



Weekly Memo

Action Items

Notices of Rule Development

The following rule will have a rule development workshop on **May 22, 2020**, at 11:00 a.m. ET. Participants may join via conference call at 1-800-458-4121, the participant conference code is 1119126 and the Adobe link is <http://tlc-flmtss.adobeconnect.com/auditorium>. To view the draft and submit comments, go to <https://web02.fldoe.org/rules/>.

- Rule [6A-1.099813](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Education Program Improvement Process for Department of Juvenile Justice Programs

To view the draft and submit comments for the following rule, go to <https://web02.fldoe.org/rules/>.

- Rule [6A-1.09422](#), F.A.C., Statewide, Standardized Assessment Program Requirements

Emotional/Behavioral Disability (E/BD) Contacts' Meeting Update

The E/BD Contacts' Meeting will be on **May 27, 2020**, from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. ET, via Zoom. The topic is Emotion and Behavior After COVID-19: Dealing with Trauma and Building Resilience. An email will be forthcoming to ESE directors and district E/BD contacts with more information.

Informational Items

Mental Health Awareness Month

Since 1949, the United States has been recognizing the month of May as Mental Health Awareness month, with outreach to millions of people through media and local events. In 2006, a specific day in May has been recognized for Children's Mental Health Awareness. National websites have a variety of events happening virtually to support both Mental Health Awareness as well as Children's Mental Health Awareness. Data indicate that during a crisis people may struggle with depression, anxiety and other areas of mental health concern. The COVID-19 pandemic crisis may impact the mental health of youth and families. The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities project managers are available to provide support in this area. For local information and national resources for mental health awareness, go to <http://www.sednetfl.info/resources.aspx>. To view additional national websites to assist in decreasing the stigma and increasing awareness, go to <https://www.nami.org/Home> and <https://www.mentalhealth.gov/>.

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

All districts that have received braille or large-print books from the FIMC-VI should be returning those books once the student no longer needs them. This is vitally important because the average cost of one large-print textbook is \$250.00 and one braille book is \$3,000.00, and these items need to be recirculated to the next student. Typically, the teacher of the visually impaired will box up those books and return them to the FIMC-VI via Free Matter for the Blind (FIMC-VI, Attn: Denise/Textbooks, 4210 W. Bay Villa Ave, Tampa, FL 33611). If you need assistance with this process, contact Kay Ratzlaff at kratzlaff@fimcvi.org.

Also, authorized personnel should be submitting orders for accessible instructional materials needed in the 2020-21 school year as soon as possible. When a book requires an initial transcription from print to braille, the average time from order to the first chapters being delivered is 90 days, with up to 180 days for the book to be completed. To have textbooks in place when school starts, they must be ordered now.

To ensure the safety of our students, the FIMC-VI is following the National Institutes of Health data closely. The latest research indicates that COVID-19 can persist on cardboard or porous surfaces for up to 24 hours; therefore, once a shipment arrives at FIMC-VI, it is not touched for 48 hours. If these textbooks are being shipped to a different student, they will be allowed to sit another 48 hours before being picked up by the postal service. The FIMC-VI staff is also following all the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for handling materials.

Monica Verra-Tirado, Ed.D.



For more information, contact
850-245-0475