



Weekly Memo

Events Coming Soon

Peers as Partners in Learning (PPL) Tour Opportunity

The Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) would like to provide a tour opportunity for individuals interested in implementing a PPL course and program at their middle or high school. Peer supports have a multitude of well-documented benefits through decades of research, for students with and without disabilities and for schools providing peer programs. PPL is both a course and a program for middle and high school students in Florida and is supported with technical assistance from FIN. Implementation begins with students applying to enroll in one of the PPL courses (found on CPALMS [#1400340](#) or [#1400025](#)) at their school to provide peer supports for students with disabilities. Partnerships of students with and without disabilities in the PPL course comprise the PPL programs at each school, and a teacher of record is responsible for course implementation. Timber Creek High School in Orange County has a well-established PPL program and has graciously offered a tour opportunity on **March 28, 2024**, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. ET, which includes an overview of the program, visits to classes, and opportunities to hear about experiences from students and adults. Interested parties may register at [Peers as Partners in Learning Tour at Timber Creek High School, Orlando](#). Participating districts must provide their own transportation and lodging, as needed. Please share this opportunity to visit this model program through the attached document. For questions, contact Kelly Claude at kclaude@contactfin.com.

- Filename: PPL Tour Flyer March 2024

Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Mathematics, Computer Science, Personal Financial Literacy and Civics Professional Learning Event Series Registration

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has issued a memorandum regarding the [B.E.S.T. Mathematics, Computer Science, Personal Financial Literacy and Civics Professional Learning Event Series registration](#), which will be by region beginning **June 25, 2024** (North); **July 9, 2024** (South); and **July 16, 2024** (Central). Registration dates are as follows: **April 1-12, 2024**, for districts; **April 15-26, 2024**, for charter schools and higher education institutions; and **May 1, 2024**, for general registration. Registration is required per the instructions in the memo.

2024 Great Florida Teach-In (GFTI)

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [2024 GFTI](#), which will be on **April 13, 2024**. Participants must register by **April 2, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

Working with the Experts (WWE): Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) - Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading

The Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind are offering “Working with the Experts: Deaf/Hard of Hearing - Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading” on **April 8 and 9, 2024**. This day-and-a-half workshop will provide in-depth, hands-on practice of the intervention. The training will be conducted in American Sign Language. “Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading,” created by the Center on Literacy and Deafness, is an [evidence-based](#) literacy intervention specifically designed for students who are DHH in kindergarten through grade 2. For more information and to register, go to the [WWE: DHH - Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading Landing Page](#). For questions, contact Carmelina Hollingsworth at c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org.

2024 Spring Regional Intellectual Disabilities (InD) Contacts Meetings

The Access Project is pleased to announce the spring meeting schedule for exceptional student education district office coordinators for InD programs. These meetings will be held virtually for size-alike districts. Small districts will be on **April 15, 2024**; medium districts on **April 16, 2024**; and large/very large districts on **April 17, 2024**. All participants must register to attend. For more information and to register, see the attached document.

- Filename: Spring InD Contacts' Virtual Meetings 2024

23rd Annual Autism Summer Institute

The 23rd Annual Autism Summer Institute will be held virtually on **July 16 and 17, 2024**. The Institute is hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities University of South Florida, and Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk County Schools. The Autism Summer Institute is an annual workshop aimed at providing high-quality professional development to a wide spectrum of professionals, including exceptional student education and general education teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, instructional assistants, administrators and parents who impact the lives of students with autism spectrum disorder. For more information, see the attached document.

- Filename: PEPSA Autism Summer Institute 2024 Save The Date

Spotlight on BEESS Leadership Team

Current Leadership Team of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Administration

Bureau Chief—Alice Schmitges, Alice.Schmitges@fldoe.org

Program Planner/Analyst—Tonya Milton, Tonya.Milton@fldoe.org

Program Accountability, Assessment and Data Systems

Senior Educational Program Director—Chelsea Strickland, Chelsea.Strickland@fldoe.org

Educational Program Director, Monitoring—Kelbe Harrell, Kelbe.Harrell@fldoe.org

Fiscal Specialist—Kaitlyn Bishop, Kaitlyn.Bishop@fldoe.org

Instructional Support Services

Senior Educational Program Director—Patricia Bodiford, Patricia.Bodiford@fldoe.org

