



INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

### **Steps to Secure your McKay Scholarship:**

All students who have attended either public school OR a private school on the McKay waiver, are eligible next year for the McKay scholarship once again. To make sure your child receives the correct matrix number, you will need to verify that your child's **Primary Exceptionality** (which can be found at the very top of your IEP) is **Autism**. He or she may also have a secondary exceptionality, which could be language impaired, learning delayed, etc. With this exceptionality we can anticipate that your child's McKay matrix will put him/her at a scholarship award amount of \$10,500. This amount can vary depending on the variety and delivery of support services.

#### **To register for the McKay Scholarship:**

- 1) Parents can go to [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) and apply for the McKay scholarship. Eligibility criteria include having spent the full previous school year in a Florida public school and having an IEP. McKay is for students with disabilities only.
- 2) Parents will receive a letter verifying eligibility and giving them a confirmation number. You must return to [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) to file an intent notice. You will then receive a matrix number that determines how much scholarship money the State will give your child.
- 3) Parents must file an intent notice 30 days in advance of enrollment. These deadlines are July 3<sup>rd</sup>, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> for the 2008-2009 academic year.
- 4) Parents may then enroll their child in a McKay-approved private school thirty days prior to the quarterly payment date. Schools receive payments on the first of September, November, February and April.
- 5) Officially enrolling in the McKay-approved private school means that the school must notify the State via the website of your registration in their school. Parents must have officially withdrawn their child from the public school. The Florida Department of Education does check with the local public school to see if your child is still registered, so you must withdraw the child prior to having the new school enroll your child.

Every parent whose child has an IEP will receive a form letter offering the McKay scholarship as an alternative, and parents can go to the website at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) to check and see when registration begins for the next academic year.