

PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Duval County Public Schools

1701 Prudential Drive * Jacksonville, FL 32207
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Joseph Wise, Superintendent

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General Information

Telephone Numbers

All numbers begin with area code 904.

General Information	390-2000	Psychology	390-2084
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf - TDD	390-2898	PTA	390-2069
Academic Programs	390-2133	Pupil Assignment	390-2144
Admissions - ESE	390-2077	Purchasing	858-4848
Alliance for World Class Educ.	348-7730	Research & Evaluation	390-2976
ARAMARK Food Service	732-5117	Risk Management	390-2353
Athletics	858-6142	Safe/Drug Free Schools Prog.	390-2131
Board Offices	390-2885	Safety	858-1925
Business Services	390-2022	School Social Work Services	390-2084
Charter Schools	390-2813	Schultz Center	348-5757
Chief of Staff	390-2010	Science/Environ. Studies	390-2522
Communications	390-2126	Security	858-6100
Community Education	858-6080	ServiceMaster	630-6660
Community Involvement	390-2960	Social Studies	390-2130
Consolidated Services	858-1501	Student Services	390-2476
Curriculum & Instruction	390-2377	Subst Automated Mgt Sys	390-2820
Dropout Prevention	858-6089	Substitute Information	390-2066
Duval Teachers United	396-4063	Summer School Program	390-2133
Exceptional Student Educ.	390-2071 390-2072	Superintendent	390-2115
Facilities	390-2259	Superintendent's Standard Bearer & Acceleration Schools	924-3450
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)	348-7784/ 348-7789	Teacher Supply Depot	381-7480
Gifted Program	390-2428	TEAM UP Program	858-6089
Guidance	390-2090	Technology	348-7100
Head Start	721-9788	Testing	858-1450
Health Education	390-2131	Title I	390-2123
Hearing Impaired/Deaf	348-7861	Transportation	858-6200
High School Education	348-7880	Truancy	390-2094
Human Resource Services	390-2840	Vision Services	858-1946
K – 8 Education (Cluster 1)	858-6123	Volunteer Services	390-2960
K – 8 Education (Cluster 2)	858-6190	Zeroing In On Prevention Prg	390-2131
Language Arts/Reading/ Foreign Language	390-2136		
Magnet Programs	390-2082		
Mathematics Department	390-2522		
Minority Business Affairs	858-1480		
Payroll	390-2022		

Resources on the Internet

Duval County Public Schools maintains an extensive Web site of information and resources at:

www.dreamsbeginhere.org

Our Web site is easily accessible from most home computers and from the public computers located at all Duval County public libraries.

The Web site contains extensive information for parents, students, teachers, district staff, and the community, including this Parent Resource Guide and much more. We encourage parents to visit our Web site and explore the many resources available there.

Promotion Requirements

In general, students at every grade level must meet the standardized expectations for student achievement outlined in Florida's Sunshine State Standards. These standards, which are very detailed, are available on our Web site or by calling the Curriculum and Instructional Services Office at 390-2128. The Sunshine State Standards specify what each student is expected to learn, for each grade and each area of study. Such state and national standards give school districts a meaningful way to measure academic performance and improvement against other school districts in Florida and throughout the country. More importantly, it helps us to identify as soon as possible when a student is struggling in some particular area and to help that student improve through a variety of district resources and services. This information is invaluable in helping us to continue to improve education services to all children and families in our district.

The school district also offers detailed information on required student achievement, program placement, promotions, retention, exceptional student education, ESOL and other related topics in the Student Progression Plan, as required by state law. The law was enacted by the Florida State Legislature as the Educational Accountability Act of 1976 to establish testing guidelines and standards to monitor and evaluate academic performance in reading, writing, science, and mathematics for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Duval County's Student Progression Plan, which is modified annually, is an extensive document containing all of the school district's academic guidelines and expectations. It is available online at www.dreamsbeginhere.org or by calling the Curriculum and Instructional Services Office at 390-2128.

At certain points in a student's academic career, moving to the next level depends on the student's performance on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Third graders must pass the reading test to be promoted to fourth grade. High school students must pass the tenth grade reading and mathematics tests by the end of their senior year in order to graduate. A complete calendar of all standardized testing in the district is available on our Web site or by calling the Testing Office at 858-1450.

