



Weekly Memo

Job Vacancies

Position Available with the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI)

FIMC-VI is currently seeking a braille and accessible assessments specialist (BAAS). FIMC-VI staff assist with coordinating all aspects of braille versions of statewide assessments in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment and Test Development Center. The BAAS will collaborate with the existing BAAS to conduct item reviews, proofread braille versions of statewide assessments, provide timely reports, and meet all deadlines indicated by the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment. This position requires Florida teacher certification in visual impairments and three years of teaching experience. Additionally, due to the complex nature of the braille and tactile graphics reviews, the BAAS must be able to read contracted and uncontracted Unified English Braille (UEB) quickly and precisely. Knowledge of both UEB Math/Science and Nemeth is preferred. This is a 12-month, eight-hour-per-day position and requires travel to attend state and national assessment meetings, as well as the ability to provide webinars and trainings for teachers of students with visual impairments as related to braille and assessment. FIMC-VI is currently located in Tampa, but applicants may work remotely if they reside in Florida. The full job description can be found at [Spec, Braille Assessment - Frontline Recruitment \(applitrack.com\)](#). The application deadline is **February 21, 2024**. For questions, contact Liz Anderson at eanderson@fimcvi.org or 813-837-7826.

Position Available with the Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)

SEDNET, a discretionary project of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), is seeking a coordinator for the SEDNET 2B Region. SEDNET 2B serves Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla counties. The position is supported by the Putnam County School District. To view the job description and apply, go to [Putnam County School District Employment](#), scroll down to "Search Current Job Openings," click on "Click to view current job openings," then click it again, and select "Coordinator, SEDNET-ISR." For job details ("View Details of Highlighted Position") and to apply ("Apply for Selected Position(s)"), choose the appropriate button in the upper-right-hand corner. The application deadline is until filled. If you have questions pertaining to the job description, contact Charlene Grecsek at cgrecsek@usf.edu or 727-314-3906. If you need assistance accessing the application, contact Chastity Lee at leec@nefec.org or 386-329-3894.

Position Available with the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Administration Project

The FDLRS Administration Project, a discretionary project of BEESS, is seeking a coordinator for virtual instruction. This position is located at the North East Florida Educational Consortium. To view the job description and apply, go to [Putnam County School District Employment](#) scroll down to “Search Current Job Openings,” click on “Click to view current job openings,” then click it again, and select “COOR, VIRT INST, FDLRS,” Position ID 240213001. For job details (“View Details of Highlighted Position”) and to apply (“Apply for Selected Position(s)”), choose the appropriate button in the upper-right-hand corner. The application deadline is until filled. For questions, contact Sallie Payne at paynes@nefec.org.

Events Coming Soon

Working with the Experts (WWE) 2024 Leaders’ Event for Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Occupational Therapist (OT) and Physical Therapist (PT) District Coordinators

WWE is pleased to announce the 2024 Leaders’ Event for SLP, OT and PT District Coordinators, which will be in Safety Harbor on **April 4 and 5, 2024**. Advisory Council meetings will be held on the morning of **April 4, 2024**. The main session will begin at 1 p.m. ET with FDOE Update and Coordinator Workgroups. On **April 5, 2024**, Jose L. Martin, attorney at law, will present on professional collaborative practices and legal issues. The deadline to register is **February 23, 2024**. Please note that no late registrations will be accepted. When registration opens, there will be two parts to complete as follows:

- Register to attend the event on the [WWE website](#), which includes taking a pretest.
- Reserve a sleeping room via the link on the WWE website for individuals who are 50 or greater miles from Safety Harbor.

2023-24 Spring Florida Vision District Contacts’ Meeting—Reimbursement Correction

The Spring Florida Vision District Contacts’ Meeting will be in Orlando on **April 5, 2024**. The FIMC-VI, in conjunction with the FDOE, BEESS, hosts this annual meeting specifically for district contacts responsible for the programs for students with visual impairments. It is recommended that the district contact person for the vision program, or a designee, attend this meeting to discuss data and initiatives specific to your district’s students who are visually impaired. BEESS is pleased to offer travel reimbursement for one staff member per district. This does not apply to attendees who reside within 50 miles of the meeting location. Reimbursement will be provided after the event and includes up to \$175 for one hotel night. For more information and to register, go to the [Spring Vision Contacts registration web page](#). For questions, contact Liz Anderson at eanderson@fimcvi.org.

