



Weekly Memo

Rule Activity

Notice of Proposed Rule

This rule revision is scheduled for the State Board of Education meeting on **April 17, 2024**. To view the following final proposed rule and submit comments, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review web page](#):

- Rule [6A-6.03014](#), Florida Administrative Code, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students Who Are Visually Impaired

Action Items

Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

In order to receive a grant under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states must submit an application annually. The public participation requirements relevant to Part B are set forth in the Part B regulations at Title 34, section 300.165, Code of Federal Regulations, and section 441(b)(7) of the General Education Provisions Act. States are required to make the Part B Application available to the public for a period of 60 days and accept comments for a period of at least 30 days. Florida's Part B Application will be available to the public through **May 22, 2024**, on the FDOE, BEESS [Exceptional Student Education website](#). Comments will be accepted **between March 22 and April 22, 2024**. Comments may be submitted in writing to the IDEA Program Manager, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 614, Tallahassee, FL 32399; via email to the IDEA grant mailbox at IDEAGrant@fldoe.org; or via fax at 850-245-0953.

2023-2024 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent Survey

The 2023-2024 ESE Parent Survey window is open **now through June 30, 2024**. Each year, the FDOE surveys parents of students with an individual educational plan to determine how well districts and schools are partnering with parents and promoting parent involvement in their student's education. All states must collect these data for reporting on their State Performance Plan, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Additionally, survey results will be used to help schools and districts improve services and outcomes for students with disabilities. The survey is open to all parents of students with an IEP receiving ESE services from

preschool age to grade 12. While demographic information must be collected in compliance with federal requirements, individual responses are confidential. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the ESE Parent Survey will be offered in web-based and paper-based formats. For more information about the 2023-2024 Parent Survey, go to the [ESE Parent Survey web page](#). To access the survey directly, go to the [2024 ESE Parent Survey](#). The 2024 ESE Parent Survey (Haitian-Creole) paper-based format will be available soon. Each district will receive ESE Parent Survey postcards in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. The ESE Parent Survey is translated into 11 languages using the web-based format. For questions, contact Patricia Bodiford, senior educational program director, Instructional Support Services, at Patricia.Bodiford@fldoe.org or 850-245-0475.

April is Month of the Military Child

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [April is Month of the Military Child](#). This year, you are invited to “Purple Up!” on **April 17, 2024**, by wearing purple as a visible way to show support and thank military children.

International Baccalaureate Bonus Incentive Program

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [International Baccalaureate Bonus Incentive Program](#). Information must be submitted by **May 24, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

Job Vacancies

Positions Available in the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) Associate Center

FDLRS PAEC, a discretionary project of BEESS, is seeking the following two positions—

- A human resource development/technology specialist, which serves the districts of Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Walton, and Washington.
- Regional local assistive technology services specialist, which is a 10-month position and serves the districts of Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Walton, and Washington.

Both application deadlines are **March 29, 2024**, or until filled. To view the full job description and apply, go to the [PAEC Jobs web page](#). For questions, contact Toyka Holden at Toyka.Holden@paec.org.

Informational Items

Learning Ally: Florida Great Reading Games Winners and the March Newsletter

Here at Learning Ally, we are celebrating our Florida Great Reading Games Winners. We have three Florida schools who are first-place winners in their respective brackets. Congratulations to:

- Mort Elementary School in Hillsborough County
- Daytona Juvenile Residential Facility in Volusia County
- Cornerstone Charter Academy High School in Orange County

Let us also celebrate Women's History Month with some great titles kids can read. To view the titles, go to the [Florida Learning Ally March Newsletter](#). For questions, contact Dr. Martaluz Pozo, Learning Ally state contract manager, at mpoz@learningally.org.

2024-25 No-Cost Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Form

Now is the time for high school seniors and returning college students to submit their 2024-25 no-cost application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. The revamped FAFSA form—also known as “Better FAFSA”—takes many students less than 20 minutes to complete and can unlock up to \$7,395 in federal aid that does not need to be repaid to help cover the cost of college. Share this link with students and have them submit the [Better 2024-25 FAFSA Form](#). Have questions along the way? The following resources can help:

- [Video: What is FAFSA?](#)
- [FAFSA Checklist & Timeline for Students and Families](#)
- [Pro Tips for the 2024-25 FAFSA® Form](#)
- [FAFSA “How To” Videos](#)
- [FAFSA Bootcamp Webinar Recording](#)

For more information about the FAFSA process, check out [StudentAid.gov](#). Users can click “Español” at the top-right-hand side of the web page or choose Spanish as their preferred language if they have a StudentAid.gov account. You can also find additional resources on the U.S. Department of Education's [The Better FAFSA: What You Need to Know](#) website.

State of Dyslexia

Explore dyslexia legislation and related initiatives in the United States of America. Use the National Center on Improving Literacy's [State of Dyslexia interactive map](#) to discover which states have dyslexia legislation that requires screenings, pre-service, inservice, intervention and all policies. In addition, see which states have literacy state-identified measurable results.

Improving Access and Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

The PROGRESS Center provides information, resources and support for local educators and leaders responsible for the development and implementation of high-quality educational programming for students with disabilities that ensures access to a free appropriate public education and progress toward appropriately ambitious goals. For more information and to learn what is new, go to the [PROGRESS Center, Promoting Progress for Students with Disabilities website](#).

BEES Welcomes New Staff

Dispute Resolution and Monitoring (DRM) Unit

The DRM unit is pleased to welcome Sarah-Meike Sanford in the role of Program Specialist/ Investigator. Ms. Sanford earned an associate degree from Tallahassee Community College while working as a preschool teacher and tutor. She taught at the German School of Tallahassee and continued to work as a preschool teacher and tutor during the interim in her studies. She went on to complete a bachelor's degree in history at Florida State University (FSU). After graduating from

FSU, Ms. Sanford took a position as an associate teacher at The School of Arts and Sciences at the Centre. While employed there, she taught kindergarten through third grade at various points in time as well as providing push-in/pull-out services and assisting with functional behavior assessments. Ms. Sanford wished to find a position in which she could help even more students beyond the reach of the school and is glad to have found and become a part of BEESS.

Tip of the Week

Ask Parents About Availability to Meet.

When scheduling an individual educational plan team meeting, reach out to the student's parents to find out which days they are unable to attend. This will minimize the back-and-forth required to set a date and time. It lets parents know that the district values their time and their input as much as the mandatory district team members whose schedules they work around. (Special Ed Connection)

Alice Schmitges
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
850-245-0475