Reporting Results

Every nine weeks during the school year, teachers evaluate the performance of each student and provide the results to parents as part of a student report card. Parents also may receive communication from a child's teacher or school anytime during the grading period whenever a student is not making adequate academic progress. In addition to report cards, parents also receive notification and explanation from the student's school of the results of all standardized tests, including the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

Parents also are encouraged to speak and/or meet with the child's teacher(s), principal, and/or guidance counselor to discuss overall academic performance and test scores at any time there are questions or concerns. Call the school to arrange such a conference.

In addition, results are reported annually to the community on each school's progress as measured against its School Improvement Plan. These results are available on the Web site and are provided to each school in a form that can be copied and provided to parents.

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers within the Duval County Public Schools are required to hold or be eligible for a valid Florida Educator's Certificate or a Duval County certificate (such as a vocational area). In some situations, teachers may be assigned to teach a subject that is not covered by their teaching certificate. This does not mean that the teacher is not qualified to teach. "Out-of-field" teachers are required to obtain certification in that subject area. Teachers providing services to ESOL students are required to complete training and or certification in ESOL. Parents are notified by letter, during both the first and second semesters, when their child is enrolled in a class taught by an out-of-field teacher.

Schoolwide information on certification and qualifications of teachers, by school, is available on our Web site. You also may call the school and ask for a copy of the information if you do not have computer access. To find out the qualifications and certification status of an individual teacher, call the district's Professional Standards Office in the Human Resources Department, 390-2054.

Parent Services

Wherever a child falls along the academic achievement spectrum—from a gifted child to a student whose native language is not English to children with academic deficiencies and those with disabilities, Duval County Public Schools provides a variety of support services, information resources, and special programs for those students and their families.

Literacy Services

Few things are more critical to academic success than the ability to read. That is why literacy is a top priority for Duval County Public Schools. We focus on literacy from the time a child enters the public school system all the way through to graduation.

The foundations for reading are set well before kindergarten, however. Parents who feel that a pre-school age child is not developing appropriately for the child's age are encouraged to contact the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System/Crown Associate Center (FDLRS /Crown). The staff can provide families with developmental screenings and refer children to the public school system for assessment and placement in appropriate programs. FDLRS/Crown staff can also provide professional consultation, resource information, and information on training opportunities, parent support groups and other community resources for families of children with special needs. For information on services from FDLRS/Crown, call 348-7789 or go to www.fdlrscrown.org.

Once a child enters our school system, the child's reading progress is monitored on a daily basis by the child's teacher(s). Standardized tests and other assessment tools also give teachers a measurement of the child's reading level and of possible problems. Whenever there is an indication that a child is having difficulty with reading, teachers and parents have access to a "safety net" of literacy services designed to help children master reading proficiency, ranging from special assistance in the classroom to a variety of after-school and summer reading improvement programs. If a child is having difficulty with reading, parents may access our services network by talking with the child's teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or principal. Information on literacy services also is available through the Language Arts/Reading/Foreign Language Department at 390-2136.

English Proficiency

Duval County Public Schools enroll thousands of students who do not speak English as their first language. We know that these students often require additional assistance and resources to improve their proficiency in both speaking and reading English. All Duval County Public Schools provide English instruction in a variety of models. Some schools provide English in specialized classes. To learn more about the specific programs offered in various schools, please call the English For Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program office at 390-2202 to inquire about types of services available in specific schools.

Mentors

Mentoring is a one-to-one relationship between a caring adult and a student who could benefit from extra help and support. Mentoring has a proven record as a powerful factor in helping students improve their grades and self-esteem and in raising their goals and expectations. Mentors serve as coaches, supporters, role models, and advocates, and they work closely with classroom teachers and school staff.

To request a mentor, contact the child's school or call the district's Community Involvement Office at 390-2960.

Tutors

Students also may benefit from working with a tutor. Tutors are volunteers who provide additional help with academic work. Duval County Public Schools offers a variety of tutoring programs ranging from tutoring in the classroom to after-school and summer tutoring programs.

For information on tutoring options, contact the child's school or the individual district-level curriculum office for that subject to ask about available tutoring services. The district Mathematics Office is available at 390-2137. The district Language Arts/Reading/Foreign Language Office is at 390-2136.

In addition, children can get extra reading help from at www.fcatexplorer.com, a practice and skills reinforcement tool that is based on Florida's Sunshine State Standards and operated by the state. It is free of charge.

After-School Programs

There are literally dozens of after-school programs available throughout Duval County Public Schools, most of them geared toward improving reading proficiency, student self-esteem, or academic achievement, or providing other types of support services such as after-school and extended day care. Some are Duval County Public Schools programs; others are programs offered by organizations and agencies throughout our community.

For information on enrolling a child in an after-school program contact the school to find out which programs are available there. Our Web site also includes information on Community Education programs (phone: 858-6080) geared to school-age children.

Counseling Services

Duval County Public Schools provides a full spectrum of services for students and their families through the Exceptional Education/Alternative Education and Behavior Support Services Department.

School psychologists and social workers are available in all schools on an itinerant basis to provide intervention, counseling, and evaluation services for children to determine their specialized educational needs. They are also available to work with parents, teachers, and school administrators to provide consultation on how to work with children in the home and classroom to encourage success.

School psychologists serve as a resource to schools and families to conduct classroom observations, provide progress monitoring of both academic and behavior concerns, assist with the implementation of classroom interventions, provide short-term counseling, and conduct in-service training.

School social workers serve as advocates for the student and the family in finding solutions to problems that adversely affect the student's adjustment in the home and at school. They do this by linking parents to community services that can help children and their families meet their basic needs.

School psychologists and social workers work cooperatively as members of school based decision making teams to assure that students are receiving comprehensive services from professionals that are familiar with the students and the resources available in their school and community.

Either teachers or parents may initiate a request for assistance for a child. Contacting the school to speak with a school based administrator or school counselor is the best way to initiate the process. Parents also may call the district **Exceptional Education/Student Services Department at 390-2071.**

Parents may also contact the district Section 504 office for assistance for students who may qualify for federal protection under the Section 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973. School psychologists assist schools in substantiating the presence of significant learning, social-emotional, or medical impairments that may rise to the level of a disability for any student. In such cases, the school psychologist may work with the school's Section 504 team to determine if a student meets the eligibility requirements under Section 504. The School psychologist can add valuable information as to the degree of impact any impairment may have on a major life activity. School psychologists collaborate with school teams and parents to locate those students eligible for Section 504 accommodations.

Other helpful numbers:

School Psychology Services 390-2084

Section 504 Program Services 390-2231

Duval County Public Schools provides, through its Alternative Education and Behavior Support Services Department, a full spectrum of counseling services for students and their families.

School social workers serve as advocates for students in foster care to solve problems that adversely affect the student's adjustment in the school.

The district's Attendance Services Office works with the schools, community agencies, students, and parents to improve school attendance and deal with truancy issues.

Health-related information and counseling are available for a variety of concerns, including hearing and vision services, or other medical conditions, and the issues of teenage parents.

Families who find themselves homeless face additional barriers to enrolling and keeping their children in school and to contributing to their children's academic success. Project Access, the district's program for the education of homeless children and youth, is designed to help reduce or eliminate these barriers.

Teenagers who become parents while they still are in school themselves also have an extra set of challenges to face, both for themselves and their own children. The Teen Parent Service Center provides day care, transportation, and health/social services to these teens to help them finish high school and become self-sufficient. Call the center at 858-6362 for information on parenting classes and services.

Duval County Public Schools' crisis team responds to traumatic/crisis incidents as requested by schools. For assistance call 390-2366 or 390-2093.

Often, students require more than one of these services, and the staff who provide these services frequently work as a team to assess the problems and find solutions and assistance for the student and family.

Either teachers or parents may initiate a request for assistance for a child. Call the child's school for the name of the appropriate counseling person there. Parents also may call the district Alternative Education and Behavior Support Services Department at 390-2081, or the following individual areas:

Health Services 390-2091
Vision Services 858-1946
Project Access 390-2528

Attendance Services 390-2093
Hearing Services 390-2906
Teen Parent Center 390-2559

Academic Advisement/College Planning

In today's world, students and their parents often must begin making preliminary decisions about college and careers as early as middle school. Guidance Services oversees academic counseling and college /career planning services for students throughout the district through programs available at every Duval County Public School. Guidance counselors in the individual schools are available to provide parents and students with information on course selection, college planning and applications, financial aid, other post-secondary education options, and careers. The district Guidance Office also can answer general questions and provide many helpful publications about making these important decisions.

