



Weekly Memo

Action Items

Notices of Proposed Rule

These rule revisions are scheduled for the State Board of Education meeting on **October 20, 2021**. To view the following final proposed rules and submit comments, go to <https://web02.fldoe.org/rules/>:

- Rule [6A-1.0451](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Florida Education Finance Program Student Membership Surveys
- Rule [6A-3.0171](#), F.A.C., Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation
- Rule [6A-6.0951](#), F.A.C., The Hope Scholarship Program

Position Available in the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE)

BESE is seeking an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) program specialist. This position is located in Tallahassee at the Turlington Building. This position is for the state representative for ASD who will work with district and special-project liaisons regarding compliance with federal and state requirements in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The application deadline is **September 26, 2021**. To view the job description and to apply, go to https://jobs.myflorida.com/job/TALLAHASSEE-PROGRAM-SPECIALIST-IV-DOE-48003071-1-FL-32399/791565500/?locale=en_US.

The Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RMTC-D/HH) Professional Development Opportunities for Visual Phonics

See the Sound: Visual Phonics (Virtual Real Time)

“See the Sound: Visual Phonics,” will be on **October 5-6, 2021**, and is offered virtually in real time. Each training day will begin at 9:30 a.m. EDT, and participants must attend both days. In this training, participants will learn the sounds of English and how to represent them visually via hand movements and symbols. This training will provide methods for implementing the use of Visual Phonics in the classroom as well as progress-monitoring tools for tracking student progress in learning phonemic awareness, phonics and sounding out words. Visual Phonics is not an additional curriculum, but is a strategy that can be integrated into existing phonics-based curricula or interventions. For more information and to register, go to <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=nozl6lfab&oeidk=a07eif86if17a22d247>.

See the Sound: Visual Phonics REFRESHER (Virtual Real Time)

RMTC-D/HH is offering an update to previously trained completers of “See the Sound: Visual Phonics” on **October 6, 2021**, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EDT. Participants must have proof of

previous completion of a full See the Sound: Visual Phonics training. Participants will review sounds of English and visual representation via hand movements and symbols, including the recently updated r-controlled vowels. This training will include a discussion of methods for implementing the use of See the Sound: Visual Phonics in the classroom as well as progress-monitoring tools for tracking student progress in phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding words. For more information and to register, go to <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=nozl6lfab&oeidk=a07eif8ac8i3b451b03>.

Kindergarten through Grade 5 (K-5) Retention Report

The Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) has issued the following memorandum regarding the K-5 retention report. The K-5 Retention Report Form with preliminary numbers, must be submitted to the FDOE by **October 8, 2021**, and finalized numbers by **June 30, 2022**, per the instructions in the memo. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9304/dps-2021-133.pdf>.

Statewide Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) Virtual Professional Learning Opportunity

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Administration is excited to offer a statewide SIM virtual professional learning opportunity on **October 12 and 13, 2021**. Certified SIM "PDers" will be conducting virtual afterschool sessions on the SIM Listening and Note-Taking Strategy and the Test-Taking Strategy. The Listening and Note-Taking Strategy is an easy-to-learn strategy that helps students identify and quickly capture important information during a lecture, sort main ideas and details as they write, and study their notes to earn the best test grades possible. It is suitable for instruction in core-subject courses as well as supplemental skills-based classes. In a study of ninth-grade students with and without disabilities, students who learned this strategy increased the number of main ideas, key words and details they recorded in their notes. The Test-Taking Strategy is designed to be used while taking classroom tests. Students allocate time and priority to each section of the test, carefully read and focus on important elements in the test instructions, recall information using mnemonic devices, systematically and quickly progress through a test, make well-informed guesses, check their work, and take control of the testing situation. The emphasis is on teaching adolescents who struggle with learning. In studies, students who learned this strategy achieved an average 10-point increase on tests. To view the study results and additional information, go to the SIM website at <http://sim.kucrl.org/>. Seats are limited so be sure to have those interested register early. This would be a great professional learning activity for those new to SIM strategies or those already implementing them but wanting to expand their repertoire. This event is posted on the FDLRS website at <https://www.fdlrs.org/about/educators/upcoming-courses> and registration is open. For additional information, see the attached document or contact Alice Schmitges at schmitgesa@nefec.org.

