



## BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

AUGUST 13, 2021

### Weekly Memo

#### Action Items

##### **Level II School Principal Program Reporting for the 2020-21 Academic Year**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has issued the following memorandum regarding the Level II school principal program reporting for the 2020-21 academic year. Regarding the Level II program reporting timeline, an FDOE technical assistance webinar will be on **September 15, 2021**; the 2020-21 Candidate and Completer Report and Program will be made available on **September 17, 2021**; the submission deadline for the 2020-21 Candidate and Completer Report will be on **October 15, 2021**; and the submission deadline for the 2020-21 Program Evaluation Plan will be on **November 15, 2021**. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9232/dps-2021-68.pdf>.

##### **2021 Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and Other Health Impairments (OHI) Contacts Statewide Meeting**

The Technology and Learning Connections and the Problem Solving/Response to Intervention teams, along with the FDOE, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE), is hosting the 2021 SLD/OHI contact meeting in Daytona Beach on **October 22, 2021**. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the kickoff of the annual Florida Council for Exceptional Children Conference. Ms. Patricia Strickland, BESE SLD and OHI program specialist, will present a state of the state. Participants will be provided with information regarding unique accommodations and the myth around assistive technology evaluations, training on the use of uPAR and how to use the data for struggling readers. Also, an overview will be given to demonstrate best practices when implementing learning design, such as universal design for learning. Just Read, Florida! will also be providing the latest updates pertaining to the B.E.S.T. Standards. Districts will be given time to break into their size-alike groups for an opportunity to collaborate around assistive technology topics within their district. The registration deadline is **September 17, 2021**. For more information, see the attached document. To register, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/21SLDOHI>.

- Filename: SLD-OHI District Contacts Meeting Oct 2021

##### **Environmental Communication Teaching (ECT)**

The ACCESS Project and Technology & Learning Connections is offering a Tier 3 intervention training for district teams working with students with complex communication needs. ECT is a series of workshops designed to increase communication with students in their educational environments. The training format is set up to develop the skill sets of teachers, speech-language pathologists and paraprofessionals. The schedule of training sessions supports the train-the-trainer model so that local facilitators can implement future ECT trainings. Day one of this four-day

professional learning series will begin on **October 28, 2021**, in Melbourne. The Access Project has funds to support district teams for substitutes and travel. For more information, see the attached document. To register your district team, go to [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECT2021\\_2022](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECT2021_2022). For questions, contact Janet Good at [jgood@usf.edu](mailto:jgood@usf.edu) or Christina Yu at [yu.christina@brevardschools.org](mailto:yu.christina@brevardschools.org).

- Filename: ECT 2021-22

### 2022 Art in the Capitol Competition

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding the 2022 Art in the Capitol Competition. The legislator for each district will forward the winning selection from that district for display in the Capitol. The winning art selection must be submitted by **November 15, 2021**, per the instructions in the memo. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9233/dps-2021-90.pdf>.

## Informational Items

### New Administrator of the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System's (FDLRS) Network

BESE is pleased to announce that the new administrator of FDLRS' Network will be Ms. Alice Schmitges. Many of you will recognize Alice's name as she has served as the director of the Institute for Small and Rural Districts for the past six years. Under Alice's leadership the needs of our small and rural exceptional student education (ESE) directors have been kept in the forefront as supports and technical assistance have been provided with quality and compassion. This new opportunity will provide her with a chance to continue her work on an even larger scale and we know that her collaborative spirit will continue to serve BESE, the FDLRS' Network, BESE discretionary projects, and all Florida districts. Alice was once a member of the FDLRS' Network as a human resources development specialist and then as a coordinator with the FDLRS Administration Project. Her previous involvement will make her transition back to FDLRS a smooth one. She brings a wealth of knowledge of how FDLRS works, the areas of emphasis for the functions, and the understanding of the life of ESE directors. In addition, Alice also proudly serves our country as an active member of the Navy Reserves and was recognized in 2020 as Sailor of the Year. We wish Alice much success in her new position and we know you will join us in supporting her leadership with the FDLRS' Network. Starting September 1, 2021, Alice can be contacted at [schmitgesa@nefec.org](mailto:schmitgesa@nefec.org) or 386-312-2265.

