



## Weekly Memo

### Rule Activity

#### Notices of Rule Development

To view available drafts and submit comments for the following rules, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review web page](#):

- Rule [6A-1.09441](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Requirements for Programs and Courses Which are Funded Through the Florida Education Finance Program and for Which the Student May Earn Credit Toward High School Graduation
- Rule [6A-6.0571](#), F.A.C., Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks

### Job Vacancies

#### Position Available at the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI)

FIMC-VI is currently seeking a braille and accessible assessments specialist (BAAS). FIMC-VI staff assist with coordinating all aspects of braille versions of statewide assessments in collaboration with the FDOE, Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment and Test Development Center. The BAAS will collaborate with the existing BAAS to conduct item reviews, proofread braille versions of statewide assessments, provide timely reports, and meet all deadlines indicated by the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment. This position requires Florida teacher certification in visual impairments and three years of teaching experience. Additionally, due to the complex nature of the braille and tactile graphics reviews, the BAAS must be able to read contracted and uncontracted Unified English Braille (UEB) quickly and precisely. Knowledge of both UEB Math/Science and Nemeth is preferred. This is a 12-month, eight-hour per day position and requires travel to attend state and national assessment meetings, as well as the ability to provide webinars and trainings for teachers of students with visual impairments as related to braille and assessment. FIMC-VI is currently located in Tampa, but applicants may work remotely if they reside in Florida. The full job description can be found at [Spec, Braille Assessment - Frontline Recruitment \(applitrack.com\)](#). The application deadline is **February 21, 2024**. For questions, contact Liz Anderson at [eanderson@fimcvi.org](mailto:eanderson@fimcvi.org) or 813-837-7826.

## Position Available with the Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)

SEDNET, a discretionary project of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, is seeking a coordinator for the SEDNET 2B Region. SEDNET 2B serves Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties. The position is supported by the Putnam County School District. The application is open until filled. To view the job description and apply, go to <https://www.putnamschools.org/page/employment>. Under the “Apply” section, click on the link to view current job openings. Once the new page opens, click on the link to view current job openings in the “Search Current Job Openings” box. You will then see “Coordinator, SEDNET-ISRSD,” which you can double click to open the position information and apply by clicking on “Apply for Selected Position(s)” in the upper-right-hand corner. If you have questions pertaining to the job description, contact Charlene Grecsek at [cgrecsek@usf.edu](mailto:cgrecsek@usf.edu) or 727-314-3906. If you need assistance accessing the application, contact Chastity Lee at [leec@nefec.org](mailto:leec@nefec.org) or 386-329-3894.

## Events Coming Soon

### Textbook Adoption Accessibility Reminder

As your district makes textbook adoption selections, be sure to consider accessibility for your students with disabilities.

- How can local educational agencies (LEAs) help ensure instructional materials are accessible and provided in a timely manner?
  - Ensure digital content is accessible for all students with disabilities, such as students with physical impairments, learning disabilities and visual impairments, and/or who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - Include language in your purchasing agreements that directs publishers to provide National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) files to the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC).
  - Adopt materials from the state educational agency (SEA) adoption list, as the SEA has signed a coordination agreement with the NIMAC where they agree to direct publishers to provide NIMAS files to the NIMAC as part of their adoption contracts or purchase agreements.
  - If a NIMAS file is not available for any adopted materials, “the LEA must provide an assurance to the SEA that the LEA will provide instructional materials to blind persons or other persons with print disabilities in a timely manner ([34 C.F.R. § 300.210](#)).”
- What are NIMAS and NIMAC?
  - NIMAS stands for National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard and represents the HTML file standard to be used in the preparation of electronic files suitable and used solely for efficient conversion into accessible formats (i.e., DAISY files, BRFs, EPUBs, Word files, etc.). NIMAS files are provided by the publisher and are restricted for use by eligible students under the IDEA. NIMAS files can also be created for static, digital-only materials.
  - NIMAC stands for the National Instructional Materials Access Center and is the national repository of NIMAS files provided by publishers. The NIMAC was created in IDEA 2004 to help improve the quality and delivery of accessible formats to eligible students with disabilities.
  - In IDEA 2004, SEAs and LEAs were given the option to coordinate with the NIMAC, which means that the SEA has signed a coordination agreement with the NIMAC, or an

