



BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

MARCH 26, 2021

Weekly Memo

Action Items

Rule Development Workshop and Public Comment on Standards Revisions

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has issued the following memorandum regarding a rule development workshop and public comment on standards revisions. A rule development workshop will be held on Friday, **April 9, 2021**, at 11 a.m. EST. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the review process through the online surveys, which will be open when the draft standards are posted through **April 23, 2021**, per the instructions in the memo. To register for the workshop, please visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4060571620471297807>. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9116/dps-2021-31.pdf>.

Reading, Writing and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Training Opportunity

“Reading, Writing, and ASD: A 2-Part Series” is hosted by the Florida State University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities in partnership with the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism. This virtual training’s target audience is special and general education teachers, administrators, related services providers, and paraprofessionals. This two-part training series will discuss the unique learning styles of students with ASD and how they affect academic performance, specifically in reading comprehension and writing composition. Session one, on **March 29, 2021**, will provide explanations of the underlying reasons why students with ASD struggle with reading comprehension, provide a framework to create meaningful accommodations, and show examples of classroom supports. Session two, on **April 26, 2021**, will utilize the same framework and look at strategies to help students with writing composition. Both sessions will use a balance of lecture, discussion, activities and planning. For more information and to register, see the attached document. For questions, contact Tammy Dasher at tdasher@fsu.edu or Cathy Zenko at czenko@fsu.edu.

- Filename: PEPSA Reading, Writing, and ASD

Working with the Experts (WWE) Occupational and Physical Therapists Online Courses

WWE for occupational and physical therapists is pleased to announce that registration is now open for online course access. Based on continuing positive feedback about the course quality and selection with Summit Professional Education, we are offering enrollment again in the yearlong access to their library of online continuing education courses. The registration deadline is **April 1, 2021**. Therapists will have until **August 15, 2021**, to complete and submit a certificate for

a course in one of the topic areas. For more information, see the attached document. For questions, contact Peg Sullivan, director, at msulliva@fgcu.edu or Mary Walsh, program specialist, at Mary.Walsh@fldoe.org.

- Filename: WWE OTPT Online Course Brochure 2021

District or Program Hiring Authorities: University of North Florida (UNF) Job Fair with Mini-Interviews

The UNF Deaf Education is holding its Spring 2021 Virtual Job Fair and Mini-Interviews on **April 7, 2020**, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. EST. If your district or program has or is expecting to have vacancies in your deaf education program, this is an opportunity to share information about your program and help interns practice interviews. It also gives you the opportunity to make contact with prospective future deaf education-related hires in this critical-shortage area. For more information, see the attached document.

- April 2021 Job Fair Mini Interviews

The Art and Science of Teaching Reading: Focusing on Struggling Readers Webinar

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System Administration is excited to be collaborating with the University of Florida Literacy Institute to present the virtual webinar, The Art and Science of Teaching Reading: Focusing on Struggling Readers, on **April 28, 2021**, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Resources will be shared to enhance online and in-person instruction for struggling readers. The targeted audience for this event is literacy coaches, directors of curriculum and instruction, reading interventionists and reading professional developers. The registration deadline is **April 15, 2021**. For more information and to register, see the attached document. For questions, contact Mary Ann Ahearn at ahearnm@nefec.org or Dr. Beth Moore at mooreb@nefec.org, or call 386-312-2265.

- Filename: UFLI-FDLRS Webinar Flyer

Spring 2021 Joint Meeting for District Coordinators of Programs for Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) or Visually Impaired (VI)

On **April 28, 2021**, the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired and the Institute for Small and Rural Districts will host a special opportunity with Julie Weatherly, Esq., as she answers your questions specific to serving students who are deaf or hard of hearing or visually impaired, or a combination. The targeted audience for this meeting is exceptional student education (ESE) directors and district contacts for DHH and VI. This invitation can be extended to additional stakeholders in your district at your discretion. Recommended attendees include teachers of students who are DHH, teachers of students who have visual impairments, orientation and mobility specialists, staffing specialists, and ESE coordinators. The registration deadline is **April 16, 2021**. For more information and to register, see the attached document or go to https://fsdbk12.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SQVfeMq8SGWi7g4tZAhRrQ. For questions, contact Jennifer Coburn at Jennifer.Coburn@fldoe.org, Carmelina Hollingsworth at c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org or Kay Ratzlaff at kratzlaff@fimcv.org.

- Filename: 2021 Joint Contacts Meeting for DHH and VI

Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia Virtual Conference

Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia virtual conference will be on **June 4, 2021**. Give your teachers the opportunity to have an immediate impact in their instruction while earning up to 12 continuing education points by attending a full day of dyslexia-focused professional learning.

The conference will address indicators, screening and assessment; instructional strategies; and research-driven technology and tools. Registration is at no cost. For more information and to register, see the attached document.

- Filename: Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia Virtual Conference

Informational Items

2020 Economic Security Report Summary

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding the 2020 Economic Security Report summary. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fl DOE.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9115/dps-2021-47.pdf>.

