

26 (a) An individual educational plan has been written in
 27 accordance with rules of the State Board of Education; ~~or~~

28 (b) A 504 accommodation plan has been issued under s. 504
 29 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

30 (c) A written diagnosis of a disability, as defined in
 31 this section, has been received from a physician licensed under
 32 chapter 458 or chapter 459 or a psychologist licensed under
 33 chapter 490.

34
 35 Students with disabilities include K-12 students who are
 36 documented as having an intellectual disability; a speech
 37 impairment; a language impairment; a hearing impairment,
 38 including deafness; a visual impairment, including blindness; a
 39 dual sensory impairment; an orthopedic impairment; an other
 40 health impairment; an emotional or behavioral disability; a
 41 specific learning disability, including, but not limited to,
 42 dyslexia, dyscalculia, or developmental aphasia; a traumatic
 43 brain injury; a developmental delay; or autism spectrum
 44 disorder.

45 (2) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—The parent of a
 46 student with a disability may request and receive from the state
 47 a John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and
 48 attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

49 (a) The student ~~has~~:

50 1. Has received specialized instructional services under

51 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
52 1002.66 during the previous school year and the student has a
53 current individual educational plan developed by the local
54 school board in accordance with rules of the State Board of
55 Education for the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
56 Disabilities Program or a 504 accommodation plan has been issued
57 under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; or

58 2. ~~Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida~~
59 ~~public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.~~
60 ~~For purposes of this subparagraph, prior school year in~~
61 ~~attendance means that the student~~ Was enrolled and reported for
62 funding in the October or February Florida Education Finance
63 Program survey immediately preceding the request to participate
64 in the program pursuant to paragraph (b) by:

65 a. A school district, for funding during the preceding
66 ~~October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys~~
67 in kindergarten through grade 12, which includes time spent in a
68 Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded
69 under the Florida Education Finance Program;

70 b. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, during
71 ~~the preceding October and February student membership surveys~~ in
72 kindergarten through grade 12; or

73 c. A school district ~~for funding during the preceding~~
74 ~~October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys,~~
75 was at least 4 years of age when so enrolled and reported, and

76 | was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1)(e).
77 |

78 | However, a dependent child of a member of the United States
79 | Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of
80 | state or from a foreign country due to a parent's permanent
81 | change of station orders or a foster child is exempt from this
82 | paragraph but must meet all other eligibility requirements to
83 | participate in the program.

84 | (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of
85 | the student to a private school that is eligible for the program
86 | under subsection (8) and has requested from the department a
87 | scholarship at least 60 days before the date of the first
88 | scholarship payment. The request must be communicated directly
89 | to the department in a manner that creates a written or
90 | electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the
91 | request. The department must notify the district of the parent's
92 | intent upon receipt of the parent's request.

93 | (3) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS.—A student is
94 | not eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship:

95 | (a) While he or she is enrolled in a school operating for
96 | the purpose of providing educational services to youth in
97 | Department of Juvenile Justice commitment programs;

98 | (b) While he or she is receiving a Florida tax credit
99 | scholarship under s. 1002.395;

100 | (c) While he or she is receiving an educational

101 scholarship pursuant to this chapter;

102 (d) While he or she is participating in a home education
103 program as defined in s. 1002.01(1);

104 (e) While he or she is participating in a private tutoring
105 program pursuant to s. 1002.43;

106 (f) While he or she is participating in a virtual school,
107 correspondence school, or distance learning program that
108 receives state funding pursuant to the student's participation
109 unless the participation is limited to no more than two courses
110 per school year;

111 (g) While he or she is enrolled in the Florida School for
112 the Deaf and the Blind;

113 (h) While he or she is not having regular and direct
114 contact with his or her private school teachers at the school's
115 physical location unless he or she is enrolled in the private
116 school's transition-to-work program pursuant to subsection (10);
117 or

118 (i) If he or she has been issued a temporary 504
119 accommodation plan under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
120 1973 which is valid for 6 months or less.

