



PARENT PRESS

A Newsletter for Parents of Students in Exceptional Education Programs

Florida Diagnostic & Learning
Resources System (FDLRS)

FDLRS Parent Services
4210 West Bay Villa Ave.
Tampa, FL 33611
Phone: (813) 837-7732
Go to the FDLRS website:
fdlrs.mysdhc.org and
Select the Parent Services link.

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Florida's 2015-2016 ESE Parent Survey

February 1 – May 31

We need your help to make Florida's 2015 - 2016 ESE Parent Survey a record success

Each year, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) surveys parents of children with an individual educational plan (IEP) to determine how well your child's school is partnering with you and promoting your involvement in your child's education. All states must collect this data as part of their State Performance Plan, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This year, in an effort to increase parent participation, the Florida Department of Education is providing individual paper surveys for parents of all children receiving special education services in all districts.

If you have not received your ESE survey from your school you may complete the survey online at <http://www.esesurvey.com> or contact your child's school.

Your feedback is important in helping the state and local school systems continue improving educational programs for children with special needs. Thank you!

For questions about the survey, please contact:

Debbie Valdes at Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS), 813-837-7733 or debbie.valdes@sdhc.k12.fl.us



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 Educational 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. 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 813 273-7113. 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 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.

School Board Policy ensures equal opportunity for all in its personnel policies and practices and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender preference, political beliefs, social/family background, disability or age. The district accords preference in selection, retention, and promotion procedures to certain veterans and spouses of veterans who are Florida residents. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding Title IX nondiscrimination regulations and requirements: Mark West, General Manager of Employee Relations, Title IX Coordinator. 813-272-4227; mark.west@sdhc.k12.fl.us; Division of Human Resources, 901 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33602. An alternate point of contact for complaints of discrimination or harassment may be directed to the Office of Professional Standards at 813-840-7128.

For more information or publication assistance, please contact Karin Davis-Thompson via email or at 813-840-7059.

The Parent Press is designed to be an informational source for parents of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students. In addition to Hillsborough County Public School supports and services, the Parent Press strives to offer as much information as possible from community agencies and groups that provide services to persons with disabilities.



A Series of Free Parent Enrichment Programs for Families of Students Receiving Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Services provided by Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Parent Services and Hillsborough County Public Schools

Caring for the Caregiver: Stress Management for Parents of Special Kids

Feeling stressed? Looking for positive ways to relieve that stress?

**Please join us for this exciting and informative program
and leave with strategies to relieve your stress!**

Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Shriners Hospitals for Children

12502 USF Pine Drive, Tampa 33612

Register Online: <https://april2016kids.eventbrite.com>

or Email: Corinne.Smith@sdhc.k12.fl.us

or Phone: 813-837-7732



Superintendent's Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities

The primary focus of this council is to identify and recommend systemic strategies that are intended to improve outcomes for all children who have disabilities within Hillsborough County Public Schools.

2016 Meeting Dates:

March 25, 2016
April 22, 2016
May 20, 2016

All Meetings: 10 AM to Noon

Location:

Children's Board of Hillsborough County
1002 E. Palm Avenue
Tampa, FL 33605

Get Connected!

Don't Miss Out on News & Events!

The FDLRS-ESE Parent Newsletter contains FDLRS Parent Services upcoming events, community events, and information related to Students with Disabilities and their families.

Subscribe Now!

<http://tinyurl.com/FDLRSENews>

This newsletter is emailed approximately twice a month

School Board of
Hillsborough County, Florida



PARENT PRESS

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)
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<p>Maribeth Brooks 272-3800 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Dee Ward 272-3796 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>Carolina Beltran 837-7740 Parent Liaison Carolina.Beltran@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Blake, Jefferson, Plant, Robinson D.W. Waters and feeder schools</p>	<p>Lisa Yost 631-4050 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Sharon Foster 631-4056 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>Mary Merryday 406-8683 Parent Liaison Mary.Merryday@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Alonso, Leto, Sickles, Steinbrenner High and feeder schools</p>	<p>Brenda Grasso 558-1406 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Carol Pauline 558-1412 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>Vacant 837-7732 Parent Liaison fdlrsparentservices@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Freedom, Gaither, King, Wharton High and feeder schools</p>	<p>Henry Washington 558-1100 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Mikki Kenny 558-1097 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>Paula Thomas 837-7734 Parent Liaison Paula.Thomas@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Chamberlain, Hillsborough, Middleton High and feeder schools</p>
Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8
<p>Sherrie Sikes 744-8630 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Shelley Cedola-Hayes ESE Supervisor 744-8636</p> <p>Amy Smith 740-7585 Parent Liaison Amy.Smith@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Bloomington, Newsome, Spoto High and feeder schools</p>	<p>Jerry Jackson 707-7050 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Michele McFarland 707-7056 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>LaKeesha Shipman-Hines Parent Liaison 707-7436 LaKeeshaShipmanHines@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Durant, Plant City, Strawberry Crest High and feeder schools</p>	<p>Sharon Morris 740-3711 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Sheryl Kosco 740-3717 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>Beth Jenner Lubeck Parent Liaison 740-3717 x228 Beth.Jenner@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>Armwood, Brandon, Tampa Bay Tech. High and feeder schools</p>	<p>Marcos Murillo 658-1970 Area Superintendent</p> <p>Jo Jennings 658-1981 ESE Supervisor</p> <p>Doris Jeffries 658-1981 Parent Liaison Doris.Jeffries@sdhc.k12.fl.us</p> <p>East Bay, Lennard, Riverview High and feeder schools</p>



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