Emotional/Behavioral Disability (E/BD) Annual Contacts’ Meeting

SEDNET is hosting the E/BD Annual Contacts’ Meeting will be in Orlando on **April 11 and 12, 2024**. SEDNET will pay for hotel accommodations on April 10 and 11, 2024. Early check-in for the meeting is available on **April 10, 2024**, from 2 to 4 p.m. ET. The meeting will include a keynote presentation, updates from the BEESS E/BD liaison, presentations from SEDNET and the Department of Children and Families, and three breakout professional development sessions. For more information regarding registration and the hotel, go to the [SEDNET E/BD Contacts Attendee Registration Form 2024](#). For questions, contact Dr. Charlene Grecsek, SEDNET executive director/principal investigator, at cgrecsek@usf.edu.

Announcing a New Summer Literacy Institute Opportunity

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [Announcing a New Summer Literacy Institute Opportunity](#); attachment A, [District, Consortium and Early Learning Coalition Allocations for the 2024 Summer Literacy Institute](#); and attachment B, [School Allocations for the 2024 Summer Literacy Institute](#). The 2024 Summer Literacy Institute will be in Orlando on **June 12-14, 2024**. Participants must register by **April 26, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

FIMC-VI Professional Development Opportunity

The Florida and Virgin Islands Deaf-Blind Collaborative and FIMC-VI collaborated to create a self-paced, independent learning opportunity using materials developed by the National Center on Deafblindness (NCDB), titled “Early Intervention for Children Who Are Deafblind.” This is the second module in the NCDB series “Teaching Children Who Are Deafblind: Professional Development for Educators.” These are professional learning modules for practitioners who want to improve their knowledge of deafblindness and gain practical skills that are essential for working with students who are deafblind. The intended audience is teachers from a variety of areas (e.g., special education, visual impairment, deaf or hard of hearing, and severe or multiple disabilities); related service providers; and administrators. Participants may earn 14 inservice credit hours if approved by your school district. To participate in this opportunity or the first NCDB module, “The Impact of Deafblindness on Learning and Development,” complete the [FIMC-VI Canvas Resource Site and Course Sign-Up form](#). Courses will close on **June 14, 2024**. For questions, contact Tiffany Conrad at tconrad@fimcvi.org.

Informational Items

Learning Ally—Great Reading Games and February Newsletter

Learning Ally is thrilled to announce the outstanding performance of Florida’s schools in the Learning Ally Great Reading Games Competition. As we continue to champion literacy and resilience through reading, it brings us immense joy to see our Florida schools excelling on this platform. Currently, we have six schools from Florida shining bright in our top 10 rankings, with two schools proudly holding first place positions in their respective brackets. This remarkable achievement speaks volumes about the dedication and commitment of both students and educators toward fostering a culture of reading and learning. The Great Reading Games competition serves as an excellent opportunity to encourage students to explore the wonders of literature while earning valuable points for their schools. For more details on the competition, we encourage you to access the [Florida Educator Guide](#), which provides comprehensive information about participation and rules. Also, be sure to read the [Florida Learning Ally February Newsletter](#) for announcements and suggested reading. For questions, contact Learning Ally state contract managers, Dr. Martaluz Pozo, at mpoz@learningally.org, or Simone Smith, at ssmith@learningally.org.

Educator Certification Rule Amendments

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [educator certification rule amendments](#).

Approved Courses for School District Online Course Providers

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [approved courses for school district online course providers](#).

List of Providers for School District Virtual Instruction Programs

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding a [list of providers for school district virtual instruction programs](#).

Tip of the Week

Promote Autonomy of Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Teams

Discourage school IEP team members from relying on special ed directors to solve every disagreement with parents. Clarify that the directors should limit their involvement to when available resources must be discussed, or a conflict has escalated to the point of causing a standstill. (Special Ed Connection)

Alice Schmitges
Bureau Chief