Each fall, the National Association of College Admission Counselors sponsors a national college fair for Duval County students. Additionally, beginning each January, the district sponsors a College Financial Aid Night for parents, at each of the district high schools. Call the school office to ask about dates for these events.

For information on academic, college, and career planning, call the school's guidance counselor or the main Guidance Office at 390-2090.

Parent Participation Opportunities

Educators believe, and research shows, that when parents are involved in their children's schools, academic achievement goes up. Showing a strong interest in a child's education is one of the most important things a parent, can do.

Duval County Public Schools provides a variety of ways in which parents can be actively involved in school planning and decision-making, in fundraising, and in supporting academic success.

School/District Advisory Councils

Advisory councils for individual schools and for entire school districts were created by the Florida Legislature in 1991 to play a vital role in the overall operation and success of public schools. These advisory councils provide parents, students, faculty, staff, and community and business members with an opportunity to get involved with a school's long-term mission and short-term objectives by participating in setting educational priorities and determining a school's needs.

School Advisory Councils must include a majority of non-school employee members. Their primary responsibility is to assist in preparing, evaluating, and implementing the school improvement plan. They also play a role in preparing school budgets and in reviewing school data that can indicate planning directions for student success.

Contact the school for information about the School Advisory Council or a copy of the council's guidebook.

PTA/PTSA

More than 35,000 people belong to a Duval County Public Schools' Parent Teacher Association or Parent Teacher Student Association. School PTAs and the Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs are involved throughout the year in many activities that support the public school system and its students and families.

In addition to regular meetings that provide parents with a forum for information and expressing concerns, the PTAs conduct numerous workshops for parents, teachers, principals, and students on health, leadership, education, and parenting issues. They produce a number of printed materials about topics of interest to parents. They coordinate volunteers for hearing and vision screenings in the schools. They fund several scholarships to Florida colleges. They sponsor numerous school and districtwide service and fundraising projects. Through PTA membership, parents can have a direct impact on a child's school and on the school district as a whole.

For information on PTA membership at your child's school, contact the school directly.

Volunteering

Duval County Public Schools strongly encourages parents to become school volunteers. As a school volunteer, parents can demonstrate the importance of school to their own children's while also having a positive impact on the learning environment for many other children as well.

Volunteer opportunities in our schools range from classroom assistant to home room parent to tutoring to mentoring to health screenings to community resources volunteer. Each school has its own unique set of volunteer opportunities. The best way to learn about volunteering at a school is to call that school directly or call the district's Community Involvement Office at 390-2960.

Parenting Classes

Being a parent is a challenging and complicated, and every parent can benefit from learning more about supporting a child's success in school. A variety of parenting classes are available through Duval County Public Schools.

The Community Education Program offers parenting classes at several of its locations. For a list of upcoming classes and sites, check the Community Education section of our Web site or call 858-6080.

The Duval County Council of PTAs/PTSAs often offers classes on parenting and on education issues for parents. Call the school to find out about PTA membership and contacts for that school.

The district's Title I Parent Center, located at John E. Ford Elementary, offers a variety of services to parents whose children attend any of the district's 61 Title I schools, including a wide selection of parenting classes. For a list of upcoming classes, call 630-6728 or 6729. To find out whether your child attends a Title I school, call the school office or the district Title I Office at 390-2123.

Adult Education

Frequently, parents find that when they improve their own education, it has an impact on their children's academic success—from providing a role model for children to improving the parent's ability to read with a child and help with homework to bettering the family environment through improved job and life skills. No one is ever too old to learn, and Duval County Public Schools provides a number of opportunities for parents to increase their educational achievement as well.

A primary source for adult education classes is the Community Education Department. Adult A primary source for adult education classes is the Community Education Department. Adult classes range from reading, typing, computers, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation, to job skills and money management.

For a list of upcoming classes and sites, check the Community Education website at www.dreamsbeginhere.org/comed or call 858-6080.

Student Academic Opportunities

Duval County Public Schools has an international reputation for excellence in its academic programs. These programs range from its magnet programs to International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs to advanced-studies high schools.

Almost any type of challenging academic course that a student wishes to follow, in science, art, or humanities, is available through one or more of our public schools.

Magnet Programs

Duval County Public Schools offers one of the largest, most comprehensive magnet school programs in the country. Unlike many other magnet programs around the country, however, most Duval magnet programs are open to most students via a lottery system, without stringent testing or other such requirements. The only exceptions are the two performing arts schools and the International Baccalaureate program.