121 (4) TERM OF JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP.—

122 (a) For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a
123 John M. McKay Scholarship shall remain in force until the
124 student returns to a public school, graduates from high school,
125 or reaches the age of 22, whichever occurs first. A scholarship

126 student who enrolls in a public school or public school program
127 is considered to have returned to a public school for the
128 purpose of determining the end of the scholarship's term.
129 However, if a student enters a Department of Juvenile Justice
130 detention center for a period of no more than 21 days, the
131 student is not considered to have returned to a public school
132 for that purpose.

133 (b) Upon reasonable notice to the department and the
134 school district, the student's parent may remove the student
135 from the private school and place the student in a public school
136 in accordance with this section.

137 (c) Upon reasonable notice to the department, the
138 student's parent may move the student from one participating
139 private school to another participating private school.

140 (5) SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

141 (a)1. By April 1 of each year and within 10 days after an
142 individual education plan meeting or a 504 accommodation plan is
143 issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a school
144 district shall notify the parent of the student of all options
145 available pursuant to this section, inform the parent of the
146 availability of the department's telephone hotline and Internet
147 website for additional information on John M. McKay
148 Scholarships, and offer that student's parent an opportunity to
149 enroll the student in another public school in the district.

150 2. The parent is not required to accept the offer of

151 enrolling in another public school in lieu of requesting a John
152 M. McKay Scholarship to a private school. However, if the parent
153 chooses the public school option, the student may continue
154 attending a public school chosen by the parent until the student
155 graduates from high school.

156 3. If the parent chooses a public school consistent with
157 the district school board's choice plan under s. 1002.31, the
158 school district shall provide transportation to the public
159 school selected by the parent. The parent is responsible to
160 provide transportation to a public school chosen that is not
161 consistent with the district school board's choice plan under s.
162 1002.31.

163 (b)1. For a student with disabilities who does not have a
164 matrix of services under s. 1011.62(1)(e), the school district
165 must complete a matrix that assigns the student to one of the
166 levels of service as they existed prior to the 2000-2001 school
167 year.

168 2.a. Within 10 school days after it receives notification
169 of a parent's request for a John M. McKay Scholarship, a school
170 district must notify the student's parent if the matrix of
171 services has not been completed and inform the parent that the
172 district is required to complete the matrix within 30 days after
173 receiving notice of the parent's request for a John M. McKay
174 Scholarship. This notice should include the required completion
175 date for the matrix.

176 b. The school district must complete the matrix of
177 services for any student who is participating in the John M.
178 McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program and
179 must notify the department of the student's matrix level within
180 30 days after receiving notification of a request to participate
181 in the scholarship program. The school district must provide the
182 student's parent with the student's matrix level within 10
183 school days after its completion.

184 c. The department shall notify the private school of the
185 amount of the scholarship within 10 days after receiving the
186 school district's notification of the student's matrix level.

187 d. A school district may change a matrix of services only
188 if the change is to correct a technical, typographical, or
189 calculation error.

190 (c) Upon receipt of a physician's written diagnosis
191 pursuant to paragraph (1)(c) from the parent, a school district
192 shall notify the department of its receipt of such documentation
193 immediately after receiving notice of the parent's request for a
194 John M. McKay Scholarship.

195 (d)~~(e)~~ A school district shall provide notification to
196 parents of the availability of a reevaluation at least every 3
197 years of each student who receives a John M. McKay Scholarship.

198 (e)~~(d)~~ If the parent chooses the private school option and
199 the student is accepted by the private school pending the
200 availability of a space for the student, the parent of the

201 student must notify the department 60 days prior to the first
202 scholarship payment and before entering the private school in
203 order to be eligible for the scholarship when a space becomes
204 available for the student in the private school.

205 (f)~~(e)~~ The parent of a student may choose, as an
206 alternative, to enroll the student in and transport the student
207 to a public school in an adjacent school district which has
208 available space and has a program with the services agreed to in
209 the student's individual education plan or 504 accommodation
210 plan already in place, and that school district shall accept the
211 student and report the student for purposes of the district's
212 funding pursuant to the Florida Education Finance Program.

213 (g)~~(f)~~ For a student who participates in the John M. McKay
214 Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program whose parent
215 requests that the student take the statewide assessments under
216 s. 1008.22, the district in which the student attends private
217 school shall provide locations and times to take all statewide
218 assessments.

219 (6) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department
220 shall:

221 (a) Establish a toll-free hotline that provides parents
222 and private schools with information on participation in the
223 John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
224 Program.

225 (b) Annually verify the eligibility of private schools

226 | that meet the requirements of subsection (8).

227 | (c) Establish a process by which individuals may notify
 228 | the department of any violation by a parent, private school, or
 229 | school district of state laws relating to program participation.
 230 | The department shall conduct an inquiry of any written complaint
 231 | of a violation of this section, or make a referral to the
 232 | appropriate agency for an investigation, if the complaint is
 233 | signed by the complainant and is legally sufficient. A complaint
 234 | is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts that show
 235 | that a violation of this section or any rule adopted by the
 236 | State Board of Education has occurred. In order to determine
 237 | legal sufficiency, the department may require supporting
 238 | information or documentation from the complainant. A department
 239 | inquiry is not subject to the requirements of chapter 120.

240 | (d) Require an annual, notarized, sworn compliance
 241 | statement by participating private schools certifying compliance
 242 | with state laws and shall retain such records.

243 | (e) Cross-check the list of participating scholarship
 244 | students with the public school enrollment lists prior to each
 245 | scholarship payment to avoid duplication.

246 | (f)1. Conduct random site visits to private schools
 247 | participating in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students
 248 | with Disabilities Program. The purpose of the site visits is
 249 | solely to verify the information reported by the schools
 250 | concerning the enrollment and attendance of students, the

251 credentials of teachers, background screening of teachers, and
252 teachers' fingerprinting results, which information is required
253 by rules of the State Board of Education, subsection (8), and s.
254 1002.421. The Department of Education may not make more than
255 three random site visits each year and may not make more than
256 one random site visit each year to the same private school.

257 2. Annually, by December 15, report to the Governor, the
258 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
259 Representatives the Department of Education's actions with
260 respect to implementing accountability in the scholarship
261 program under this section and s. 1002.421, any substantiated
262 allegations or violations of law or rule by an eligible private
263 school under this program concerning the enrollment and
264 attendance of students, the credentials of teachers, background
265 screening of teachers, and teachers' fingerprinting results and
266 the corrective action taken by the Department of Education.

267 (7) COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—

268 (a) The Commissioner of Education:

269 1. Shall deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's
270 participation in the scholarship program if it is determined
271 that the private school has failed to comply with the provisions
272 of this section. However, if the noncompliance is correctable
273 within a reasonable amount of time and if the health, safety, or
274 welfare of the students is not threatened, the commissioner may
275 issue a notice of noncompliance which provides the private

276 | school with a timeframe within which to provide evidence of
277 | compliance before taking action to suspend or revoke the private
278 | school's participation in the scholarship program.

279 | 2. May deny, suspend, or revoke a private school's
280 | participation in the scholarship program if the commissioner
281 | determines that an owner or operator of the private school is
282 | operating or has operated an educational institution in this
283 | state or in another state or jurisdiction in a manner contrary
284 | to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

285 | a. In making such a determination, the commissioner may
286 | consider factors that include, but are not limited to, acts or
287 | omissions by an owner or operator which led to a previous denial
288 | or revocation of participation in an education scholarship
289 | program; an owner's or operator's failure to reimburse the
290 | Department of Education for scholarship funds improperly
291 | received or retained by a school; imposition of a prior criminal
292 | sanction related to an owner's or operator's management or
293 | operation of an educational institution; imposition of a civil
294 | fine or administrative fine, license revocation or suspension,
295 | or program eligibility suspension, termination, or revocation
296 | related to an owner's or operator's management or operation of
297 | an educational institution; or other types of criminal
298 | proceedings in which an owner or operator was found guilty of,
299 | regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere
300 | or guilty to, any offense involving fraud, deceit, dishonesty,

301 or moral turpitude.

302 b. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "owner or
303 operator" includes an owner, operator, superintendent, or
304 principal of, or a person who has equivalent decisionmaking
305 authority over, a private school participating in the
306 scholarship program.

