



Weekly Memo



Rule Activity

Notice of Rule Development

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-4.0013](#), Florida Administrative Code, (F.A.C.), Mental Health Assessment Program Functional Assessment Instruments

Notices of Proposed Rule

These rule revisions are scheduled for the State Board of Education meeting on **November 13, 2025**. To view the following proposed rules and submit comments, go to the FDOE [State Board Rules Under Review](#):

- Rule [6A-1.09401](#), F.A.C., Student Performance Standards
- Rule [6A-1.09412](#), F.A.C., Course Requirements - Grades K-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs

Job Vacancies

Positions Available for FIN Facilitators through Florida State University (FSU)

FIN, an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project, is seeking facilitators to assist schools and districts in analyzing State Performance Plan Indicator 5 data, student performance data and best practice indicators to identify needs and guide both short- and long-term improvement efforts aimed at increasing outcomes for students with disabilities. There are currently two positions available: a full-time position, job number 61381, and a part-time position, job number 61383. To apply, visit the [FSU Careers](#) web page, search "FIN" and select the posting "FIN Facilitator/Assistant in Research, 12-Month Salaried." For questions, contact JaSheena Ekhatior or Kelly Claude at LSI-FinAdmin@fsu.edu.

Events Coming Soon

Opportunity for Paraprofessionals: Become a Special Education Teacher

The Para-to-Teacher Support Program will host a virtual Q&A session with Dr. Beth Wilt on **November 18, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. Paraprofessionals interested in earning a degree to become a special education teacher are encouraged to attend. Visit the [Para-to-Teacher Support for Exceptional Student Educators](#) web page for more information, and email paratoteach@uwf.edu to request a session link to participate.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Contacts Meeting — Tiered Instruction After the Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

The Florida Problem Solving/Response to Intervention (PS/RtI) Project is hosting the second quarterly virtual MTSS Contacts Meeting for the 2025-26 school year on **November 20, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. Invitations were emailed on October 16, 2025, to designated MTSS coordinators and exceptional student education (ESE) directors, serving in local educational agency (LEA)-level roles. Be sure to register using the link provided in the invite to confirm your attendance. For more information, contact the Florida PS/RtI Project at rti@usf.edu.

Informational Items

Request for Waiver Regarding 1% Participation Cap for Alternate Assessment — Opportunity for Comment

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [requesting a waiver from the alternate assessment 1% participation cap for alternate assessment](#). See the memo for more information.

Resiliency Florida Characteristic of the Month—Honesty

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](#) website for more information and additional resources.

November's featured characteristic is Honesty, which means telling the truth. Visit the following web pages for grade-specific parent and teacher resources pertaining to Honesty.

- [K-2 Parent Resource](#)
- [3-5 Parent Resource](#)
- [6-8 Parent Resource](#)
- [9-12 Parent Resource](#)
- [K-2 Teacher Guide](#)
- [3-5 Teacher Guide](#)
- [6-8 Teacher Guide](#)
- [9-12 Teacher Guide](#)

The Florida Low Vision Initiative (FLVI) Newsletter

FLVI, an IDEA-funded state project, through Florida Supportive Services for Students with Visual Impairments (VIs), is accepting referrals for the 2025-26 school year. Low vision services are also available to students with low vision, prekindergarten four-year olds through eighth grade, who receive direct instruction from a teacher of students with VIs, as documented in the student's IEP.

FLVI participants:

- Receive a no-cost, comprehensive low vision evaluation;
- Are eligible to receive glasses and a wide variety of portable optical aids, when prescribed for specific low vision needs; and
- Receive training in the use of glasses and portable optical aids.

To request services from FLVI, go to [FLVI Request for Services 2025-26](#). To learn more about the services and instructional support provided by FLVI, visit the [LiveBinders resource platform](#). For questions, contact Kim Roberts at kmroberts@fsu.edu.

Special Ed Connection®

BEESS provides all LEAs with access to [Special Ed Connection®](#) at no cost. Special Ed Connection® is your one-stop-shop for:

- Best practices to meet legal and regulatory mandates;
- Helping you tackle everyday compliance issues;
- Ready-to-use charts, checklists and professional development tools to guide and train staff;
- Case-based insights to help staff avoid missteps that lead to litigation; and
- Insights from special education, Section 504 and response-to-intervention experts.

Each school district has its own username and password for Special Ed Connections, which is used by all staff. If you are a **new** ESE director and need your district information or have questions, contact Kelly Whiting at kwhiting@lrp.com. If you are not a new ESE director and need your district login information, want to update your user list, or would like to schedule an orientation for your staff, contact the Special Ed Connection Help Desk/Training Team at specialconnection@lrp.com

LRP Direct Specialized Training for Education Professionals (Direct Step) Courses

BEESS is pleased to offer districts access to a variety of LRP Direct Specialized Training for Education Professionals (Direct Step) Courses regarding exceptional student education compliance requirements. These courses are provided to further strengthen the quality and understanding of services available to eligible students with disabilities in the state of Florida. Please plan to utilize this resource throughout your district by integrating these offerings into your professional learning options. You are encouraged to forward the attached documents to district staff. For questions or concerns, contact beesscomplaints@fldoe.org or Joy Dunlavy at Joy.Dunlavy@fldoe.org.

- Direct Steps LRP Courses Available
- FDOE LRP Instructions

LRP Education Webinars

BEESS also provides all LEAs with the opportunity to attend [LRP's Monthly Education Webinars](#). The webinars are hosted by expert presenters and cover timely topics related to special education. Contact Abby Emerson at Abigail.Emerson@fldoe.org or Joy Dunlavy at Joy.Dunlavy@fldoe.org for more information about the webinars and how to register.