As a result of that accessibility, more than 20,000 students currently participate in the various learning communities offered through thirty different programs at 50 schools—elementary, middle, and high school.

While magnet program students also take courses in traditional subjects, they are able to develop interests and talents from a wide range of specialized programs in mathematics, science, the arts, languages, aviation, law/legal professions, technology, public service, and many other areas. The district offers two Montessori magnet elementary schools.

For detailed information on all our magnet programs, go to our Web site at www.magnetprograms.com or call the Magnet Program Office at 390-2082.

Gifted and Talented Programs

Several elementary, middle, and high schools in Duval County offer Gifted and Talented/Multiple Intelligences/College Preparatory options. While acceptance into these programs is not based on academic performance or other competitive measurements, once in the program, students must meet academic performance standards to remain in the program the following year.

Florida's current definition of giftedness is: One who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance. A student is eligible for the gifted program if the student demonstrates a need for a special program, has the majority of characteristics of gifted students according to a standard scale or checklist, and very superior intellectual development as measured by an individually administered standardized test of intelligence. A student is also eligible if the student is a member of an underrepresented group and meets the criteria specified in an approved school district plan for increasing the participation of under-represented groups in programs for gifted students. Standardized test scores, academic performance and a Teacher rating Scale determine criteria for eligibility for the gifted program, as well as superior intellectual development as measured by an individually administered standardized test of intelligence.

For more information on the Gifted and Talented Program, go to our Web site or call the Gifted Programs Office at 390-2420.

International Baccalaureate Program

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program diplomas are awarded only to those students who complete the program's academically rigorous curriculum and excel on a series of IB exams and special projects. The diplomas awarded by the international program, headquartered in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom, are recognized by colleges and universities around the world as an indicator of the highest academic achievement. For additional information contact the IB Coordinator at the following schools:

Paxon School for Advanced Studies
693-7583 www.paxonsas.org

Jean Ribault High School
924-3092 www.dreamsbeginhere.org/rhs

Stanton College Preparatory School
630-6760 www.stantoncollegeprep.org

Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)

The AICE program is a college preparatory curriculum sponsored by Cambridge University in England. While internationally recognized as a university entrance-level qualification, the AICE program provides curricular flexibility. Those receiving the AICE diploma are automatically eligible to receive the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship at the 100% level. AICE offers a variety of advantages for students who want to pursue an advanced program of study in a comprehensive high-school setting. For additional information on the Advanced International Certificate of Education program contact the AICE coordinator at:

Mandarin High School
260-3911 www.mandarinhigh.org

William M. Raines High School
924-3049

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement courses offer motivated high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses while in high school. Advanced Placement tests also offer the possibility of earning college credit for those courses, in addition to acquiring college-level skills.

One or more Advanced Placement courses are offered at all Duval County high schools.

Advanced Placement courses also are available online through the Florida Virtual School at www.flvs.net.

Dual Enrollment Opportunities

Duval County public high school students have several choices of dual enrollment programs, which enable students to earn both high school and college credit for their courses.

Every high school provides dual enrollment opportunities, either at the school or at Florida Community College Jacksonville. For information on eligibility requirements, classes, and locations, call the High School Education Office at 348-7790.

Early College High School Program

The Early College High School program offers highly motivated students the opportunity to participate in a rigorous academic program with the goal of achieving the high school diploma and the Associate of Arts (AA) degree in four years. Students will demonstrate academic mastery through multiple measures of performance such as standardized testing, performance assessments, portfolios and college-level coursework. The Early College program has a vision inclusive of parents as partners along with the students, the school staff, the community college and the Jacksonville community.

For additional information contact the Early College High School Director at the following schools:

Robert E. Lee
381-9898 www.dreamsbeginhere.org/lee

Jean Ribault
924-3092 www.dreamsbeginhere.org/rhs

Accelerated Graduation Options

In addition to the traditional four-year, 26-credit diploma (*effective fall 2006 for entering 9th grade students*) available to Duval County Public Schools high school students, the State of Florida has mandated two new 18-credit diploma options that enable students to graduate from high school in three years.

The 18-credit College Preparatory Option aligns the credits with the minimum standards for admission into Florida's state university system. This option may not meet the academic credit requirements for admission at more selective state universities or universities in other states, however.

