



ExcelinEd
in Action

Florida's Hope Scholarship Program

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Hope Scholarship Program

- The Basics
- Responsibilities/Requirements
 - Principal/Designee
 - Parent
 - Scholarship Funding Organization
 - Participating Private Schools
 - Florida Department of Education
- Annual Evaluation of the Program

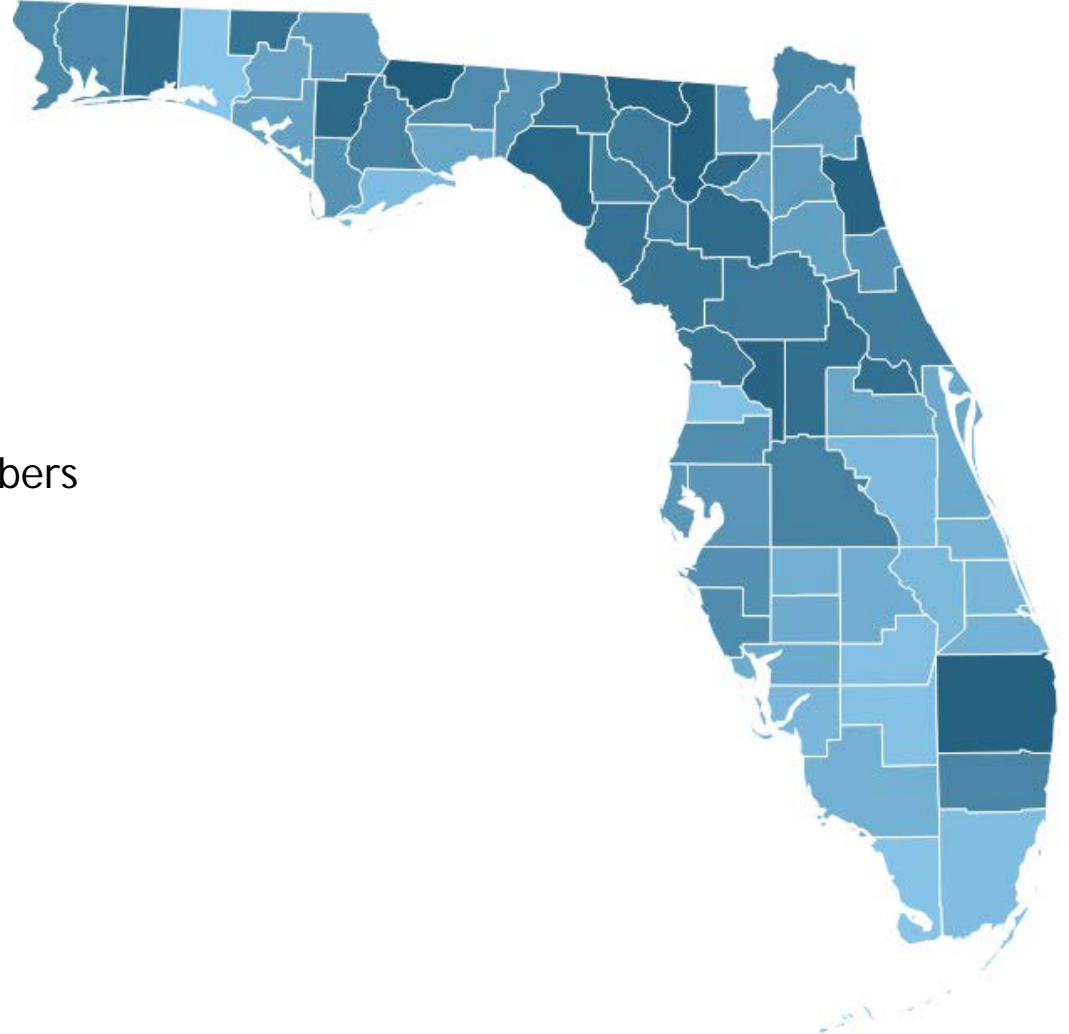
Florida's Landscape/Foundation

- School Safety and Student Discipline Laws and School District Policies
- Collection of School Safety Data
- Existing Scholarship Programs and Open Public School Enrollment





- 2.8 Million K-12 Students
 - Minority/Majority State
 - Over 50% Free/Reduced Lunch
 - 13% Students with Disabilities
 - 9% English Learners
- 67 School Districts
 - 41 Elected Superintendents
 - Elected/Paid School Board Members
 - Over 4,200 Public Schools
- Choice/Opportunities for Students
 - Tax Credit Scholarship
 - John M. McKay Scholarship
 - Gardiner Scholarship
 - Open Public School Enrollment
 - Reading Scholarship
 - Hope Scholarship



Hope Scholarship: The Basics



Student Eligibility

- Parents of public school students subjected to bullying, harassment or other behaviors are able to transfer their student to another public school or receive a scholarship to attend a participating private school.

