



Weekly Memo

Job Vacancies

Position Available in the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Galaxy Associate Center

FDLRS Galaxy, an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project, is seeking a human resources development specialist. FDLRS Galaxy serves Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties. The application deadline is **July 31, 2025**. To view the full job description and apply, go to the [St. Lucie Public Schools Employment Application](#) web page, search by location and type in FDLRS.

Rule Activity

Notice of Rule Development

The following rule will have a rule development workshop on **April 9, 2025**, at 3 p.m. Participants may join via the virtual link listed in the notice. To submit comments for the following rule, go to the Florida Department of Education [State Board Rules Under Review](#):

- Rule [6A-6.03022](#), Florida Administrative Code, Exceptional Student Education Eligibility for Students with Dual Sensory Impairments

Events Coming Soon

Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support Program for Exceptional Student Educators

The Para-to-Teacher Support Program will hold a virtual question-and-answer session on **April 10, 2025**, with Dr. Keri Fogle. The Para-to-Teacher Support Program is an IDEA-funded state project whose grant program has supported nearly 300 paraprofessionals to earn their degrees to become special education teachers throughout Florida. For more information visit the [Para-to-Teacher Support Program](#) web page. To request the Zoom link for the virtual session, contact paratoteach@uwf.edu.

Action Items

The Florida Low Vision Initiative (FLVI)

The FLVI, an IDEA-funded state supportive service for students with visual impairments, is now accepting referrals for the 2025-26 school year. Visit the [FLVI Request for Services](#) web page to request services for the 2025-26 school year and see the attached flyer for more information. To learn more about program services provided by the FLVI, visit the [FLVI](#) web page. For questions, contact Kim Roberts, program manager, at kmroberts@fsu.edu.

- Filename: 2025-26 Open Enrollment Flyer

Informational Items

Resiliency Florida Characteristic of the Month—Mentorship

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, every Florida public school was required to annually provide children in grades 6-12 at least five hours of mental health instruction. This mental health instruction is now referred to as Resiliency Education, Civic and Character Education and Life Skills Education. The Resiliency Florida initiative for Florida schools was launched in February 2021 to emphasize 11 Resiliency characteristics to empower students to persevere and overcome life's inevitable challenges. Visit the [Resiliency Florida](#) web page for more information and additional resources.

April's featured characteristic is mentorship, which means giving or asking for support, guidance, training and expertise. See the attached documents for grade-specific parent resources pertaining to mentorship.

- Filename: K-2 Parent Mentorship
- Filename: 3-5 Parent Mentorship
- Filename: 6-8 Parent Mentorship
- Filename: 9-12 Parent Mentorship

Best Practices for Inclusive Education (BPIE) Assessment for Students with Disabilities (SWDs) Reminder

The BPIE assessment is an internal process designed to facilitate the analysis, implementation and improvement practices for SWDs who are served in regular classes. Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes, requires that once every three years, each school district and school complete a BPIE assessment. Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) facilitators are required to assist school districts in this process. The results of this process must be included in each school district's ESE policies and procedures. School BPIE assessments should be completed prior to the end of the school year. For more information regarding the completion of school BPIE assessments in your district, contact FIN, an IDEA-funded state project, at lsi-finadmin@fsu.edu, or a local FIN facilitator at [About Us—FIN](#) or [Directory—FIN](#). For additional information, visit the [School BPIE Admin](#) web page.

Keep Procedural Safeguards Notice in Multiple Languages

Print out several copies of your procedural safeguards notice in the most prevalent languages in your district. By keeping these copies handy in multiple locations, you can hand a copy to the parent in their preferred language without delays. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief

The Florida Low Vision Initiative is now accepting referrals for the 2025-2026 school year

- Low vision services available to students with low vision, grades PK4-8th grade, who are receiving direct instruction from a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI), as documented in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Participants receive a free, comprehensive low vision evaluation. Families are provided with valuable medical resources to learn more about their child's visual impairment and specific low vision needs.
- Participants are eligible to receive glasses and a wide variety of portable optical aids, when prescribed for their specific low vision needs.
- Participants learn how optical devices can improve visual efficiency and how to apply self-determination to view materials in- and outside the classroom setting.
- TSVIs receive support with (a) developing skill-specific IEP goals for the prescribed devices to ensure the student develops efficient skills and (b) implementing a plan to support the student's specific low vision needs.
- TSVIs benefit from ongoing support from the FLVI Team and the FLVI Low Vision Specialist to address the student's changing visual demands in- and outside of the classroom.



MENTORSHIP

Parent Resource

GRADES
K-2

What is mentorship?

Mentorship means giving or asking for support, guidance, training or expertise.

As your child gets older, he or she will begin to understand how mentors can help him or her achieve his or her goals.

In kindergarten through second grade, children begin:

- ✓ Understanding the importance of asking for help.
- ✓ Recognizing characteristics of a helpful person.
- ✓ Practicing decision-making during daily activities.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate mentorship:

ASK YOUR CHILD FOR AN EXAMPLE



Ask your child to describe a time when he or she asked for help, or a trusted adult showed him or her how to complete a task. Some examples include receiving help with homework or being taught how to play a sport or game.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD



Encourage your child to identify some ways he or she can demonstrate mentorship. Some examples include helping others and supporting friends.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING FOR HELP AND HELPING OTHERS CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT HIM OR HER NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Identifying the roles and responsibilities of trusted adults.