The 18-credit Career Preparatory Option aligns the courses toward entrance into a technical career center or community college.

For more information on these graduation options, contact the schools' guidance office.

Florida Virtual High School

The Florida Virtual School is a statewide, Internet-based, public high school offering a rigorous curriculum online. The award-winning program offers students a variety of course options, including Advanced Placement courses and electives.

For more information on the Florida Virtual School, go online to www.flvs.net.

Educational Choices

Parents in Duval County have a variety of education options from which to choose to best meet their children's education needs.

Public School Options

Children have a number of public school choice options. All students have a neighborhood school that is determined by the residential address of the parent or guardian. Parents may call 390-2144 to find out the name of the neighborhood school.

In addition to the neighborhood school, students may apply to attend a magnet school. A magnet school is a school that offers a special theme or emphasis along with the regular Duval County curriculum. The application season for magnet schools occurs in January and February of each year. Applications are mailed to all currently enrolled students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 10. Blank applications are also available on www.magnetprograms.com. Call 390-2082 for additional information.

Students may also apply to attend another school through the district's Special Transfer Option program. The number of openings for the Special Transfer Option is determined by the projected enrollment for the school. Schools that are overcrowded already do not have openings for Special Transfers. The application window for this option occurs in the spring. Call 390-2144 for additional information.

The website for the McKay Scholarship program and the Opportunity Scholarship Program is www.floridaschoolchoice.org. Parents can also call the toll-free parent hotline: 1-800-447-1636.

Charter School Options

In addition to regular private schools in the community, parents also have the option of sending a child to a charter school. Charter schools are set up under certain state restrictions and sign contracts with the public school district. Charter schools must apply with the School Board for approval as a charter school. The applications are reviewed by the Board and the school is also monitored by the Board to ensure contract compliance. For more information on charter schools, call the School Choice Office at 390-2083.

Home Schooling

Parents also have the option of schooling their children at home. For information on the state requirements and guidelines for home schooling, call the Home Education Office at 390-2476.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Duval County Public Schools philosophy is that all children should have every opportunity to develop to their highest potential. This philosophy also is part of several state and federal laws applying to the public education of children with disabilities.

As part of Duval County Public Schools, the Exceptional Student Education Program offers students and their families far more than just instruction. Through this program, the district also provides a comprehensive range of services, from breakfast and lunch programs to door-to-door transportation to homework assistance to social services. When required, students also benefit from occupational and physical therapists, guidance counselors, speech and language services, and assessment services. Specialized equipment is provided for those who require it. Just as important, classrooms are designed, equipped, and staffed to accommodate the individual needs of students with learning, emotional, behavioral, physical and/or sensory disabilities.

Each student in the Exceptional Student Education Program receives an individual education plan, which is reviewed and updated throughout the school year. The plan also is used to report student progress and to describe accommodations or modifications that are required to meet a standard or goal.

Student progress is reported a minimum of every nine weeks, when report cards go out.

The program also offers a wide range of tests to measure progress, including the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, the Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test, and others. Assessment tools specifically designed for students with disabilities also are used.

Testing Accommodations

When students with disabilities are administered standardized tests, whether the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test or some other standardized test, schools are required to provide the necessary accommodations for those students whose Individual Education Plan specifies the need for such accommodations. The Duval County Public Schools Testing Office provides each school with detailed guidelines on allowable accommodation requirements, including requirements governing presentation, student responses, physical setting, and assistive technology.

For further information regarding accommodations for students with disabilities, visit the Florida Department of Education website: www.fldoe.org.

Be Sure to Immunize for School

Florida law requires student to show proof of required immunizations or proper exemptions. Those who fail to meet these requirements will be excluded from school until proper documentation is provided.

Who needs proof of immunization?

All students entering, attending, or transferring into Florida schools must have a Florida Certificate of Immunization (DH Form 680 Part A) or an exemption on file at the school.

Can a student enroll without the proper immunizations?

Students not presenting the required certification of immunization or exemption will be refused admittance to school and referred to their physician or the Duval County Health Department for the proper documents.

Besides a physician's office, where can my child receive the required Immunizations?

There are several clinics around Jacksonville that offer immunizations at no cost. Call the Duval County Health Department at 253-1000 for information.

What are acceptable exemptions?