School Library Month 2021

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding School Library Month 2021. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fl DOE.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9114/dps-2021-15.pdf>.

Victoria Gaitanis
Bureau Chief

Reading, Writing, and ASD: A 2-Part Series

Hosted by: FSU CARD

About the Presenters

Catherine Zenko, MS, CCC-SLP is the director of the FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (FSU CARD) who has worked with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families and professionals who serve them for over 22 years. She is the co-author of two books: *Understanding the Nature of Autism, 3rd Edition*, and *Here's How to Provide Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Balanced Approach*.

Tammy Dasher, MA is an autism consultant with FSU CARD. Prior to her work with CARD, she was a high school special education teacher for over 20 years. She was honored to be recognized as a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Exceptional Student Education. She is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, a volunteer with United Way's ReadingPals program, and a reporter for her local newspaper.

Debi Cassidy, BS is an autism consultant with FSU CARD. She is an educator who has 25 years of experience in both Special Education and General Education settings. She has taught all ages ranging from Pre-K through age 21 in a variety of settings. She has been with FSU for over ten years serving clients of all ages in our western counties.

Training Description

Target Audience: (This training is for special and general education teachers, administrators, related service providers, and paraprofessionals.)

This 2-part training series will discuss the unique learning styles of students with ASD and how they affect academic performance, specifically in reading comprehension and writing composition. Session one will provide explanations of the underlying reasons why students with ASD struggle with reading comprehension, provide a framework to create meaningful accommodations, and show examples of classroom supports. Session two will utilize the same framework and look at strategies to help students with writing composition. Both sessions will use a balance of lecture, discussion, activities, and planning.

Training Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe how the core symptoms of ASD and related cognitive learning characteristics impact learning in the areas of reading and writing
- Choose evidence-based strategies to support intervention for reading and writing
- Create various accommodations for students with ASD to help improve reading comprehension and writing composition tasks/activities



Dates:

Part 1: March 29, 2021 - Reading

Part 2: April 26, 2021 – Writing

Time:

3:30 – 5:00 pm ET/

2:30 – 4:30 pm CT

Location:

Zoom

Registration Deadline:

Part 1: March 29, 2021

Part 2: April 26, 2021

Limited to first **300 participants***

Register Online:

Registration is mandatory.

Register here:

<https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkd--qrjItHN1hWhRzOY9ncxIRib3hAlmj>

Credit: Each session is worth

1.5 contact hours. Certificates of attendance will be provided for anyone who attends for 80% of the time.

Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service credits.

For more information contact:

Tammy Dasher, tdasher@fsu.edu or

Cathy Zenko: czenko@fsu.edu

WORKING WITH THE EXPERTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Online/Self study courses
2021



WWE is pleased to announce a continuation of our partnership with Summit Professional Education. Access to Summit's full CE course library will be made available for one full year providing completion of the requirement listed below.

Therapists will have until **Aug 15, 2021** to complete and submit a certificate for a course in **one of the topic areas below:**

- ⇒ Autism/ADHD
- ⇒ Executive Function
- ⇒ Behavioral Issues
- ⇒ Self Regulation
- ⇒ Feeding Issues
- ⇒ Technology/Teletherapy



Following fulfillment of this obligation all other courses in the library are available to WWE registered participants through the remainder of the year (specific date to be announced when registration is complete).

Registration must be completed by April 1st and district limits are being enforced. Priority registration is given to individuals unable to participate last year. Course access information will be available by April 15th.

Coordinators should register additional therapists interested in this opportunity as wait listed status. Wait listed individuals will be notified within one week of registration closure if they are able to be added to the roster.

Certificate of Completion must be received by Aug. 15, 2021

WORKING WITH THE EXPERTS

Registration Details

Pre-registration will only be accepted from District OT/PT Coordinators and must be made using the on-line registration system at: <http://www.flwwe.net>.

Please see page 3 for directions on how to complete the online registration process. Therapists must log into their account and read and agree to the online course agreement to finalize registration.

CEUs

CEUs will be awarded directly upon successful course completion by the course provider (Summit) however you are responsible to download your certificates and self report to CE Broker.

An **electronic copy of one certificate**, in PDF format, from **targeted topics listed on page 1** must be received by the WWE office to **fulfill your obligation** as outlined in the online course agreement. Successful course completion will be reflected in your account on the WWE website but it is **your responsibility to keep a copy of the certificate for your records**.

PLEASE NOTE!

- It is very important that your WWE account has an **accurate email address** as this will be the email used by Summit to add you to their system.
- If you wish to use a personal email address please edit that in your WWE account

Working with the Experts is a special project funded through the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B.



Accommodations

Accommodations for participants who have special needs will be available.

To ensure appropriate accommodations , please make the request at the time of registration to Peg Sullivan, Director, WWE OT/PT, Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Ft Myers, FL 33965-6565, (239) 590-7748, or via email at msulliva@fgcu.edu.



