



# SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

*"Preparing the next generation today"*

March 18, 2015

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 students with disabilities. 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 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 Program on the School Choice website at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org). Select the **McKay Scholarships** link, then **Parents**, and 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 352-793-2315 ext. 50259. 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](http://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 2015-16 school year is July 1, 2015.**

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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Superintendent of Schools

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## TELEPHONE

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### Administration

Ext. 50208 Fax 793-4180

### Curriculum & Instruction

Ext. 50247 Fax 793-4180

### Elementary Education

Ext. 50206 Fax 793-4180

### Secondary Education

Ext. 50210 Fax 793-4180

### Student Services

Ext. 50211 Fax 793-4180

### Federal Programs

Ext. 50204 Fax 793-4180

### Finance

Ext. 50232 Fax 793-4963

### Personnel

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### Employee Benefits

Ext. 50229 Fax 793-2096

### Food Service

Ext. 52226 Fax 793-4277

### Human Resources

748-1510 Fax 748-7639

### Data Processing

Ext. 50241 Fax 793-4963

### Exceptional Education

Ext. 50259 Fax 793-1612

### Library Media / Technology

Ext. 50256 Fax 793-4377

### Adult Education

793-5719 Fax 793-6508

### Facilities

793-1281 Fax 793-9298

### Warehouse

793-7906 Fax 793-9298

### Transportation

793-5705 Fax 793-1083

**The Villages Charter School**

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<http://www.sumter.k12.fl.us>