- ❖ Permanent Medical Exemption
 - issued by physician
- ❖ Temporary Medical Exemption
 - issued by physician or authorized designee
- ❖ Religious Exemption
 - issued by health department
- ❖ 30 School-Day Exemption for transfer students
 - issued by school

What is the schedule of doses for the Hepatitis B vaccine?

After the initial dose, the second is given one month later. The usual interval between the second and third dose is five months. If a dose is given too soon it is considered invalid and another dose will be required. Students must complete all doses or have an exemption in order to attend school.

Is a health examination required for all students?

Initial entrants into a Florida School (pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and transfer) need to present certification of a school-entry health examination performed within one year prior to enrollment (date of entry) or submit an exemption.

What are the exemptions for a school-entry health exam?

Religious exemptions (only a written request required) and 30 School-Day exemptions for transfer students are permissible.

Immunization Requirements

Students entering, attending, or transferring to:

Preschool

- ❖ Four doses DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) vaccine with the last dose given on or after the fourth birthday or a fifth dose is required
- ❖ Three doses polio vaccine with the last dose given on or after the fourth birthday or a fourth dose is required
- ❖ MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine given on or after the first birthday
- ❖ HIB (haemophilus influenzae type B) vaccination for children under five
- ❖ Hepatitis B vaccine given in three shots over a sixth period
- ❖ Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine or documented history of the disease on DOH 680 Form is required for preschool students

Kindergarten & Grades 1 through 6

- ❖ Same as preschool, except no HIB
- ❖ Second dose of measles (preferably MMR)
- ❖ Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine or documented history of the disease on DOH 680 form is required for kindergarten through 6th grade students. Each subsequent year, the next highest grade will be in the requirement.

Note: A two dose vaccine requirement for Varicella (Chicken Pox) will be required beginning with 2008-2009 school year for children entering Kindergarten. Each subsequent year thereafter, the next highest grade will be in the requirement.

Also, with the 2008-2009 school year, two doses of MMR will be required for kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Seventh grade to twelfth grade

- ❖ Second dose of measles (preferably MMR)
- ❖ Hepatitis B vaccine given in three shots over a six-month period
- ❖ Tetanus-diphtheria (Td or Tdap) booster.

For answers to additional questions call the Immunization Center at 253-1420 or the School Health Office at 253-1580.

Are your family's routine immunizations current?

Infant immunizations should be completed by age 2. Adults need immunizations too. For more information, please access the following websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>

<http://www.immunizeflorida.org>

<http://www.fldoe.org>

<http://www.healthykids.org/>.

What is Meningococcal Disease?

(Excerpts taken from Meningococcal Disease In-short. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/in-short-both.htm> 9/11/07)

Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection that can cause meningitis, bloodstream infection and other localized infections. Although the disease is not common in the United States, in those who get it, symptoms develop and progress rapidly even leading to death in 24-48 hours. Symptoms may be characterized by fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, sore throat, mental status changes, bloodstream infection and rash.

Meningococcal disease is usually spread through direct contact with nasal or mouth discharge.

There are two meningococcal vaccines available in the United States. Both vaccines can prevent certain types of meningococcal disease. For more information on who should or should not receive the vaccine, please consult with your physician or health care provider. Also, please visit the following website for additional information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>

PARENT SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

- I talk to my child regularly about school and the importance of doing one's best.
- I know that my child has the ability to succeed.
- I help my child learn to set long- and short-term goals.
- I praise my child for both effort and achievement.
- I encourage my child to read everyday and provide opportunities for the family to read together.
- I provide lots of age-appropriate reading material in the home.
- I set aside a special study time and a study area with the tools needed to complete assignments.
- I ask to see the work my child is doing in school.
- I make it easy for my child to go to the library.
- I attend workshops and training on how to help my child at home.
- I am aware of what my child watches on TV and what electronic or computer my child plays.
- I have read the Student Code of Conduct and returned the parent signature form.
- I model positive behaviors such as respect for my child, others, and myself.
- I make sure my child attends school daily and promptly.
- I encourage my child to accept responsibility for his/her actions
- I monitor my child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities.
- I maintain regular communication with the school and teacher(s).
- I find out how my child is progressing by attending parent-teacher conferences when needed.
- I attend Open House and other school events.
- I volunteer in and for the school when possible.
- I talk to my child in a patient, understanding, and caring manner.