Hope Florida Testimonial

On June 6, 2025, Mr. Brenden S., in Collier County, connected with FDOE Hope Florida through BEESS after the recent passing of his wife. Mr. S. was seeking support for his three-year-old daughter, who he suspected may have a developmental delay. She was previously receiving support through Early Steps, but due to her age, she was no longer eligible. Mr. S. requested assistance with enrolling his daughter in an educational program and wanted to ensure that she received direct support regarding her potential delay.

Following the needs assessment and the completion of a care plan, the Hope Navigator assisted Mr. S. with connecting to several resources. A referral was sent to FDLRS Island Coast Center so his daughter could get screened to determine her eligibility for ESE. Next, the Hope Navigator put in a referral to CareerSource so that he could have an opportunity to discuss what certifications he could potentially pursue and assisted the family in signing up for updates from Resiliency Florida.

In subsequent conversations, Mr. S. revealed that he and his daughter were finding success with the resources provided by the Hope Navigator. An IEP was successfully developed for his daughter, and he was able to enroll her in prekindergarten. When asked about his experience with Hope Florida, he stated “I did everything I set out to do. Thank you.”

Tip of the Week

Assign One Point of Contact During Student Hospitalization

When a student with a disability is hospitalized for psychiatric care, choose a single staff member, such as a school psychologist or counselor, to serve as the family's point of contact. Ensure this person understands both school resources and medical community systems so they can coordinate effectively with the IEP team. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief

DIRECT STEPS LRP COURSES:

330000 - Identifying Disabilities to Determine IDEA Eligibility

330001 - Child Find: Understanding IDEA Provisions and Responsibilities

330003 - Postsecondary Transition: IDEA Requirements for Processes, Procedures and Implementation

330005 - Required Components For Compliant IEPs

330006 - Least Restrictive Environment: What Teachers Need to Know

330007 - Independent Educational Evaluations: Responsibilities and Procedures

330009 - Guidelines for IEP Team Composition

330012 - Conducting Compliant IEP Team Meetings

330013 - Evaluations and Reevaluations – Purposes, Standards and Procedures

330016 - Legal Requirements and Practical Tips to Develop Measurable Annual IEP Goals

330018 - Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Prior Written Notice

330020 - Practical Strategies and IDEA Requirements for Developing IEPs

330023 - When to Review and How to Revise IEPs to Stay Compliant

330026 - IEP Implementation Strategies to Be IDEA Compliant

330030 - Requirements and Strategies to Facilitate Parental Participation in IEPs

330036 - Discipline and Placement Changes for Students With Disabilities Who Exhibit Violent Behavior

330038 - Developing and Implementing Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans

330046 - Eligibility and Development of a Student's Extended School Year Services

330047 - Early Intervention Services: Facilitating Transition From IDEA Part C to Part B

330058 - Meeting IDEA Requirements When Serving Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

330060 - Using a Trauma-Informed Approach to Develop More Effective IEPs

330061 - Legal Requirements & Practical Considerations for Identifying & Evaluating Specific Learning Disabilities

330062 - Evaluation, Eligibility, and IEP Development for Students with Autism

330065 - Collecting and Using Data to Improve IEPs, BIPs, and Section 504 Plans

330066 - Students with Autism and One-to-One Aides; Best Practices for Educators

330069 - Dispute Resolution and Available Remedies Under the IDEA

330074 - Exiting Students from Special Education: Graduation, Aging-out, Ineligibility, and Revocation of Consent

330078 - IEP, 504 and MDR Meetings: Guidance for Staff Who Are New to Special Education

330080 - Communicating with Parents: Tips and Strategies for Teachers

330088 - Predetermination in the IEP Process: What it is and How to Avoid it

330090 - Serving Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities: Understanding Your District's IDEA Obligations

Instructions for accessing LRP trainings

Instructions for self-registration on the FDOE DirectSTEP® eLearning platform:

1. Go to [HTTP://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM](http://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM).
2. Read the “Is This Your First Time Here?” section located on the right side of the screen.
3. Click the “Create new account” button.
4. Create a username (Recommended format: John Sample = jsample).
5. Create a password (Recommended format : J#sample1). **Please write down your username and password and keep it somewhere secure for future reference. This information will NOT be emailed to you after you register.**
6. Enter your email address, first and last name.
7. Enter the letters/numbers pictured in the reCAPTCHA image. **If your web browser does not display a reCAPTCHA image, try a different web browser or contact your IT department.*
8. Click the “Create my new account” button.
9. You will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link to the website.

Instructions for taking a DirectSTEP® eLearning course:

1. Log in to [HTTP://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM](http://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM) using the username and password you created.
2. Select the course you have been assigned to complete.
3. Click the course link again (next to the icon of a gold box.)
4. Click the “Enter” button to begin taking the course.
5. You can use the arrow icons to move through the slides in the lower left hand corner of the slide player.
6. When you reach the Final Assessment, you will need to click the “submit” button after you select an answer. You will be directed to a new window which will inform you whether or not you answered each question correctly. You will need to score an 80% or higher to pass.
7. When you have completed the assessment, it is important that you click the **“Exit Activity”** link in the upper right hand corner of your screen to get credit for completing the course and to record your grade.
8. Your “Course Completion Certificate” link will now be active. If you are required to print a Completion Certificate, you may do so from this page.