Identifying when help is needed and who to ask for help.



DINNER TABLE CONVERSATION STARTER

Discuss with your child the importance of learning from others. Each family member can share an example of a skill he or she learned from someone else and the benefits of asking for guidance from a trusted individual.



RESILIENCY
FLORIDA

MENTORSHIP

Parent Resource

GRADES
3-5

What is mentorship?

Mentorship means giving or asking for support, guidance, training or expertise.

As your child gets older, he or she will begin to understand how mentors can help him or her achieve his or her goals.

In grades three through five, children begin:

- ✓ Helping others in the school and community.
- ✓ Knowing when to ask someone he or she trusts for support and guidance.
- ✓ Practicing decision-making and treating others with respect.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate mentorship:

ASK FOR AN EXAMPLE

Ask your child how he or she can share expertise or guidance. Ask your child for examples of ways to share knowledge include leading a group project or teaching a classmate or younger sibling a skill.

IDENTIFY A ROLE MODEL

Discuss with your child the qualities of someone he or she admires, such as a teacher, coach or family member. Encourage your child to have a conversation with this person to find out if he or she had a mentor that impacted his or her life. Discuss with your child how mentorship is a cycle that impacts many lives.

SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Identifying opportunities to actively participate as a mentor or role model in the school or community.



Identifying potential mentors in the school or community based on areas of interest.



DINNER TABLE CONVERSATION STARTER

Discuss with your child how you have mentored someone in your life or how you benefited by being mentored. Each family member can share examples.

HELPING YOUR CHILD
UNDERSTAND THE
IMPORTANCE OF ASKING
FOR HELP AND HELPING
OTHERS CAN POSITIVELY
IMPACT HIM OR HER NOW
AND IN THE FUTURE.



RESILIENCY
FLORIDA

MENTORSHIP

Parent Resource

What is mentorship?

Mentorship means giving or asking for support, guidance, training or expertise.

As your child gets older, he or she will begin to understand how mentors can help him or her achieve his or her goals.

In grades six through eight, children begin:

- ✓ Understanding how learning from a mentor leads to personal growth.
- ✓ Developing a sense of responsibility through supportive interactions with others.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate mentorship:

DISCUSS MENTORING CHARACTERISTICS

Looking to effective leaders as mentors can help your child develop strong leadership skills. Discuss with your child the characteristics of a strong leader or mentor, and ask your child to identify a leader or mentor who exemplifies these characteristics. How can your child display these characteristics with others?

IDENTIFY WAYS TO MENTOR OTHERS

Ask your child how he or she can mentor others. The roles of mentorship include guiding, serving, building trust and cooperation. For example, tutoring other students, supporting a teammate during practice, or giving helpful advice to a younger family member.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING FOR HELP AND HELPING OTHERS **CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT HIM OR HER NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**



SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Identifying the importance of volunteerism and mentorship in positively affecting the community and nation.



Discussing the importance of taking constructive feedback from mentors and applying this feedback to his or her life.



ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Explore local mentorship opportunities with your child. Examples of this may include mentorship programs within the community or peer tutoring.

Have your child create a list of goals he or she wants to accomplish for the school year. Discuss what role a mentor can play in helping your child achieve these goals.

MENTORSHIP

Parent Resource

GRADES
9-12

What is mentorship?

Mentorship means giving or asking for support, guidance, training or expertise.

As your child gets older, he or she will better understand how mentorship can help achieve his or her goals. High school students are often presented with various opportunities to serve as a mentee or mentor.

In grades nine through twelve, children begin or continue:

- ✓ Demonstrating leadership skills in the school and the community.
- ✓ Exhibiting effective and respectful communication skills and strategies.
- ✓ Identifying opportunities to support, guide or train others.

Below are ways you can help your child learn, practice and demonstrate mentorship:

DISCUSS LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Through mentoring others, such as by tutoring younger students or leading a club activity, your child can develop strong leadership skills. Discuss leadership skills he or she currently exhibits and areas that your child would like to show improvement.

HELP YOUR CHILD HEAR FIRSTHAND FROM EXPERTS

Your child may have a career interest where a local mentor is not readily available. Consider listening to a podcast, reading a book, or watching an online presentation with your child to hear firsthand from experts in that field.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING FOR HELP AND HELPING OTHERS CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT HIM OR HER NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

SKILLS TO CONSIDER PRACTICING WITH YOUR CHILD:



Identifying benefits of volunteering, mentoring and seeking leadership positions.



Analyzing ways a mentor can inspire confidence and motivate others.



ACTIVITY FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Have your child seek out a mentor from his or her school or community who has demonstrated success in a career that is interesting to your child. Interacting with this mentor can provide your child with support, training or expertise that will make his or her goals more approachable.



RESILIENCY
FLORIDA