- LEA has a coordination plan on file with its SEA. SEAs and LEAs agree to direct publishers to provide NIMAS files to the NIMAC as part of their adoption contracts or purchase agreements when acquiring student instructional materials.
- The FIMC-VI uses NIMAS files to produce braille and large-print textbooks for Florida’s students with visual impairments. NIMAS files are also used to produce some of the materials available on Bookshare.
  - Attend the [Obtaining No-Cost Accessible Digital Books for Eligible Florida K-12 Students webinar](#) on **February 8, 2024**, at 2 p.m. or watch the recording to learn more about which students are eligible to use materials created from NIMAS files.
  - Learn more from the [National Center on Accessible Educational Materials](#).

### **Working With the Experts – Visually Impaired (VI): Learners with Visual Impairment and Complex Needs**

The FIMC-VI is offering “Working with the Experts – VI: Learners with Visual Impairment and Complex Needs” on **April 3 and 4, 2024**, in Orlando. Stacey Chambers, co-author of the new “Sensing and Learning” book from American Printing House Press will present. Day one will focus on sensorimotor learners and day two will focus on students who are using objects and symbols. To learn more and register, go to the [FIMC-VI Working with the Experts Spring 2024 web page](#). For questions, contact Tiffany Conrad at [tconrad@fimcvi.org](mailto:tconrad@fimcvi.org).

### **2023-24 Spring Florida Vision District Contacts Meeting**

The Spring Florida Vision District Contacts Meeting will be held in Orlando on **April 5, 2024**, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. The FIMC-VI, in conjunction with the FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), hosts this annual meeting specifically for district contacts responsible for the programs for students with visual impairments. It is recommended that the district contact person for the vision program or a designee attend this meeting to discuss data and initiatives specific to your district’s students who are visually impaired. BEESS is pleased to offer travel reimbursement for one staff member per district. This does not apply to attendees who reside within 50 miles of the meeting location. Reimbursement will be provided after the event and includes mileage (\$0.445/mile), meals (\$6/breakfast, \$11/lunch, \$19/dinner), and up to \$175 for one hotel night. To learn more and register, go to the [Spring Vision Contacts web page](#). For questions, contact Liz Anderson at [eanderson@fimcvi.org](mailto:eanderson@fimcvi.org).

## **Informational Items**

### **Restraint Data for December 2023 is Now Available**

December 2023 data for restraint incidents submitted to the Involuntary Examination, Restraint, and Seclusion (known as IERS) web application is now available. The data have been posted to the [Program Accountability, Assessment & Data Systems web page](#) and can be located by scrolling down to the section titled “SWD Restraint Data – SY 2023-24,” and selecting the appropriate month. Pursuant to section 1003.573(8), Florida Statutes, “The FDOE shall maintain aggregate data of incidents of restraint and disaggregate the data for analysis by county, school, student exceptionality, and other variables, including the type and method of restraint used. This information shall be updated monthly, deidentified, and made available to the public through the FDOE’s website.”

## Assistive Technology (AT) Guidance

The Office of Educational Technology and the Office of Special Education Programs recently shared the following guidance in support of children with disabilities who need AT devices and services for meaningful access and engagement in education.

- A [Dear Colleague Letter](#) on the provision of AT devices and services for children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- [Myths and Facts Surrounding Assistive Technology Devices and Services](#) (PDF) is designed to increase understanding of the IDEA's AT requirements, dispel common misconceptions regarding AT, provide examples of the use of AT devices and services for children with disabilities, and highlight the different requirements under Part C and Part B of the IDEA.

For questions, contact Janet Good at [jgood@usf.edu](mailto:jgood@usf.edu), PS/RtI Technology and Learning Connections.

## Educator Certification Rule Amendments Regarding New Temporary Certificates and Fee Waivers

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [educator certification rule amendments regarding new temporary certificates and fee waivers](#).

## Tip of the Week

### Provide Informational Placemat for IEP Team Meetings

Consider offering parents an informative "cheat sheet." It could clarify commonly used acronyms, outline the meeting agenda, include names and titles of school officials, and provide a note-taking section. The placemat may also go a long way toward helping parents meaningfully participate in the IEP process. (Special Ed Connection)

**Alice Schmitges**  
**Bureau Chief**