Working with the Experts (WWE)

Web site – <http://www.flwwe.net>

10 Steps for a Successful Registration!

1. Click on <http://www.flwwe.net> to go to the main page of the WWE Web Site.
2. Click on the **OT/PT** puzzle piece.
3. When you click on OT/PT the section “**Current Events**” will automatically appear.
4. You will see all “**Current Events**” listed.
5. If you would like details about a particular event, click on “**Details**” on that event listing.
6. Click on “**Log In**” in menu on the left.
7. Enter your user name and password and click “**submit.**”
(*Note you can edit your profile and change your password if you choose.)
8. To register participants choose the event and go to details by clicking on the event title.
9. Click “**manage participants**” Register your therapists by entering their first and last name and email address, select pre-register or waiting list and then clicking “**add**”. You will see the roster of pre-registered participants below or can look at the waiting list for your district by selecting the waiting list tab. Once preregistered therapists can log into their account and complete registration. Individuals on the wait list will receive an email simply informing them that they are on the wait list.
10. Coordinators may delete registrations as needed by clicking “**remove**” on the roster.

If you need further assistance with the website registration process, please contact Peg Sullivan, Director, WWE OT/PT, via email at msulliva@fgcu.edu or Lynne Garcia, Program Assistant, WWE OT/PT, via email at lmgarcia@fgcu.edu

University of north florida Deaf education presents
**Spring 2021 Virtual Job Fair &
Mini-Interviews**

April 7, 2021 ~~~ 3:30 - 5:30pm EST

Calling all DHH Specialists, Administrators,
and Teachers of the Deaf!

Do you have anticipated vacancies in your program or school? Come share about
your team and available positions,
and help our interns practice their interviewing skills!



Please RSVP to Caroline Guardino (caroline.guardino@unf.edu)

by Monday, April 5, 2021 to participate.

Please contact Caroline Guardino at least **five days prior to the event** to request
required reasonable accommodations.



The University of Florida Literacy Institute and FDLRS Present

a statewide webinar PD opportunity for Literacy Coaches, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction, Reading Interventionists, and Reading Professional Developers



The Art and Science of Teaching Reading: Focusing on Struggling Readers

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021
9:00 to 11:30 AM
Via Zoom**

**Register at
www.fdlrs.org/about/teachingreading**

The webinar link will be sent to those who register.

Certificates of participation will be awarded at the conclusion of the webinar.





District D/HH and VI Joint Contacts Virtual Meeting

April 28, 2021
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST



Agenda

The Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RMTC-D/HH), the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) and the Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISRD) invite you to join us for an hour with Julie Weatherly, Esq. as she answers your questions specific to serving students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or visually impaired.

Intended Audience: ESE Directors, District Contacts for D/HH and VI.

This invitation may be extended to additional stakeholders in your district at your discretion. Recommended attendees may include teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, teachers of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists, staffing specialists, and ESE coordinators.

Registration is required.

10:30 am	Welcome!
11:00 am	Julie Weatherly
12:00 pm	Wrap Up
12:30 pm	Adjourn

Still have questions or want to chat?

- Join RMTC-D/HH, FIMC-VI, and BESE for an optional office hour.
- 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
- Chat with the projects and liaison
- **Optional Office Hours:** [Zoom Link](#)



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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org



Learning Ally
Spotlight on

DYSLEXIA

Florida Educators Can Register for Learning Ally's Spotlight on Dyslexia *for Free*



Spotlight on Dyslexia | Friday, June 4, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CT

Spotlight on Dyslexia, Learning Ally's premier professional learning event, is perfect for any K-12 educator or administrator who wants to learn more about dyslexia, the science of reading, and creating a culture of literacy.

What Will You Learn at Spotlight on Dyslexia?

- » How to create a culture of literacy where everyone on your school campus or district gets involved in being a literacy leader.
- » Best practices and new research-based strategies to help grow your teaching skills, including identifying and supporting students with reading deficits like dyslexia.
- » Gain expertise on how to handle learning loss when students come back to school next year and ensure you can effectively keep them on track to succeed.

What's New This Year?

We're introducing a new, more robust hosting platform that promises enhanced interactive features for a more immersive event experience.

- » Live polling, Q&As, and the opportunity to communicate directly with speakers
- » Meet and chat with our sponsors
- » Live networking opportunities via app or desktop
- » On-the-go mobile app allows you to stream the event no matter where you are

Earn Up To 12 CE Certificates

Earn up to 12 CE Certificates by attending Spotlight on Dyslexia. CECs are earned by viewing sessions live, on the day of the event, or anytime on-demand through December 1, 2021.

Free Registration for Florida Educators

Learning Ally has partnered FLDOE/BESE to provide FREE registration to Florida Educators. Spaces are limited, though, so act quick!

Use code **SPODFL** and [register today!](#)

Want to learn more about Spotlight on Dyslexia, Contact us at spotlightdyslexia@learningally.org