



Weekly Memo

Rule Activity

Notice of Proposed Rule

This rule revision is scheduled for the State Board of Education meeting on **April 17, 2024**. To view the following final proposed rule and submit comments, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review web page](#):

- Rule [6A-6.03013](#), Florida Administrative Code, Exceptional Student Educational Eligibility for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

Informational Items

Florida Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (FLPBIS) Project Resources

The FLPBIS Project recently developed several resources for district and school leaders. The [Classroom Workbook: How to Use Classroom PBIS Materials](#) is a tool for new teachers and classroom coaches to utilize in establishing best practices for positive behavior within the learning environment. The [Multi-Tiered Systems to Build Resiliency Infographic](#) is a resource for district and school leaders working to align behavioral instruction initiatives within a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) in the promotion of resiliency. Additionally, two infographics are now available that define the role and function of [Tier 3 District-Level Systems](#) and [Tier 3 School-Level Systems](#) within a behavioral MTSS. These resources can assist leaders in reviewing current structures and identifying key features of an effective Tier 3 system for behavior.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Endorsement Tuition Support Program

The ESE Tuition Support Program provides financial assistance to ESE teachers or speech-language pathologists who are teaching students identified as having autism spectrum disorder or prekindergarten (PreK)/ESE in Florida public schools. BEESS is advertising tuition support to assist teachers seeking an endorsement in autism and Pre-K/ESE. Please include announcements of the ESE Endorsement Tuition Support Program in regional notices, listservs or newsletters for teachers. To view the application, go to the [Florida's Personnel Development web page](#). For questions, contact Ms. Melanie Morales at ESESupport@fiu.edu.

Para to Teacher Support Program Will Soon Provide Financial Assistance for Degrees in Early Childhood/PreK Disabilities

The Para to Teacher Support Program is pleased to announce funding for Florida's first online degree program in Early Childhood Education with a PreK disabilities endorsement. The new online bachelor's degree program at the University of Florida (UF) is set to commence in the fall. Paraprofessionals who do not yet hold a bachelor's degree and want to become teachers in early childhood/PreK disabilities can apply for the UF program and financial assistance through the state-funded Para to Teacher Support Program. Paraprofessionals who are interested in earning funding to complete degrees toward initial certification in either special education, deaf education, visual disabilities or early childhood/PreK disabilities at one of the many colleges and universities in Florida are encouraged to contact Dr. Keri Fogle at paratoteach@uwf.edu. For program information, requirements and applications, go to the [Para to Teacher Support program website](#).

2024-25 No-Cost Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Form

Now is the time for high school seniors and returning college students to submit their 2024-25 no-cost application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. The revamped FAFSA form—also known as “Better FAFSA”—takes many students less than 20 minutes to complete and can unlock up to \$7,395 in federal aid that does not need to be repaid to help cover the cost of college. Share this link with students and have them submit the [Better 2024-25 FAFSA Form](#). Have questions along the way? The following resources can help:

- [Video: What is FAFSA?](#)
- [FAFSA Checklist & Timeline for Students and Families](#)
- [Pro Tips for the 2024-25 FAFSA® Form](#)
- [FAFSA “How To” Videos](#)
- [FAFSA Bootcamp Webinar Recording](#)

For more information about the FAFSA process, check out [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Users can click “Español” at the top-right-hand side of the web page or choose Spanish as their preferred language if they have a StudentAid.gov account. You can also find additional resources on the U.S. Department of Education's [The Better FAFSA: What You Need to Know](#) website.

Designation of the 2022-23 Schools of Excellence

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [Designation of the 2022-23 Schools of Excellence](#).

BEES Welcomes New Staff

Program Accountability, Assessment & Data Systems (PAADS) Unit

The PAADS unit is pleased to welcome Andrew Lodge in the role of data analyst for the bureau. Mr. Lodge acquired a Bachelor of Science in Statistics and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Florida State University (FSU) in December 2023. While a student at FSU, he served as an undergraduate research assistant in the Department of Psychology where he collected and analyzed data pertaining to virtue, well-being and meaning in life. He also garnered teaching experience by instructing other undergraduate students on research methodology in his capacity as a colloquium leader. Andrew found both of these roles to be fulfilling and wished to pursue a

career in which he could continue to have a tangible and meaningful impact on others. He is glad to have found that role as a data analyst at BEESS where he looks forward to harnessing the power of data to continuously improve exceptional education in Florida.

Tip of the Week

Double-Check That Evaluation Informs the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Team

An appropriate evaluation provides actionable recommendations for services and supports to include in an IEP. Evaluation team input should be detailed enough to guide IEP team discussions about how to address a student's needs best. (Special Ed Connection)

Alice Schmitges
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
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