307 (b) The commissioner's determination is subject to the
308 following:

309 1. If the commissioner intends to deny, suspend, or revoke
310 a private school's participation in the scholarship program, the
311 department shall notify the private school of such proposed
312 action in writing by certified mail and regular mail to the
313 private school's address of record with the department. The
314 notification shall include the reasons for the proposed action
315 and notice of the timelines and procedures set forth in this
316 paragraph.

317 2. The private school that is adversely affected by the
318 proposed action shall have 15 days from receipt of the notice of
319 proposed action to file with the department's agency clerk a
320 request for a proceeding pursuant to ss. 120.569 and 120.57. If
321 the private school is entitled to a hearing under s. 120.57(1),
322 the department shall forward the request to the Division of
323 Administrative Hearings.

324 3. Upon receipt of a request referred pursuant to this
325 paragraph, the director of the Division of Administrative

326 Hearings shall expedite the hearing and assign an administrative
 327 law judge who shall commence a hearing within 30 days after the
 328 receipt of the formal written request by the division and enter
 329 a recommended order within 30 days after the hearing or within
 330 30 days after receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is
 331 later. Each party shall be allowed 10 days in which to submit
 332 written exceptions to the recommended order. A final order shall
 333 be entered by the agency within 30 days after the entry of a
 334 recommended order. The provisions of this subparagraph may be
 335 waived upon stipulation by all parties.

336 (c) The commissioner may immediately suspend payment of
 337 scholarship funds if it is determined that there is probable
 338 cause to believe that there is:

339 1. An imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of
 340 the students; or

341 2. Fraudulent activity on the part of the private school.
 342 Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, in incidents of alleged fraudulent
 343 activity pursuant to this section, the Department of Education's
 344 Office of Inspector General is authorized to release personally
 345 identifiable records or reports of students to the following
 346 persons or organizations:

347 a. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an
 348 order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with
 349 a lawfully issued subpoena, consistent with the Family
 350 Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

351 b. A person or entity authorized by a court of competent
 352 jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the
 353 attorney of record pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena,
 354 consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,
 355 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.

356 c. Any person, entity, or authority issuing a subpoena for
 357 law enforcement purposes when the court or other issuing agency
 358 has ordered that the existence or the contents of the subpoena
 359 or the information furnished in response to the subpoena not be
 360 disclosed, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and
 361 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. s. 99.31.

362
 363 The commissioner's order suspending payment pursuant to this
 364 paragraph may be appealed pursuant to the same procedures and
 365 timelines as the notice of proposed action set forth in
 366 paragraph (b).

367 (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—To be
 368 eligible to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for
 369 Students with Disabilities Program, a private school may be
 370 sectarian or nonsectarian and must:

371 (a) Comply with all requirements for private schools
 372 participating in state school choice scholarship programs
 373 pursuant to s. 1002.421.

374 (b) Provide to the department all documentation required
 375 for a student's participation, including the private school's

376 and student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before any
 377 quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student pursuant
 378 to paragraph (11)(e). A student is not eligible to receive a
 379 quarterly scholarship payment if the private school fails to
 380 meet this deadline.

381 (c) Be academically accountable to the parent for meeting
 382 the educational needs of the student by:

383 1. At a minimum, annually providing to the parent a
 384 written explanation of the student's progress.

385 2. Cooperating with the scholarship student whose parent
 386 chooses to participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to
 387 s. 1008.22.

388 (d) Maintain in this state a physical location where a
 389 scholarship student regularly attends classes.

390

391 The inability of a private school to meet the requirements of
 392 this subsection shall constitute a basis for the ineligibility
 393 of the private school to participate in the scholarship program
 394 as determined by the department.

395 (9) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROGRAM
 396 PARTICIPATION.—A parent who applies for a John M. McKay
 397 Scholarship is exercising his or her parental option to place
 398 his or her child in a private school.

399 (a) The parent must select the private school and apply
 400 for the admission of his or her child.

401 (b) The parent must have requested the scholarship at
402 least 60 days prior to the date of the first scholarship
403 payment.

404 (c) For a student eligible pursuant to paragraph (1) (c),
405 the parent must provide documentation of the physician's
406 diagnosis of a disability, as defined in this section, to the
407 school district.