Timing and Duration of Scholarship

- Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year on a first-come-first serve basis.
- Remains in effect until the student returns to a public school or graduates, whichever occurs first.

Revenue Source and Method

- Single payment of \$105 at time of purchase of motor vehicle or, if not purchased from a dealer, when it is registered.
- Contribution made to an eligible Scholarship Funding Organization/StepUp for Students
- Tax Credit not available until October 1, 2018.
- Estimated \$40M for 2018-2019.

Per Student Funding Amounts (prorated for first year)

- Based on statewide per full-time equivalent (FTE):
 - 88% for grades K-3 ~ \$6,519
 - 92% for grades 4-8 ~ \$6,815
 - 96% for grades 9-12 ~ \$7,112

Hope Scholarship: Responsibilities/Requirements



Principal/Designee:

- Provides copy of report to parent of victim.
- Determines if statewide reporting is required (FL DOE - School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting).
- Investigates incident.
- Provides parent of alleged offender copy of report within 24 hours.
- Upon conclusion of investigation or within 15 days, whoever occurs first, notifies parent of the Hope Scholarship Program.

Parent:

- Applies for scholarship via state funding organization (SFO) website.
- Selects eligible private school.
- Informs school district and withdraws student.
- Complies with private school's requirements.
- Ensures that student takes the norm-reference assessment offered by the private school.

FORM HOS-1003
Effective August 2018
Rule 6A-6.0015

Hope Scholarship Notification Form

Pursuant to section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, the Hope Scholarship Program provides a public school student who was subjected to an incident of violence or bullying at school the opportunity to transfer to another public school with capacity or request a scholarship to attend an eligible private school.

By completing and signing this form, the principal is confirming that the incident was reported and that the parent is aware of the educational opportunities under the Hope Scholarship Program. The school should retain a copy and provide original document to the parent.

Student Information

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
FLEID: _____ Grade Level: _____
School of Enrollment and MSD: _____ School District: _____

Incident Information

Date and Time of Incident: _____ Date Incident Reported: _____

Place Incident Occurred:

<input type="checkbox"/> School playground	<input type="checkbox"/> School classroom	<input type="checkbox"/> School cafeteria	<input type="checkbox"/> School hallway	<input type="checkbox"/> School restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> On a school bus	<input type="checkbox"/> At a school bus stop	<input type="checkbox"/> At a school related/sponsored program or activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Other school location (please specify): _____
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Incident Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> Battery	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazing	<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Attack	<input type="checkbox"/> Robbery	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Threat or Intimidation	<input type="checkbox"/> Fighting
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Confirmation of Hope Scholarship Notification

Principal or Designee Signature: _____ Date: _____
Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Hope Scholarship: Responsibilities/Requirements



Scholarship Funding Organizations

- Receive applications and determines student eligibility.
- Notify parents of scholarship depending upon available funding.
- Award scholarship funds to students giving priority to renewing students from previous year.
- Submit required quarterly reports to the FL Department of Education (FLDOE).
- Notify FLDOE of any violations.
- May retain 3-percent for administrative fees.
- Subject to annual operational audit conducted by the Auditor General.

Participating Private Schools (Annual Program Compliance Form)

- Comply with anti-discrimination provisions.
- Demonstrate fiscal soundness and accountability.
- Meet applicable health and safety requirements.
- Maintain physical location.
- Publish or provide parents required information on programs, services and qualifications of teachers.
- Provide parents with notice of student's progress.
- Conduct state and national background screenings of all employees with direct contact with students and school owners/operators.
- Conduct Adopt required policies related to ethical conduct of school staff.
- Annually provide independent CPA report to the scholarship funding organization

Hope Scholarship: Responsibilities/Requirements



Florida Department of Education

- Implement provisions of scholarship program accountability including:
 - Annual verification of private schools' compliance.
 - Establish toll free hotline and process for individuals to notify FLDOE of possible violations.
 - Conduct inquiries into complaints.
 - Obtain copies of health and fire inspection reports of private schools.
 - Conduct site visits prior to schools entering a scholarship program for the first time (effective 2018-2019).
 - Report annually to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate implementation activities and violations.
- Verify that participating students are not also enrolled in public schools.
- Maintain list of nationally-normed referenced tests.
- Facilitate private school access to state assessments, if chosen.
- Require quarterly reports from SFOs on number of participating students and schools.
- Contract with independent entity to provide an annual program evaluation.

Scholarship Program Compliance Form for Private School Participants in State Scholarship Programs - Form IEPC SCF-1

Effective August 2018
Rule 6A-6.03315, F.A.C.

Section 1: Program Participation	
Participating school year:	
School is a new participant or a re-enrolling participant:	
Current scholarship program(s):	

Section 2: School Ownership, Affiliation, and Licensing	
A)	* School is owned by:
B)	* The school is:
C)	If the answer to A is "Corporation", does your school have a current Certificate of Status* as required by section 607.0128 and 617.0128, Florida Statutes or an approved charter as required by section 621.03, Florida Statutes? *Document issued by the Department of State when the school applies to become a corporation)

Section 3: Financial Solvency	
A)	* Pursuant to section 1002.421(1)(f), Florida Statutes, has the school been in operation for at least 3 years?
B)	* If you answered "No" to Item A, has a letter of credit or surety bond been supplied to the Department of Education for an amount equal to the scholarship funding amount for any quarter?
C)	* If your school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under Chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, in a state fiscal year, does your school contract with an independent certified accountant to perform the agreed upon procedures developed under section 1002.395(9)(c), Florida Statutes, and produce and submit a report in accordance with section 1002.421(1)(g), Florida Statutes?

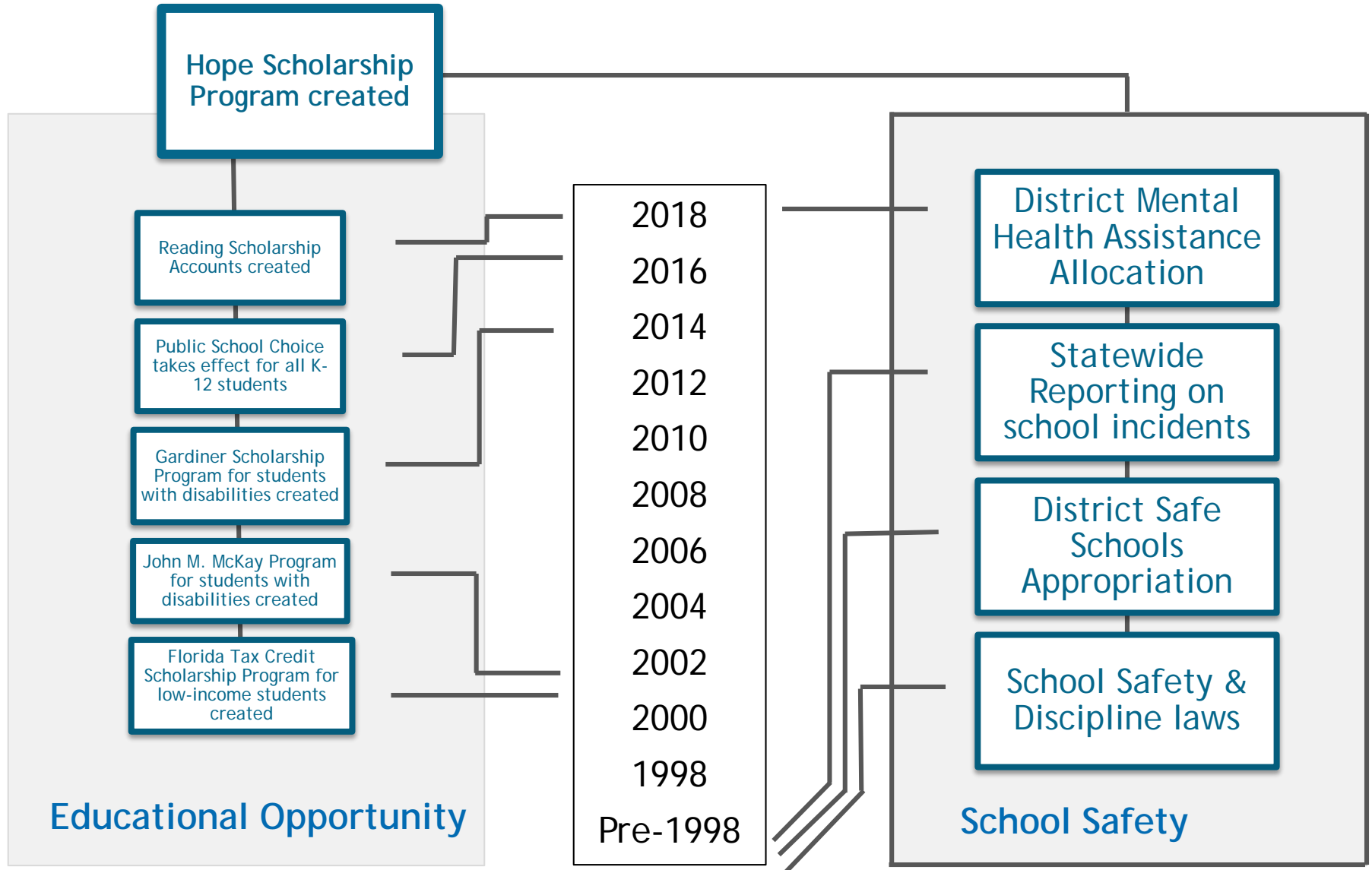
Section 4: School Administration	
A)	* Has each Owner, Operator, and Chief Administrative Officer undergone a Level 2 background screening through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and submitted the results to the Florida Department of Education in accordance with section 1002.421(1)(m), Florida Statutes? (Reports must be filed with the private school and made available for public inspection)
B)	* In accordance with section 1002.421(1)(p)(6), Florida Statutes, does your school have a process for notifying the parent of each scholarship recipient at least 30 days before a transfer of private school ownership occurs?
C)	* Have all employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact submitted their fingerprints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for state and national background screening in accordance with section 1002.421(1)(n), Florida Statutes?
D)	* In accordance with section 1002.421(1)(n), Florida Statutes, does the school deny employment to or terminate an employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact if he or she fails to meet the background screening standards under section 435.04, Florida Statutes?



Annual Evaluation

- Review bullying prevention programs, climate, and code of student conduct of each public school with 10 or more students transferring to another public school or private school via the Hope Scholarship Program.
 - Assess investigation time and quality.
 - Effectiveness of communication.
 - Analysis of school incident and discipline data.
 - Challenges of implementing recommendations.
- Review bullying prevention programs, climate, and code of student conduct of each public school to which a student transferred to make recommendations to sending school.
- Review performance of participating students enrolled at private schools which have at least 51-percent of students participating in program.
- Survey participating parents to determine academic, safety and school climate satisfaction and other recommendations.

Policy Foundations Timeline





School Safety and Student Discipline Laws

- Responsibility of local school boards to adopt policies to address disciplinary issues and provide for a safe and orderly environment.
- School boards adopt a code of student conduct to be distributed widely and made available.
- Roles/responsibilities/authority of district/school staff described (i.e., teachers, principals, bus drivers, superintendents).
- School board adopt specific policies prohibiting bullying and harassment, hazing, and dating violence and abuse and one on zero tolerance for crime and victimization.
- FLDOE distributes model policies.

Collection of School Safety Data

- Required accurate reporting of school safety and discipline data to the FLDOE via the School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR).
 - Tracks 26 types of incidents of crimes or serious violations of the code of student conduct.
 - 21 incidents require consultation with law enforcement.
 - Data collected three times per year and publicly available on the FLDOE's website.
- Annual survey of students assessing risk and protective factors for substance abuse and its prevalence via the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.
- Meets Every Student Succeed Act requirements to report on measures of school quality, climate and safety including discipline, incidences of violence, including bullying and harassment.



Safe Schools Funding

- Annual appropriation to districts for safe schools activities including:
 - After school programs.
 - Middle and high school programs for correction of specific discipline problems.
 - Other improvements to enhance learning environment.
 - Behavior driven intervention programs (anger and aggression management).
 - Alternative programs.
 - Suicide intervention programs.
 - Bullying and intervention.
 - School resource office.
 - Detection dogs.
- 2017-2018 appropriation was \$66,456,019 total
 - \$62,660 to each district with remainder allocated on Florida Crime Index and district's student enrollment,

2018-2019 Safe Schools and Mental Health Assistance Funding (SB 7026 - Public Safety)

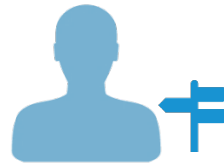
- \$161,956,019 - Safe Schools Appropriation
- \$ 69,237,286 - Mental Health Assistance Allocation - Minimum of \$100K + funds per student enrollment



Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Serves 107,000+
low-income students

Est. 2001



John M. McKay Scholarship Program

Serves 30,000+
Students with disabilities

Est. 2002



Gardiner Scholarship Program

Serves 10,000+
Students with disabilities

Est. 2014



Open Public School Enrollment

Students can enroll in any
public school w/ capacity.

Est. 2017



Reading Scholarship Accounts

Will serve struggling
readers in grades 3-5

Est. 2018



Hope Scholarship Program

Will serve bullied or
harassed students

Est. 2018



Can choose public or
private school



Parent is reimbursed for
approved expenses



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