



## Weekly Memo

### Action Items

#### Notices of Rule Development

To view any available drafts and submit comments for the following rules, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review web page](#):

- Rule [6A-1.09401](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Student Performance Standards
- Rule [6A-1.0955](#), F.A.C., Education Records
- Rule [6A-6.03028](#), F.A.C., Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities

Two of these rules will have a rule development workshop as follows and participants may join via the Microsoft Teams link listed in the notice:

- Rule [6A-1.0955](#), F.A.C., on **November 21, 2023**
- Rule [6A-1.09401](#), F.A.C., on **January 16, 2024**

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

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding a [request for waiver regarding 1% participation cap for alternate assessment – opportunity for comment](#). Comments must be submitted by **November 14, 2023**, per the instructions in the memo.

#### Gifted Education Week in Florida

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [Gifted Education Week in Florida](#), which will be **December 4-8, 2023**.

### Informational Items

#### Chief of the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)

The FDOE is pleased to announce that Alice Schmitges has been appointed Chief of BEES beginning November 9, 2023. Alice Schmitges is a distinguished leader in the field of special education, with a strong commitment to making a difference in the lives of Florida's students with

disabilities. In November 2023, she will begin the role of Chief of BEESS, following her term as the Administrator of the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Administration Project, overseeing key initiatives aimed at improving special education services in the state. Alice's journey in education and leadership is marked by an impressive array of experiences and achievements, demonstrating her unwavering dedication to improving educational outcomes for exceptional students. Her educational career began as a classroom teacher, where she honed her teaching skills and developed a deep understanding of the unique needs of students with disabilities. Her leadership qualities were further recognized when she served as the Director of the Institute for Small and Rural Districts, where she demonstrated her capacity to lead and implement programs that positively impacted students and schools. Alice's commitment to excellence is not limited to the realm of education. She is also dedicated to serving her country, as she is a member of the Navy Reserves. She recently fulfilled active overseas duty, highlighting her resilience and dedication to education and military service.

Thank you for your continued support in the transition of BEESS leadership. The FDOE looks forward to collaborating with you in the future.

### **Information on Virtual School Choice Options for Florida Students**

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [information on virtual school choice options for Florida students](#).

### **Amended State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.083, F.A.C., Standards Relating to Gross Immorality and Acts of Moral Turpitude**

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [amended Rule 6A-10.083, F.A.C., Standards Relating to Gross Immorality and Acts of Moral Turpitude](#).

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For more information, contact  
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