

# Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services Discretionary Projects

## **Access to the Common Core for Exceptional Student Success (ACCESS) Project**

Provides lesson planning, instructional tools and professional development in the Common Core Standards for teachers to support positive outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities taking the Florida Alternate Assessment.

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## **Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities**

Project initiatives include training educators on best practices concerning individual educational plan (IEP) development, ensuring that students with disabilities have appropriate accommodations to help them succeed, and revising course descriptions for exceptional student education, grades 6-12.

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## **Alternate Assessment State Data Collection**

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## **Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)**

The Centers for Autism & Related Disabilities are located at seven state universities and provide community-based information and consultation to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and related disabilities, their families, and school districts.

**Bureau Liaison:** Anne Bozik, [Anne.Bozik@fldoe.org](mailto:Anne.Bozik@fldoe.org)

**Contacts:** <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/contact/pdfs/CARD.pdf>

**Websites:** <http://florida-card.org/>

## **Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS)**

The CHRIS project is responsible for the development and maintenance of the official State of Florida database for tracking preschool children with disabilities served under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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## **Critical Initiatives in Visual Impairment Project (CIVI)**

This project provides teacher training that addresses the critical shortage of highly qualified personnel; effective practices in braille instruction; and the effective use of residual vision for learning by using low vision devices.

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**Website:** [www.careersinblindness.com](http://www.careersinblindness.com)

## **Educational Interpreters Project**

Florida's Educational Interpreters Project is a state-funded initiative to improve the skills of K-12 interpreters and transliterators working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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**Website:** <http://www.interpreterproject.org/>

## **Exceptional Student Education Parent Survey Project**

The purpose of this project is to provide support to the Florida Department of Education in meeting the requirements of Indicator 8 of the State Performance Plan.

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[http://www.education.miami.edu/organization/organizations\\_Detail.asp?Organization\\_ID=124](http://www.education.miami.edu/organization/organizations_Detail.asp?Organization_ID=124)

## **Family Café (Cooperation, Advocacy, Friendship, and Empowerment)**

The Family Café exists to provide individuals with disabilities and their families with an opportunity for collaboration, advocacy, friendship and empowerment by serving as a facilitator of communication, a space for dialogue and a source of information.

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**Contact Person:** Lori Fahey, [lfahey@familycafe.net](mailto:lfahey@familycafe.net)

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## **Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)**

FIN provides learning opportunities, consultation, information, and support to educators, families, and community members resulting in the inclusion of all students.

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**Website:** <http://www.floridainclusionnetwork.com/>

## **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers (FDLRS)**

The FDLRS Associate Centers provide diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities statewide.

**BEES Liaison:** Anne Glass, [Anne.Glass@fldoe.org](mailto:Anne.Glass@fldoe.org), Cathy Bishop, [Cathy.Bishop@fldoe.org](mailto:Cathy.Bishop@fldoe.org)

**Contacts:** <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/managers.pdf>

**Website:** <http://www.fdlrs.org>

## **FDLRS Multidisciplinary Educational Service Centers**

This network of five regional Multidisciplinary Educational Services Centers provide multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluations for pre-school and school-aged children with complex academic, medical, emotional and/or behavioral need. The Centers also provide technical assistance and consultation services to families, school and community agencies and pre-service and in-service training.

**Bureau Liaison:** Kathy Burton, [Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org)

**Contacts:** <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/managers.pdf>

**Websites:**

FDLRS FSU – <http://csw.fsu.edu/research/fsu-multidisciplinary-center/>

FDLRS UofM *coming soon*

FDLRS UF – <http://www.peds.ufl.edu/mdtp/>

FDLRS UF @ Jacksonville – <http://www.hscj.ufl.edu/pediatrics/diagnostic-and-learning-resources/>

FDLRS USF *coming soon*

## **FDLRS Technology State Loan Library (FDLRS TSLL)**

Florida Diagnostic and Learning System provides support services to exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities statewide.

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**Contacts:** <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/managers.pdf>

**Website:** <http://www.fdlrs-tsll.scps.k12.fl.us/>

## **Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI)**

FIMC-VI is a statewide resource center designed to assist schools in obtaining specialized materials for students with visual impairments as well as providing professional development to teachers and other professionals who provide services to students who are visually impaired. In addition to housing a professional resource library, they are also the state's Authorized User for the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS).

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## **Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISR D)**

The mission of ISR D is to improve outcomes for students with disabilities in the thirty-four small and rural school districts through staff development, information dissemination, technical assistance, product development, and support for district initiatives.

