"

February 16, 2012

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 20,000 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.

In order to be eligible for the McKay Scholarship Program, a student must apply for the program prior to withdrawing from public school. The student must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 accommodation plan issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973 (with a 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 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 Web site at www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Select the **McKay Scholarships** link and then the link titled **Apply for a McKay Scholarship** on the menu bar on the left.

To learn more about your child's educational options, please contact your school district's Parental Choice Office at (352) 793-2315 X 259. You may also contact the Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice Information Hotline at (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 2012-13 school year is July 3, 2012.

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,

Richard A. Shirley
Superintendent of Schools

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The Villages Charter Schools

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