



Weekly Memo

Action Items

The Florida Educators of Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (FEDHH) Annual Conference

The FEDHH will be holding its annual conference in Orlando on **November 12-13, 2021**. The conference, "Celebrate. Ignite. Transform," will bring professionals together for information, resources and strategies related to the instruction of students who are DHH. The Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE) is pleased to offer one paid registration per school district. To obtain your school district code for redemption, contact your DHH program contact. For more information and to register, go to <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=nozl6lfab&oeidk=a07eig8kzrjaf63b61b>. For more information about FEDHH, go to <https://www.fedhh.org/>.

2022 Children's Week Florida™ Youth Advocate Award Nominations

The Children's Week Florida™ Youth Advocate Award is presented to a young person who has initiated or diligently worked on behalf of positive change in support of programs or policies that benefit children, youth and families in their school, community or statewide. This year's youth recipient will be honored on **January 31, 2022**, during the Children's Week Florida™ Advocacy Reception and Awards Ceremony. This year's recipient will be invited to participate in the Children's Week Florida™ Teen Town Hall on **February 1, 2022**, helping to inspire other young minds. The application deadline is **November 15, 2021**. For more information, go to <https://childrensweek.org/youth-advocate-award/>. To view and access a fillable nomination form, see the attached document.

- Filename: 2022 Youth Advocate Award Nomination Form

Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program Live Recruitment Zoom Session

Does your school or district have paraprofessionals working with students with disabilities who would make great special education teachers? The Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program will hold a live Zoom recruitment session for paraprofessionals seeking to earn a bachelor's degree in exceptional student education. Paraprofessionals who already have an Associate in Arts degree or equivalent college coursework but do not currently hold a bachelor's degree can join the live recruitment session to learn more. Join Dr. Keri Fogle, director of the state-funded Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program, on **December 2, 2021**, at 5:30 p.m. EST. Dr. Fogle will discuss the program's requirements, the application process and answer questions on how paraprofessionals can receive funding to earn a bachelor's degree in exceptional student

education, DHH, or visual impairment. For more information on the Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program, go to <https://paratoteacherprogram.com>. To request a link to join the session, contact Dr. Fogle at paratoteach@uwf.edu.

Informational Items

Restraint Incident Data

Section 1003.573(8)(c), Florida Statutes, states: “The department 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 department's website ...” Therefore, monthly restraint reports will be posted on the BESE website at <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/data/> on the first of every month. As a reminder, the data posted are lag data, e.g., August data were posted on October 1, 2021, and September data were posted on November 1, 2021. For questions about the restraint data, contact Steve Barnes at Steven.Barnes@fldoe.org or Chelsea Strickland at Chelsea.Strickland@fldoe.org.

Survey on Braille Versions of Florida Statewide Assessments

Teachers of students with visual impairments and other district staff administering braille versions of the Florida Standards Assessment or the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Florida Statewide Assessments are asked to provide feedback to the Florida Department of Education Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment and the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) using the provided feedback form. Survey respondents will have the opportunity to indicate quality issues related to the braille paper, braille dots, braille notes and scripts, tactile graphics, thermoformed pages, page numbering, binding, page order, and more. The survey will be open year-round for staff to provide feedback on braille materials used during any administrations this school year. To view the feedback form, go to https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_nXn7oH0SpmFeeCRNfuf6lTPXqJ_5HqvKUjFlkm89UQ0IQMjl2TzJUN1FDRk5WWExPRtk2WVgxWi4u. For more information on FIMC-VI, go to <https://www.fimcvi.org/>. For questions, contact Kathy Krempleski at kkrempleski@fimcvi.org.

Save the Date—Prekindergarten Disabilities Contacts’ Conference 2022

The Prekindergarten Disabilities Contacts’ Conference, “Improving Child Outcomes through the COS [Child Outcome Summary] Process,” is scheduled to be held in person on **March 2-3, 2022**, at The Florida Hotel & Conference Center in Orlando. Details including the agenda and registration will be forthcoming.

Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program

The state of Florida is experiencing a critical shortage of special education teachers. Individuals who may be able to help bridge the gap and teach your students in the future may already be working in your schools. The Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program is available to help provide financial assistance to paraprofessionals who are currently working with children receiving exceptional student education in Florida’s public schools. Paraprofessionals who already hold an Associate in Arts degree or equivalent college coursework could receive tuition support to earn a

bachelor's degree in exceptional student education, DHH, or visual impairment. For program information and to apply, go to <https://paratoteacherprogram.com/>. For questions, contact Dr. Keri Fogle at paratoteach@uwf.edu.

Impact of House Bill 7011 (2021) on Section (s.) 1008.25, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Reading Deficiency and Parental Notification

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding the impact of House Bill 7011 on s. 1008.25, F.S., Reading Deficiency and Parental Notification. To view the memorandum, go to <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9370/dps-2021-169.pdf> (Memo) and <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9371/dps-2021-169a.pdf> (Attachment A).

Victoria Gaitanis
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
850-245-0475



2022 Children's Week Florida Youth™ Advocate Award Nomination Instructions

Please contact info@childrensweek.org or 850-487-6300 with any questions

Deadline:

Nominations due **Monday, November 15, 2021** at 6:00 PM EST

(Nomination packages received after this deadline will not be accepted)

Award Description:

The **Children's Week Florida™ Youth Advocate Award** is presented to a young person who has initiated or diligently worked on behalf of positive change in support of programs or policies that benefit children, youth, and families in their school, community, or statewide.

This year's youth recipient will be honored on Monday, January 31, 2022 during the Children's Week Florida™ Advocacy Reception and Awards Ceremony. They will also be invited to participate in the Children's Week Florida™ Teen Town Hall on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 helping inspire other young minds.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Anyone can submit a nomination (*e.g. teachers, parents, mentors, students*) or a youth may nominate themselves.
- Youth nominees must be under 18 or still in school (K -12) at the time of nomination.
- Youth nominees should be currently involved in advocacy efforts or actively encouraging ongoing advocacy efforts to improve the lives of children, youth and their families at the local or state level.

Required Nomination Package Components:

1. **Nomination Form** – Must complete all fields of the form and sign.
2. **Narrative Summary & Personal Statement** – Provide a narrative summary or personal statement that describes the youth nominee's contributions and/or commitment to serving children, youth, and families (*total 750-word maximum*).
3. **Photo** – Include a photo of nominee in jpeg or png format.

Additional Information:

- All nominations will be reviewed by the Children's Week Florida™ Advocacy Awards Committee, a volunteer peer review group consisting of previous Chiles Advocacy Award winners and other advocates.
- Submit the completed nomination package by the deadline via email to info@childrensweek.org (*Subject: Nominee Name - Youth Advocate Award*) or you may send a hard copy of package and supporting documentation to:

Children's Week Florida c/o Children's Forum
Attn: Advocacy Awards Committee
1211 Governors Square Blvd, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Children's Week Florida Youth™ Advocate Award Nomination Form

Full Name					
School or Organization					
Grade Level or Position					
Phone					
Email					
Please provide youth nominee's parent or guardian's contact information below:					
Full Name					
Phone					
Email					
Mailing Address					
City		State		Zip Code	

Nominator Information

Full Name					
School or Organization					
Position or Title					
Phone					
Email					
Mailing Address					
City		State		Zip Code	

Nominee/Nominator Statement: *By submitting this nomination, I attest that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. My submission also confirms my consent and permission for the Youth Advocate Award sponsoring organizations (Children's Week Florida™ and Children's Forum) to publish items contained within this nomination package in any related communications and promotions.*

Signature _____

Date _____



Children's Week Florida Youth™ Advocate Award Narrative Summary & Personal Statement

Tip: Be thorough, provide examples, and paint a complete picture of the nominee.

In 750 words or less, provide a narrative or personal statement that describes how the nominee (or you, if you are self-nominating) has been an advocate on behalf of others in school, the local community, state, or country within the past year. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Creating awareness strategies;
- Engaging in creative efforts and activities;
- Demonstrating strong youth leadership;
- Working collaboratively to improve the lives of others; and/or
- Supporting programs and/or policies that have benefited children and families.