Dispute Resolution and Monitoring

Senior Educational Program Director—Christina Whitfield, Christina.Whitfield@fldoe.org

Educational Program Director—Jackie Roumou, Jacqueline.Roumou@fldoe.org

Educational Program Director—Erin Leathers, Erin.Leathers1@fldoe.org

Educational Program Director, Alternative Resolution—Bryce Milton, Bryce.Milton1@fldoe.org

Student Support Services

Senior Director—Andrew Weatherill, Andrew.Weatherill@fldoe.org

Assistant Director, Youth Mental Health Awareness Training—Patricia.Strickland1@fldoe.org

Tip of the Week

Realize Parents' Presence at Meeting is Not Enough

To satisfy the parent participation requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IEP team leaders must do more than get the parents to the meeting table. Parents of students with disabilities must have the opportunity to voice concerns, to have their input considered by the team, and to ask questions and receive meaningful answers. (Special Ed Connection)

Alice Schmitges
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
850-245-0475

Peers as Partners in Learning Tour



**Thursday, March 28, 2024
8:30-11:30 AM**

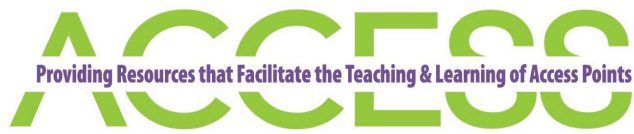
**Timber Creek High School
1001 Avalon Park S Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32828**

**Register online:
bit.ly/PPLtour2024**



**Any questions, please contact:
Kim Riley
Kriley@contactfin.com**

The Florida Inclusion Network is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B.



Access Project is pleased to announce spring Intellectual Disabilities (InD) contact meetings for district coordinators. Meetings are being held virtually through Zoom.

This spring there will be three meeting opportunities.

Group	Date	Registration Link
Small	April 15, 2024	http://tinyurl.com/InD-Small-Districts
Medium Districts	April 16, 2024	http://tinyurl.com/InD-Medium-Districts
Large/Very Large Districts	April 17, 2024	http://tinyurl.com/InD-Lg-Very-Lg

Please register each participant using the provided links.

Here is the [Florida DOE Size Alike Map](#).

We look forward to seeing you!

Christi Yu, Project Manager:
yu.christina@brevardschools.org, 321-269-2326 ext. 12025

Jeff Pruitt, Project Coordinator:
pruitt.jeff@brevardschools.org, 321-269-2326 ext. 12022

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

**JULY
16-17,
2024**



Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Regional trainings are hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities through The Partnership for Effective Programs for students with Autism (PEPSA). PEPSA project is 100% percent funded by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the U.S. Department of Education as part of an award totaling \$357,860 with 0% percent financed from non-governmental sources on any communication, including, but not limited to, public statements, social media, tool kits, resource guides, websites, and visual presentations.



23rd Annual Autism Summer Institute

Hosted by: CARD USF, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk County Schools

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Autism Summer Institute is an annual workshop aimed at providing high quality professional development to a wide spectrum of professionals, including ESE and general education teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists, SLPs, OTs, instructional assistants, administrators, and parents who impact the lives of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

LOCATION:
Online via Zoom

REGISTRATION INFO:
Coming Soon!

DAY 1

STEPHEN HINKLE, BS, MA
"THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM"

**LOURDES QUINONES, PT, MA &
SHELTON GILYARD, JR., MSW**
"LET YOUR STUDENTS MOVE! THE EFFECT OF MOVEMENT ON
RESTRICTED REPETITIVE BEHAVIORS"



MARY KENDLE
"BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WITH
SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLORIDA"

DAY 2

NYCOLE KAUK, PHD, NCSP, BCBA
"EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: UTILIZING GROUP CONTINGENCIES
FOR CLASSROOM SUCCESS"

ALLISON EDWARDS, LPC
"FLOODED: A BRAIN-BASED GUIDE TO HELP CHILDREN
MANAGE EMOTIONS"



JENNIFER SABO, MA
"DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION AND
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH ASD IN
THE ARTS"