- Filename: Virtual SIM PD Event October 2021

Learning Ally Florida Webinar Series

Join Learning Ally and Dr. Terrie Noland, Ph.D., CALP, for a webinar series designed for Florida literacy leaders. Dr. Noland will be speaking on "How to Lead so Educators Master Their ELA [English language arts]/Reading Block." The series will take place as follows:

Kindergarten through grade 2: **October 13, 2021**

Grades 3 through 5: **October 19, 2021**

Grades 6 through 8: **January 19, 2022**

Grades 9 through 12: **January 26, 2022**

To register, go to https://learningally.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_C8ST6TmhQnSw8OC9MPP2Og. For more information, see the attached document.

- Filename: Dr. Terrie Noland Webinar Series 2021-22

The RMTC-D/HH – Regional Focus Groups and Roundtables for ESE Directors

RMTC-D/HH is inviting all exceptional student education directors, deaf or hard-of-hearing (DHH) coordinators, and other district staff identified by the district to participate in one of six in-person regional focus groups and roundtables, which are scheduled for **October 19 and 20 and November 2, 4, 16 and 17, 2021**. The focus groups will target issues related to educating students who are DHH in Florida. At the conclusion of the six focus groups, RMTC-D/HH will produce a summary report of the findings for the FDOE's Bureau of Exceptional Student Education. The roundtable discussions, which follow each focus group, is a time to allow participants to network and discuss issues and concerns with each other, as well as possible collaboration and solutions. For more information, including dates and locations, go to <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eigoff5gdeac36ef&llr=nozl6lfab>. For questions, contact Jennifer Coburn at Jennifer.Coburn@fldoe.org or Carmelina Hollingsworth at c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org or 800-356-6731.

District Intellectual Disabilities (InD) Statewide Conference for District Coordinators

The District InD Statewide Conference for district coordinators will be held in Orlando on **November 2-3, 2021**. This event is designed to support the teaching and learning of access points in all environments. Each district coordinator must register and the turnaround time to reserve a hotel room is short, so register promptly. Hotel registration information will be sent following the conference registration. If you do not receive an immediate email from Eventbrite, which will contain instructions and dates, following your registration, check your junk mail. To register, go to <https://indstatewidemeeting.eventbrite.com/>. For questions, contact Christi Yu at yu.christina@brevardschools.org or by phone at 321-269-2326, ext.12025.

Informational Items

Celebrating Deaf Awareness Month and National Week of the Deaf

Self-Advocacy – Project 10 defines self-advocacy as follows: “Self-advocacy refers to the skills necessary to be able to speak up for oneself or a cause. Self-advocacy skills include being assertive, knowing your rights, speaking up and negotiating” (<http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=402>). The RMTC-D/HH, teachers of the DHH, and the Florida Expanded Skills Standards support students who are DHH in learning about their unique hearing loss and how to self-advocate for their needs. A teacher of the DHH plays a “critical role” (http://dcdcec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/todhh_critical_resource_tagged.pdf) in letting students know they are not alone, and how to find their identity as a person with a hearing-related disability. RMTC-D/HH, in collaboration with the Broward County Public School District's DHH program, would like to introduce two students who have found their self-identity and overcome struggles, and are now strong, confident self-advocates:

- Alivia Brower, a high school student in the Broward County Public School District, shares her experience and journey for self-identity as an individual who is DHH. She discusses her trip to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's Regional STEM Center's Robotics Convention where, for the first time, she met other peers who were DHH. To see Alivia's interview, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEKAu7oZJBI>. In addition, to see Alivia perform a poem about her self-determination related to being an individual who is DHH, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15jX6CD7uhk&t=1s>.
- Victor Nelson, a postgraduate student from Broward County Public Schools, shares his experiences as an individual who is DHH and how he overcame his struggles with the help of his teacher of the DHH. To see Victor's interview, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eQzUmZYJi4&t=4s>.