408 (d)-(e) Any student participating in the John M. McKay
409 Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program must remain
410 in attendance throughout the school year unless excused by the
411 school for illness or other good cause.

412 (e)-(d) Each parent and each student has an obligation to
413 the private school to comply with the private school's published
414 policies.

415 (f)-(e) If the parent requests that the student
416 participating in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students
417 with Disabilities Program take all statewide assessments
418 required pursuant to s. 1008.22, the parent is responsible for
419 transporting the student to the assessment site designated by
420 the school district.

421 (g)-(f) Upon receipt of a scholarship warrant, the parent
422 to whom the warrant is made must restrictively endorse the
423 warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of
424 the private school. The parent may not designate any entity or
425 individual associated with the participating private school as

426 the parent's attorney in fact to endorse a scholarship warrant.
427 A participant who fails to comply with this paragraph forfeits
428 the scholarship.

429 (10) TRANSITION-TO-WORK PROGRAM.—A student participating
430 in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities
431 Program who is at least 17 years, but not older than 22 years,
432 of age and who has not received a high school diploma or
433 certificate of completion is eligible for enrollment in his or
434 her private school's transition-to-work program. A transition-
435 to-work program shall consist of academic instruction, work
436 skills training, and a volunteer or paid work experience.

437 (a) To offer a transition-to-work program, a participating
438 private school must:

439 1. Develop a transition-to-work program plan, which must
440 include a written description of the academic instruction and
441 work skills training students will receive and the goals for
442 students in the program.

443 2. Submit the transition-to-work program plan to the
444 Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice.

445 3. Develop a personalized transition-to-work program plan
446 for each student enrolled in the program. The student's parent,
447 the student, and the school principal must sign the personalized
448 plan. The personalized plan must be submitted to the Office of
449 Independent Education and Parental Choice upon request by the
450 office.

451 4. Provide a release of liability form that must be signed
 452 by the student's parent, the student, and a representative of
 453 the business offering the volunteer or paid work experience.

454 5. Assign a case manager or job coach to visit the
 455 student's job site on a weekly basis to observe the student and,
 456 if necessary, provide support and guidance to the student.

457 6. Provide to the parent and student a quarterly report
 458 that documents and explains the student's progress and
 459 performance in the program.

460 7. Maintain accurate attendance and performance records
 461 for the student.

462 (b) A student enrolled in a transition-to-work program
 463 must, at a minimum:

464 1. Receive 15 instructional hours at the private school's
 465 physical facility, which must include academic instruction and
 466 work skills training.

467 2. Participate in 10 hours of work at the student's
 468 volunteer or paid work experience.

469 (c) To participate in a transition-to-work program, a
 470 business must:

471 1. Maintain an accurate record of the student's
 472 performance and hours worked and provide the information to the
 473 private school.

474 2. Comply with all state and federal child labor laws.

475 (11) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

476 (a)1. The maximum scholarship granted for an eligible
477 student with disabilities shall be equivalent to the base
478 student allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program
479 multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the educational
480 program that would have been provided for the student in the
481 district school to which he or she was assigned, multiplied by
482 the district cost differential.

483 2. In addition, a share of the guaranteed allocation for
484 exceptional students shall be determined and added to the amount
485 in subparagraph 1. The calculation shall be based on the
486 methodology and the data used to calculate the guaranteed
487 allocation for exceptional students for each district in chapter
488 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in subparagraphs
489 3. and 4., the calculation shall be based on the student's
490 grade, matrix level of services, and the difference between the
491 2000-2001 basic program and the appropriate level of services
492 cost factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base student allocation
493 and the 2000-2001 district cost differential for the sending
494 district. The calculated amount shall include the per-student
495 share of supplemental academic instruction funds, instructional
496 materials funds, technology funds, and other categorical funds
497 as provided in the General Appropriations Act.

498 3. The scholarship amount for a student who is eligible
499 under sub-subparagraph (2)(a)2.b. shall be calculated as
500 provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2. However, the calculation

501 shall be based on the school district in which the parent
502 resides at the time of the scholarship request.