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## **Learning through Listening Project (LtL)**

The purpose of this project is to provide digital audio textbooks and equipment to students who cannot read standard print due to visual, perceptual, physical, or learning disabilities. The project also facilitates support services and training to administrators, teachers, parents, and students on the use of this technology provided by Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic).

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## **Measuring Outcomes for Preschool Children with Disabilities**

The purpose of this project is to provide support to the Florida Department of Education in meeting the requirements of Indicator 7 of the State Performance Plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Indicator 7 relates to outcomes of children ages birth through five who have participated in early intervention and/or preschool special education services.

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## **Multiagency Network for Students with Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)**

SEDNET is devoted to facilitating the creation of a comprehensive "system of care" for high-risk students and students with emotional/behavioral disabilities and their families.

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**Website:** <http://www.sednetfl.info>

## **Outreach Services for the Blind/Visually impaired and the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing**

Outreach Services provides support services to school district personnel, parents and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, or blind or visually impaired. Available support services include training, information, referral services, and student assessments.

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## **Parents Educating Parents in the Community (PEP)**

PEP provides information, training, and support to parents of children with disabilities in select isolated, rural areas of Florida.

**Bureau Liaison:** Kathy Burton, [Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.Burton@fldoe.org)

**Contact Person:** Ellie Ramirez-Olivera, [elida@fndfl.org](mailto:elida@fndfl.org)

**Website:** <http://www.fndfl.org/projects/pep/index.asp>

## **Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism**

The Statewide Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) staff join together in partnership with Florida educators to provide training and technical assistance in developing a plan for implementing innovative and effective practices in the school environment.

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## **Personnel Development Support Project**

This project develops and provides technical support for multimedia products, including databases, websites, online courses, and other electronic and print materials that support the implementation of BEESS initiatives. Additionally, the project provides leadership to the State Personnel Development project through collaboration with state universities and colleges.

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## **Positive Behavior Support: Response to Intervention for Behavior Project (PBS:RtIB)**

This project is committed to building the capacity of school districts so that they may better assist schools to develop effective discipline, social skills teaching, and behavior support strategies for all students. The statewide Florida Positive Behavior Support Project, Florida Problem-Solving/RtI Project, and the Technology and Learning Connections for Assistive Technology and UDL Team, will work together to support district-wide implementation of an integrated (academic and behavior) data-based problem-solving system supported through technology.

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## **Problem Solving and Response to Intervention State Project (PS/RtI)**

This project facilitates the implementation of the problem-solving and response to intervention (PS-RtI) framework to improve academic and behavior outcomes statewide for at-risk general and special education students, and meets the goals of Florida's Differentiated Accountability Plan. This project results in the high quality implementation of statewide training, technical assistance, and building sustainable capacity for the PS-RtI framework in all sixty-seven Florida school districts, with an emerging research focus on secondary level implementation. Thirty-four elementary pilot schools in seven demonstration districts, established over a three-year period by this project, are maintained in order to serve as resource and technical assistance sites to other districts for the implementation of the PS-RtI framework. The PBS: RtIB Project, PS/RtI Project, and the Technology & Learning Connections for Assistive Technology and UDL Team, will work together to support district-wide implementation of an integrated (academic and behavior) data-based problem-solving system supported through technology.

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## **Project 10: Transition Education Network**

The mission of Project 10: Transition Education Network, hereinafter referred to as "Project 10," is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.

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## **Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (RMTC-D/HH)**

The Resource Materials & Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a specialized FDLRS center serving teachers of students who are deaf and hard of hearing throughout the state of Florida.

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## **State Personnel Development Project**

This project supports initiatives that help to prepare and retain highly qualified personnel to provide instructional and related services to students with disabilities. This includes tuition support to paraprofessionals enrolled in special education pre-service training programs, to ESE teachers earning an endorsement program in autism or prekindergarten disabilities, and speech/language teachers earning a master's degree in speech/language pathology. Initiatives also include the development and provision of blended certification programs at state colleges. Through *Working with the Experts*, the project supports professional development activities for speech/language pathologists, teachers of students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and occupational therapists and physical therapists.

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## **Student Support Services Project**

Student Support Services staff are charged with facilitating the development of critical support services programs so that observable and measurable indicators of success are achieved. This is accomplished through the provision of technical assistance, training, research, resource development, and policy development and interpretation to local and state educators and parents.

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## **Technical Assistance and Training System for Programs Serving Young Children with Disabilities (TATS)**

TATS is a statewide system of technical assistance and training that promotes high quality programs which lead to and support positive outcomes for prekindergarten children with disabilities and their families.

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**Website:** <http://www.tats.ucf.edu/index.php>

## **VSA Florida**

VSA is a statewide support network responsible for the implementation of arts programs to ensure inclusion, learning and success through the arts for students with disabilities.

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