



## Weekly Memo

### Rule Activity

#### Notices of Rule Development

The following rules will have a rule development workshop on **May 28, 2024**. Participants may join via the virtual link listed in each notice. To submit comments for the following rules, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review web page](#):

- Rule [6A-6.0521](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Definitions and Requirements Which Apply to All Dropout Prevention Programs
- Rule [6A-6.05281](#), F.A.C., Educational Programs for Students in Department of Juvenile Justice Detention, Prevention, Residential, or Day Treatment Programs

### Job Vacancies

#### Position Available in the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Island Coast Associate Center

FDLRS Island Coast, a discretionary project of Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), is seeking a Technology Specialist. FDLRS Island Coast serves both Lee and Collier Counties. The full job description can be viewed at [Specialist, Exceptional Student Education \(FDLRS Assistive Technology\)](#). All applicants must apply on the [School District of Lee County's website](#), to be considered for the position. The application is open until filled. For questions, contact Dr. Deidre Phillips at [deidremp@leeschools.net](mailto:deidremp@leeschools.net) or 239-337-8127.

#### Position Available with the Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISRD)

ISRD, a discretionary project of BEESS, is seeking a coordinator for the PAEC Region. This position will serve Calhoun, FAMU Lab School, FL Department of Corrections, Franklin, FSU Lab School, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Tallahassee Collegiate Academy, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington 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, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Special Projects, ISRD." 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 Chastity Lee at [leec@nefec.org](mailto:leec@nefec.org) or 386-329-3894.

## Action Items

### **2023-2024 Report of Students Granted a One-Year Exemption from Statewide Assessments**

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [2023-2024 Report of Students Granted a One-Year Exemption from Statewide Assessments](#), and attachment A, [Report of students granted a one-year exemption from the statewide assessment](#). A 2023-2024 district one-year exemption report must be submitted by **June 1, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

### **University of North Florida's (UNF's) Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Deaf Education**

UNF's online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Deaf Education program is designed for professionals (e.g., teachers, paraprofessionals and interpreters) who are currently working with or aspire to work with deaf or hard of hearing students and have not yet completed the FDOE K-12 Deaf or Hard of Hearing Professional Certificate. To enroll in the program, applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree (education degree not required). The content in the Certificate in Deaf Education program, is designed to help postbaccalaureate students prepare for the Florida Teacher Certification Examination Deaf or Hard of Hearing K-12 exam. The certificate program contains only five online courses, four deaf education courses and one elective. The program can be completed in one year; however, students can choose to move through the program more slowly. The certificate program has rolling admission, meaning students can join the program during any semester. To begin in Fall 2024, the admissions deadline is **July 1, 2024**. To apply, go to [UNF's Office of Admissions web page](#). For more information about the program, go to [Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Deaf Education](#) or contact [deafeducation@unf.edu](mailto:deafeducation@unf.edu).

### **2023-2024 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent Survey**

Each year, the FDOE surveys parents of students with an individual educational plan to determine how well districts and schools are partnering with parents and promoting parent involvement in their student's education. All states must collect these data for reporting on their State Performance Plan, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Additionally, survey results will be used to help schools and districts improve services and outcomes for students with disabilities. We would like to spotlight four districts this week by size that have, thus far, shown to have the highest response rate for the 2023-2024 ESE Parent Survey.

**Congratulations Hillsborough (very large), Seminole (large), Hernando (medium) and Gilchrist (small) districts!** The survey will be open through **June 30, 2024**. For more information about the 2023-2024 ESE Parent Survey, go to the [FDOE ESE Parent Survey](#) web page. For questions, contact Patricia Bodiford, senior educational program director, Instructional Support Services, at [Patricia.Bodiford@fldoe.org](mailto:Patricia.Bodiford@fldoe.org) or 850-245-0475.

## Informational Items

### **Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program**

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program](#).

## House Bill 931 – School Chaplains

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [House Bill 931 – School Chaplains](#).

## 2025 Teacher of the Year State Finalists

Congratulations to the following 2025 Teacher of the Year state finalists:

- Jaime Suarez, Challenger K-8 School of Science and Mathematics, Hernando County;
- Jennifer Brown, Forest High School, Marion County;
- Samantha (Sam) Nelson, Florida State University School;
- Heather Stewart, Paxton School, Walton County; and
- Dr. Clayton Nylund, Howard W. Blake High School, Hillsborough County.

The 2025 Florida Department of Education Teacher of the Year winner will be announced on July 25, 2024.

## Tip of the Week

### Clarify Who Will Send Parents Prior Written Notice (PWN) after an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Team Meeting

Although the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act does not specify who should send the prior written notice after an IEP team meeting, let parents know what to expect. Identify the sender of the PWN. This can ensure no one drops the ball and forgets to send this important notice. It can also build parents' trust and meaningful participation in the IEP process. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

**Alice Schmitges**  
**Bureau Chief**



For more information, contact  
850-245-0475