BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

OCTOBER 16, 2026

BEESS Weekly Memo

Rule Updates

Notice of Rule Development

The following rule will have a rule development workshop on **November 6, 2026**, at 10 a.m. ET. Participants may join via the virtual link listed in the notice. To view the draft, if available, and submit comments for the following rule, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) State Board Rules Under Review:

- Rule 6A-1.09401, Florida Administrative Code, Student Performance Standards

Events Coming Soon

Para-to-Teacher Future Recruitment Session

Does your school have paraprofessionals who could excel as special education teachers? The Para-to-Teacher Support Program is holding a virtual question-and-answer session on **October 22, 2026,** at 6 p.m. ET. During this session, Dr. Beth Wilt will explore funding opportunities available for paraprofessionals with an associate degree, the equivalent college credit hours or a bachelor's degree in a non-education field.

For more details on eligibility requirements and information about colleges and universities that offer financial support for earning initial certification in special education, please visit Para to Teacher Tuition Support for Exceptional Student Educators.

To request the zoom link for the session, send an email to paratoteach@uwf.edu.

Statewide Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (E/BD) Contacts' Meeting 2026-27

The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET) Administration project, in collaboration with local SEDNET projects, is hosting two virtual statewide E/BD Contacts' meetings and one in-person meeting. Please register in advance for the virtual meetings. The dates and times of the 90-minute virtual meetings are as follows:
October 30, 2026, at 10 a.m. ET; October Virtual Meeting Registration
December 9, 2026, at 10 a.m. ET; December Virtual Meeting Registration

The in-person meeting dates are **April 29, 2027**, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. ET and **April 10, 2026**, 8:30 a.m. to noon ET. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Please contact Dr. Charlene Grecsek at cgrecsek@usf.edu with any questions.

Job Vacancies

Instructional Support Services Seeking Training Specialist

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) is pleased to share an employment opportunity within its Instructional Support Services section. The Florida Center for Interactive Media has posted a Training Specialist position (Job ID 63685) to support statewide training, technical assistance, resource development and professional learning initiatives that advance BEESS' priorities. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals who are passionate about supporting educators, students, and families through high-quality training and technical assistance that strengthens outcomes for children and youth with disabilities across Florida. The position will close on **October 22, 2026**. To view the job description and apply go to FSU Jobs and search on the position number.

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Galaxy

FDLRS Galaxy, which serves Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties, is seeking qualified applicants for the following two positions:

- Human Resource Development (HRD)/Technology Specialist – 11-month position
- Secretary III – 12-month position

Applications will be accepted through **October 20, 2026**. Interested applicants should apply through the St. Lucie Public Schools employment portal by following these steps:

1. Visit St. Lucie School District Employment Application,
2. Choose Search Current Job Openings,
3. Under Location, select FDLRS and
4. Select Search For Posted Positions.

For information about either position or assistance with the application process, contact Dawna Guiel at dawna.guiel@stlucieschools.org or 772-429-4600.

Informational Items

2025-26 List of Persistently Low-Performing Schools

FDOE issued a memorandum regarding the 2025-26 list of Persistently Low-Performing Schools; and attachment A, 2025-26 Persistently Low-Performing Schools. See the memo for more information.

Renewed Focus on Sportsmanship during National Bullying Prevention Month

FDOE issued a memorandum regarding a renewed focus on sportsmanship during National Bullying Prevention Month. See the memo for more information.

Tip of the Week

Distribute Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) As Soon As Possible Once Finalized

Refrain from holding onto a student's IEP once it is completed. A district must implement a student's special education and related services within a reasonable timeframe, so fast dissemination is crucial. Provide copies of the IEP to the student's parents and the staff who must implement it. (Special Ed Connection®)

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief