



BEESS Weekly Memo



Events Coming Soon

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Annual Statewide Conference

CARD invites you to the 33rd Annual CARD Statewide Conference in Orlando from **January 16 to 18, 2026**. On **January 15, 2026**, the state lead for autism spectrum disorder from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will present the latest statewide data at the annual district contacts' meeting. This is Florida's largest autism-related conference featuring 55 sessions and more than 73 professional presenters, connecting autism research with practical strategies for 900 to 1,200 professionals and families. Visit the [CARD Conference](#) web page for more information and to register.

Action Items

Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) New Annual Census Process

The Annual Census began on December 1, 2025, and an email was sent to exceptional student education directors with instructions for accessing the FIMC-VI portal to manage the approval of users within their local educational agency (LEA). This first step of the process must be completed by **December 31, 2025**. From January 1 to 31, 2026, the Annual Census will be open for authorized LEA staff to register new students and update student records. No students may be registered from February 1 to 7, 2026. We recommend that staff watch the recording of the [FIMC-VI Info and Updates Part 2 Webinar](#), which addresses the new process for completing the Annual Census in the FIMC-VI portal.

The Annual Census allows the State of Florida to calculate the number of students with visual impairments registered in LEAs and receive funding from the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. The Act to Promote the Education of the Blind authorizes an annual appropriation for the American Printing House for the Blind to produce and distribute educational materials adapted for students who are visually impaired and enrolled in formal educational programs below the college level. The production and distribution of these tangible educational materials are done at no cost

to the LEAs where students are registered. For more information about student eligibility, registration requirements or the online process, contact Liz Anderson at eanderson@fimcv.org, or Tiffany Conrad at tconrad@fimcv.org, or visit the [FIMC-VI web page](#).

Learning Ally Update

Learning Ally is preparing for the annual Great Reading Games competition, starting on **January 5, 2026**. Prepare for the competition by earning Boost Up Points, which began on December 1, 2025. Visit the [Learning Ally Newsletter](#) for more information.

District Threat Management Coordinator (DTMC) Funding

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [DTMC Funding](#); and attachment A, [DTMCs Grant Request for Application \(Discretionary\)](#). Request for Application submissions are due **January 14, 2026**. Please see the memo for more information.

Application Posted for the Private School Opportunity to Administer Florida Statewide Assessments in 2026-27

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [application posted for the private school opportunity to administer Florida statewide assessments in 2026-27](#). Completed applications must be notarized and submitted to FDOE no later than **March 1, 2026**. Please see the memo for more information.

Commissioner's Academic Challenge

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [Commissioner's Academic Challenge](#). The competition is scheduled for **April 9-11, 2026**. Please see the memo for more information.

Professional Learning

Project 10: Transition Education Network (Project 10) Statewide Webinar

Project 10 will be hosting a one-hour statewide webinar for school- and district-based educators and support personnel titled “Powerwalk through Project 10’s Publications, Trainings, and Website.” This session will provide participants with an overview of Project 10’s most frequently used resources, highlight new and updated publications, and demonstrate how to navigate key training materials and tools that support secondary transition planning for students with disabilities. Two webinar offerings will be available: one on **January 13, 2026**, at 5:30 p.m. ET, and then another on **January 16, 2026**, at 9 a.m. ET. Note that [registration](#) is required.

FIN 2025-26 Statewide Session

FIN, an IDEA-funded state project, is offering statewide professional learning sessions on *Scheduling Supports for Students with Disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment*, for teachers, district leaders and school administrators. See the attached flyer for dates, registration links and additional details. For more information, contact lsi-finadmin@fsu.edu.

- Filename: Scheduling Supports for Students with Disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment Flyer

Informational Items

Restraint Data for November 2025 is Now Available

November 2025 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 web page](#) and can be located by scrolling down to the section titled “SWD Restraint Data – SY 2025-26,” 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 FDOE’s website.

2025-26 and 2026-27 Statewide Assessment Schedules, 2027-28 Preliminary Statewide Assessment Schedule and Uniform Assessment Calendar Updates

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [2025-26 and 2026-27 Statewide Assessment Schedules, 2027-28 preliminary Statewide Assessment Schedule and uniform assessment calendar updates](#). Please see the memo for more information.

Florida Digital Classrooms Update

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [Florida Digital Classrooms update](#). Please see the memo for more information.

Hope Florida

Hope Florida Testimonial

On June 16, 2025, a single parent residing in Alachua County, connected with FDOE Hope Florida through BEESS, seeking assistance with essential needs for her family. During the needs assessment, the Hope Navigator discovered that the parent was attending college while caring for her two children. She shared that she had recently secured a full-time position that would begin upon her graduation, but in the meantime, she was struggling to keep up with her household expenses. Her primary concerns included a past-due utility bill and the need for food assistance to support her children until her employment began.

Following the needs assessment and completion of a care plan, the Hope Navigator provided guidance and support by submitting a Care Portal request on behalf of the parent to address her financial concerns. Through this referral, the parent’s past-due utility bill was paid in full, relieving her of immediate financial stress. Additionally, the Hope Navigator coordinated the provision of a \$250 Publix gift card to assist the family with groceries. This support helped stabilize the parent’s household while she completed her degree and prepared to transition into full-time employment.

As a result of the referrals and support, the parent successfully resolved her utility debt and was able to provide healthy meals for her family. On October 24, 2025, the parent proudly graduated from college and passed the state board exam. Shortly thereafter, on November 3, 2025, she

began her full-time position in a new career field. Through FDOE Hope Florida, the parent gained valuable skills in resource navigation and budgeting, allowing her to build greater stability for her family. The parent expressed her appreciation, stating, “I’m so thankful for the support from my Hope Navigator. She truly made a difference for me and my children.”

Tip of the Week

Consider what triggers student's eloping

IEP teams should review and discuss the events and circumstances that typically precede a particular student's eloping. Whether it's being asked to complete a non-preferred tasks, or some other issue, teams can better curtail eloping if they know what's driving the behavior. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief



Scheduling Supports for SWD in the Least Restrictive Environment (2025-2026)

Audience: District and School Administrators and Leaders

Join FIN for a statewide overview for leaders and scheduling teams to learn how to support the scheduling process in the least restrictive environment for students with disabilities. Schedule students with disabilities first, with a focus on providing specially designed instruction as specified in their Individual Educational Plans.

December 2, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Register: <https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/UEEwg3XjR4-y5gu2lFY-ig>

January 27, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Register: <https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/EBRwOmoSRi68TPko7MZQvQ>

March 3, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Register: <https://fsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/jlI8C1QnSeSxCNU1o7CQ-w>



Contact FIN at LSI-FINAdmin@fsu.edu or call 850-645-7593 with questions.

FIN is an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project by Florida Department of Education, Division of K-12 Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services.