BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

OCTOBER 30, 2026

BEESS Weekly Memo

Rule Updates

Notice of Rule Development

The following rule will have a rule development workshop on **November 9, 2026,** at 11 a.m. ET. Participants may join via the virtual link listed in the notice. To view the draft, if available, and submit comments, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) State Board Rules Under Review:

- Rule 6A-6.0571, Florida Administrative Code, Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks

Events Coming Soon

2027 Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education (Pre-K ESE) Contacts' Conference

Prekindergarten Exceptional Student Education Technical Assistance and Training System (PESE), an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-funded state project, is pleased to announce the 2027 Pre-K ESE Contacts' Conference. This year's conference will focus on specially designed instruction for Pre-K children with disabilities, providing Pre-K contacts with opportunities to deepen their understanding of effective practices that support individualized learning and participation. The conference will be held in Lutz on **February 17 and 18, 2027**.

The intended audience for this event is local educational agency Pre-K ESE contacts. To register for this conference, go to 2027 Pre-K ESE Contacts' Conference. For questions, contact your PESE regional facilitator.

Save the Date: Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) 2027 Summer Leadership Institute

The Florida CASE 2027 Summer Leadership Institute will be held in Bonita Springs on **June 7-10, 2027**. For more information, see the attached flyer. For questions, contact Dr. Rosalind Hall.

- Filename: CASE Save the Date Summer

Action Items

Restraint Data for September 2026 is Now Available

September 2026 data for restraint incidents submitted to the Involuntary Examination, Restraint, and Seclusion (known as IERS) web application is now available. The data have been posted to the Program Accountability, Assessments & Data Systems (PAADS) web page and can be located by scrolling down to the section titled "SWD Restraint Data – SY 2026-27," and selecting the appropriate month. Pursuant to section 1003.573(8), Florida Statutes, "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."

United States Presidential Scholars Program Nominations

FDOE issued a memorandum regarding United States Presidential Scholars Program nominations. See the memo for more information.

Informational Items

Holocaust Education Week 2026

FDOE issued a memorandum regarding Holocaust Education Week 2026. See the memo for more information.

Victims of Communism Day 2026

FDOE issued a memorandum regarding Victims of Communism Day 2026. See the memo for more information.

New BEESS Team Members

Hope Florida Unit

BEESS is pleased to welcome Michelle Stringer to the Hope Florida unit as a Hope Navigator. Ms. Stringer has a background in education, marketing and nonprofit work. She earned her bachelor's degree in business marketing from the University of North Florida. Her previous roles include a teacher in a private school, a vice-principal in a public charter school, a program coordinator at Florida State University (FSU) and nonprofit work doing marketing. She has a passion for seeing the next generation thrive in their lives through education, care and supporting their parents with resources to succeed. Ms. Stringer is looking forward to working with BEESS in her new capacity and helping to improve the lives of others through education.

PAADS Unit

BEESS is pleased to welcome Ms. Marcia Spivey to the PAADS unit as an administrative secretary. Ms. Spivey brings extensive experience to her role, including 13 years at Crawfordville Elementary School and more than 19 years serving the State of Florida in customer service positions. Ms. Spivey's strong commitment to supporting others, professionalism and positive approach to building relationships have prepared her well for this role. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, creating meaningful memories, and participating in mission trips whenever possible. Ms. Spivey is looking forward to working with BEESS in her new role.

BEESS is pleased to welcome Ms. Julessa Velez to the PAADS unit as an administrative secretary. Ms. Velez earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and is currently pursuing a master's and specialist degree in school counseling at FSU. Her academic background, administrative experience and leadership roles have helped her develop strong skills in communication, organization and collaboration. Her experience in administrative support and collaborative environments has prepared her to contribute effectively to the team. Ms. Velez looks forward to supporting BEESS' important work in her new role.

Tip of the Week

Stick to the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Meeting Agenda

Straying from the agenda too many times may lead to an unnecessarily long and less effective IEP team meeting. If parents repeatedly steer the team off topic, the team leader should note her concern and tell them that the team will come back to it later in the meeting. (Special Ed Connection®)

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief

FLORIDA CASE
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
VISION • LEADERSHIP • EXCELLENCE

SAVE THE DATE
2027 FLORIDA CASE SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Join Florida CASE leaders, general education, and special education professionals for a unique opportunity to learn, connect, collaborate, and strengthen leadership in Exceptional Student Education

“From Vision to Impact”

Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute

June 7-10, 2027

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

Bonita Springs



Additional information will be forthcoming