



Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

306 HOB

Meeting Packet

**Will Weatherford
Speaker**

**Michael Bileca
Chair**

Committee Meeting Notice

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

Start Date and Time: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 01:30 pm
End Date and Time: Tuesday, March 04, 2014 03:30 pm
Location: 306 HOB
Duration: 2.00 hrs

Workshop on reimbursement account for students with disabilities

NOTICE FINALIZED on 02/28/2014 13:58 by Flynn.Kaley



AGENDA

Choice & Innovation Subcommittee
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
306 HOB

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Workshop on reimbursement account for students with disabilities
- IV. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Florida Personalized Account for Learning

Who is Eligible?	<p>Florida resident who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is eligible to enroll in grades K-5 or has an existing Personalized Account for Learning; • Has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and is eligible for matrix support levels III-V or and Educational Plan (EP) from his home school district; and • Enrolls in a home education program under s. 1002.41, F.S.
What choices are available?	<p>Funds from the account may be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized instructional services consistent with the student’s IEP. • Tuition/fees for private school instructional services. • Private tutoring. • Curriculum. • Costs for annual home education evaluation. • The \$25 scholarship application fee. • Services such as applied behavior analysis, speech-language pathology , occupational therapy, physical therapy as defined in s. 486.021. • Any remaining funds may be for medical services as prescribed by a physician. <p>Instructional service providers must be approved by the Department of Education (DOE) or be a private school participating in state scholarship programs.</p>
How is eligibility determined?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 60 calendar days prior to one of the payment transfer dates, i.e. May 1, July 1, September 1, or December 1, parents must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply for an account to an eligible scholarship funding organization (SFO); and ○ Request an IEP from the school district (unless the student already has an IEP identifying the student as eligible for an account issued by the district). • The school district must evaluate the student and prepare an IEP within 30 calendar days. • School districts are not responsible for providing the participating student a free appropriate public education (FAPE). • The student is treated as a unilateral parent placement for purposes of state and federal law, excluding preparation of the IEP.
How is funding determined?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is calculated using the same calculation as the McKay Scholarship program. • The student gets 100% of the scholarship amount. • School districts must report the student for funding in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). • DOE must deduct the account amount from the districts’ FEFP allocation and transfer the funding quarterly to an SFO. • The SFO must maintain separate accounts for each eligible student, verify qualifying expenditures, and reimburse the parent for eligible services provided to the student. The parent submits supporting documentation (receipts) and an affidavit. • Any unused funds are rolled over to the next fiscal year, unless the student returns to public school, graduates from high school, or attains age 22. • If the account is terminated, funds revert to the state.
How is the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SFO must verify that expenditures are permissible before reimbursing parents for such services.

held accountable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating SFOs must submit quarterly reports to DOE regarding students served, services reimbursed, and providers used. • SFOs must be audited annually by the auditor general. • DOE approves instructional services providers, monitors program compliance, and establishes a complaint process and adjudicates complaints.
How are students and parents held accountable?	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate with her or his ability using one of the methods authorized by 1002.41 (home education): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress review of the student’s work portfolio by a certified teacher. ○ Norm referenced testing administered by a certified teacher. ○ Statewide, standardized testing by a certified teacher. ○ Evaluation by a licensed psychologist or school psychologist. ○ Any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the district and parent. • May not have multiple savings accounts or receive state choice scholarships. <p>Parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must enroll the student in a home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41 and comply with its requirements. • Must participate in the IEP review required under federal and state law. • Must provide the student with the services necessary to educate the child. • May not receive any rebate or refund from service providers.