### House Bill 529 – Moments of Silence in Public Schools

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding House Bill 529 – Moments of Silence in Public Schools. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9234/dps-2021-118.pdf>.

**Victoria Gaitanis**  
**Bureau Chief**



For more information, contact  
850-245-0475

OCTOBER 22, 2021



# SLD/OHI

## DISTRICT CONTACTS MEETING

HILTON DAYTONA BEACH

**COME JOIN US!**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021**

**9AM - 4PM EST**

### TOPICS

**FL State of State**

**Unique  
Accommodations  
& AT Evaluation**

**B.E.S.T. Standards**

**uPAR/PAR**

**Learning Design  
& MTSS**

**District Size Alike**

**Technology  
Exploration  
Hands On**

**FLCEC  
Reduced**

Ms. Patricia Strickland, Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and Other Health Impairments (OHI) program specialist with the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education, will provide a state of the state presentation. Participants will be provided with information regarding Unique Accommodations and the myth around assistive technology evaluations. Attendees will participate in a training on the use of uPAR and how to use the data for struggling readers. Just Read, Florida! will provide the latest updates pertaining to the B.E.S.T. Standards. An overview will be given to demonstrate best practices when implementing learning design, such as universal design for learning. Finally, districts will be given time to break into their size alike groups for an opportunity to collaborate around assistive technology topics



## REGISTER NOW

Use the QR Code or visit  
**2021 SLD/OHI District Contact Meeting**  
**Registration Survey**





# Technology and Learning Connections

*Increasing student achievement through the systemic alignment of technology, policies, and curriculum in a multi-tiered system of supports.*

## Environmental Communication Teaching

Presented by: Susan McCloskey

**The Environmental Communication Teaching (ECT)** is a series of workshops designed to increase communication device implementation with students in their educational environments. The training format is set up to develop skill sets of teachers, SLPs, and para-professionals. The schedule of training sessions supports the train-the-trainer model so that local facilitators can implement future ECT trainings.

### ECT 4-Day Team Training

The principles and techniques of ECT will be presented in 4-Days, which span over the school year. This training is established to allow participants to apply their learning into creating materials and documenting the effectiveness of their implementation using the ECT strategies.

### ECT 7-Day Facilitator Training

The principles and techniques of ECT will be presented in 7-Days, which span over the school year. Four of the training days will take place with your team that is attending the ECT 4-Day training outlined above. The three additional days are specifically for the train-the-trainer model for facilitators.

### Workshop Highlights

Participants will:

- Write activity-based objectives to plan communication intervention within a community referenced functional skills curriculum.
- Apply processes for selection of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) vocabulary and messages.
- Arrange environments and use environmental cues to promote AAC use within educational, vocational, and community/home activities.
- Develop picture-based schedules and task sequence charts to enhance active participation by children with severe disabilities.
- Use cues, prompts, and feedback to facilitate the development of student-initiated communication.

### Recommended Teams Members \*\*

- ESE Teachers\*\*
- SLP's\*\*
- Facilitator's \*\*
- Paraprofessionals\*\*

### Additional Team Members

- OT's
- Program Support Staff
- General Education Teachers
- Parents

Location	Team Training Dates (4) Space is limited to 10 Teams	Additional Dates for Facilitators (3)
Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront 2605 North Hwy. A1A Melbourne, FL 32903  8:00 AM- 3:30 PM	Day 1 - October 28, 2021	December 8, 2021
	Day 2 - December 9, 2021	February 16, 2022
	Day 3 - February 17, 2022	May 5, 2022
	Day 4 - May 4, 2022	

Registration Link for the ECT 4 Day and 7 Day Training Series

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECT2021\\_2022](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECT2021_2022)

Contact Janet Good [jgood@usf.edu](mailto:jgood@usf.edu) with any questions.

The ACCESS Project has limited funds for reimbursement of substitutes. Please request your needs in your registration.



This activity is funded through the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education with IDEA Part B dollars. The information and resources are provided as a free awareness service to the educational community and do not reflect any specific endorsement by any parties involved.