RMTC-D/HH would like to thank Broward County Public School District and Ms. Allyson Dudich for their commitment to students who are DHH. Thank you to Alivia and Victor for sharing your stories. You are role models and make us all proud. For more on the celebration of National Week of the Deaf, make sure to visit Leon County's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LeonSchools>, where they are highlighting stories and pictures of students who are DHH. They shared a post each day to recognize Leon County Schools' Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program by highlighting several of their students, sign language interpreters and teachers of the DHH. For more information regarding Project 10, go to <http://project10.info/> and for more information on RMTC-D/HH, go to <https://www.rmtcdhh.org/>.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Customer Success Stories Series

Both the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, along with Florida state law, support transition and assisting with preparing students with disabilities for life after high school. One way schools and local VR offices work together to support students is through the collaboration to refer and arrange the provision of pre-employment transition services or pre-ETS.

Students who are in Lee County's Exceptional Student Education program and recommended for Project SEARCH by their teachers intern at participating businesses—including Lee Health. Lee County's School District along with the Center for Independent Living Gulf Coast and VR provide the job coaches and skills training for students to spend a school year as interns. Nursing supervisor Jeremy Rose explained why Zachary Losardo is a recent success story. Zachary was a good fit as a patient care liaison at Golisano Children's Hospital. "He had the culture of our unit," Rose says. "He has empathy. He is good with teamwork, listening and understanding what we do." In 2018, Zachary was an intern for three months after graduating from Lehigh Senior High School and volunteering at Germain Arena. He likes this job, and the best part is "putting a smile on people's faces," Zachary says.



Zachary Losardo likes putting smiles on people's faces. He greets families, cleans toys and counters, and organizes cabinets Monday through Friday. "He has come a long way," says Rose. At first, "he was very quiet and didn't make eye contact. But the longer he's here, the more confidence you can see in him." Rose worked with Zachary on making eye contact with people and developed scripts for him to cover potential situations so he will not be at a loss for words.

Project SEARCH is a national program that helps students with intellectual disabilities transition from school to work.

Victoria Gaitanis
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
850-245-0475



FDLRS Proudly Announces A SIM Professional Learning Opportunity October 12–13, 2021

SIM Learning Strategies:

SIM encompasses more than 30 specific Learning Strategies that can help students overcome specific learning difficulties that impede literacy, from identifying words in a text to completing assignments on time to writing complete essays.

Students use SIM Learning Strategies--an approach to learning and using information--to help them understand information and solve problems. Students who do not know or use good learning strategies often learn passively and ultimately fail in school. SIM Learning Strategy instruction focuses on making students active learners.

Registration Information:

WHAT: **Listening and Note-Taking Strategy, & Test-Taking Strategy**

WHEN: October 12th & 13th from 4:00PM – 7:00PM EST
Both days required plus a follow up session to be scheduled.

REGISTER BY: September 30, 2021

fdlrs.org/about/educators/upcoming-courses

For more info on our SIM Initiative please visit:
fdlrs.org/about/educators/sim



Presented by:
Terrie Noland, Ph.D.,
CALP

~On a mission to
smash the literacy
divide~

How to Lead so Educators **Master** Their ELA/Reading Block

*Designed for Florida Administrators to Lead at a High
Level and Impact Literacy Rates in Specific Grades*

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade



☰ Wednesday, Oct. 13th

🕒 2:00-3:00 PM EST

3rd Grade - 5th Grade



☰ Tuesday, Oct. 19th

🕒 2:00-3:00 EST

6th Grade - 8th Grade



☰ Wednesday, Jan. 19th

🕒 2:00-3:00 PM EST

9th Grade- 12th Grade



☰ Wednesday, Jan. 26th

🕒 2:00-3:00 PM EST

[Register Today](#)