503 4. Until the school district completes the matrix required
504 by paragraph (5) (b), the calculation shall be based on the
505 matrix that assigns the student to support Level I of service as
506 it existed prior to the 2000-2001 school year. When the school
507 district completes the matrix, the amount of the payment shall
508 be adjusted as needed.

509 5. The scholarship amount for a student eligible under s.
510 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or paragraph (1)(c) shall
511 be based on the program cost factor the student currently
512 generates through the Florida Education Finance Program.

513 6. The scholarship amount granted for an eligible student
514 with disabilities is not subject to the maximum value for
515 funding a student under s. 1011.61(4).

516 (b) The amount of the John M. McKay Scholarship shall be
517 the calculated amount or the amount of the private school's
518 tuition and fees, whichever is less. The amount of any
519 assessment fee required by the participating private school may
520 be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.

521 (c)1. The school district shall report all students who
522 are attending a private school under this program. The students
523 with disabilities attending private schools on John M. McKay
524 Scholarships shall be reported separately from other students
525 reported for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.

526 2. For program participants who are eligible under sub-
 527 subparagraph (2)(a)2.b., the school district that is used as the
 528 basis for the calculation of the scholarship amount as provided
 529 in subparagraph (a)3. shall:

530 a. Report to the department all such students who are
 531 attending a private school under this program.

532 b. Be held harmless for such students from the weighted
 533 enrollment ceiling for group 2 programs in s. 1011.62(1)(d)3.b.
 534 during the first school year in which the students are reported.

535 (d) Following notification on July 1, September 1,
 536 December 1, or February 1 of the number of program participants,
 537 the department shall transfer, from General Revenue funds only,
 538 the amount calculated under paragraph (b) from the school
 539 district's total funding entitlement under the Florida Education
 540 Finance Program and from authorized categorical accounts to a
 541 separate account for the scholarship program for quarterly
 542 disbursement to the parents of participating students. Funds may
 543 not be transferred from any funding provided to the Florida
 544 School for the Deaf and the Blind for program participants who
 545 are eligible under sub-subparagraph (2)(a)2.b. For a student
 546 exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who
 547 chooses to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of
 548 the John M. McKay Scholarship calculated pursuant to paragraph
 549 (b) shall be transferred from the school district in which the
 550 student last attended a public school before commitment to the

551 Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student enters the
552 scholarship program, the department must receive all
553 documentation required for the student's participation,
554 including the private school's and the student's fee schedules,
555 at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment
556 is made for the student.

557 (e) Upon notification by the department that it has
558 received the documentation required under paragraph (d), the
559 Chief Financial Officer shall make scholarship payments in four
560 equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1, February 1,
561 and April 1 of each academic year in which the scholarship is in
562 force. The initial payment shall be made after department
563 verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments
564 shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and
565 attendance at the private school. Payment must be by individual
566 warrant made payable to the student's parent and mailed by the
567 department to the private school of the parent's choice, and the
568 parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the private
569 school for deposit into the account of the private school.

570 (f) Subsequent to each scholarship payment, the department
571 shall request from the Department of Financial Services a sample
572 of endorsed warrants to review and confirm compliance with
573 endorsement requirements.

574 (12) LIABILITY.—No liability shall arise on the part of
575 the state based on the award or use of a John M. McKay

576 Scholarship.

577 (13) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—The inclusion of eligible private
 578 schools within options available to Florida public school
 579 students does not expand the regulatory authority of the state,
 580 its officers, or any school district to impose any additional
 581 regulation of private schools beyond those reasonably necessary
 582 to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this section.

583 (14) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 584 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this
 585 section, including rules that school districts must use to
 586 expedite the development of a matrix of services based on an
 587 active individual education plan from another state or a foreign
 588 country for a transferring student with a disability who is a
 589 dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces.
 590 The rules must identify the appropriate school district
 591 personnel who must complete the matrix of services. For purposes
 592 of these rules, a transferring student with a disability is one
 593 who was previously enrolled as a student with a disability in an
 594 out-of-state or an out-of-country public or private school or
 595 agency program and who is transferring from out of state or from
 596 a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent change of
 597 station orders.

598 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.