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Florida Department of Education
INCREASING THE QUANTITY AND IMPROVING THE
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Public School District McKay Representatives

FROM: Jean Miller, Acting Executive Director
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Bambi Lockman, Chief
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

DATE: May 6, 2008

SUBJECT: Assigning Matrices to Prekindergarten Students Applying for the McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program

Section 1002.39(2)(a)3., Florida Statutes, states that a prekindergarten student with an individual educational plan (IEP) who was reported as a four year old in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) surveys meets the prior year in attendance requirement for McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program eligibility. Districts have requested assistance in determining the appropriate matrix level for these students, as the matrices and hours of service may change significantly during the transition to kindergarten.

The maximum scholarship granted for an eligible student with disabilities is defined in Section 1002.39(10)(a)1., Florida Statutes, as the calculated amount equivalent to the base student allocation in the FEFP multiplied by the appropriate cost factor **for the educational program that would have been provided for the student in the district school to which he or she was assigned**, multiplied by the district cost differential (emphasis added).

JEAN MILLER
Acting Executive Director
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Assigning Matrices to Pre-K Students

May 6, 2008

Page Two

This model originally was established for students enrolled in grades K-12 and generally applied to students in attendance for traditional full-day educational programs. The situation differs somewhat for prekindergarten children with disabilities, as these children are not subject to the same mandatory school attendance expectations, and service delivery models for early childhood education often differ from those provided in a traditional school-age program.

To be consistent with the funding levels currently calculated for the McKay Scholarship, school districts should convene an IEP team to review the prekindergarten child's current evaluations and academic progress and to develop a proposed IEP that identifies the services the student would receive upon transitioning to a public kindergarten program. A matrix of services must then be completed to reflect the services on the proposed IEP. This will be used to determine the student's scholarship amount for the McKay Scholarship.

If you have any questions regarding this new procedure, please contact the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at (800) 447-1636. For questions related to the development of an IEP or matrix calculation, please contact the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services at (850) 245-0476.

JM/BL/tt