



THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

The Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support exists to maximize student achievement by enhancing student capacity to learn and teacher capacity to individualize learning.

Social Studies

Teacher Resources from the National Archives

The National Archives offers a variety of resources for teachers including teachable primary sources, lesson plans and professional development. Visit www.archives.gov and click on Teachers' Resources. There you will find a link to DocsTeach where teachers can view ready-to-use tools for teaching with documents in the classroom, access to thousands of primary sources and the ability to customize resources and build interactive activities. Check out the above website for incredible resources to use with students in the classroom.

Civics Resources from the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship

The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship is a partnership between the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida. Through this partnership, they have developed quality resources for teachers, which can be accessed by visiting their website at www.floridacitizen.org. Some of the Joint Center's resources include instructional support materials for the middle grades civics course, 15-20 minute lesson plans for all K-5 civics benchmarks aligned to NGSSS civics benchmarks, as well as relevant ELA Florida Standards, video lessons and professional development. Please visit their website for more information.

Library News

Information resource services for state employees are available through Florida's Division of Library and Information Services with Department of State. This resource provides access to the Florida Electronic Library and databases on education, science, health and humanities, among others. Several of these databases offer full-text articles, and selections are tailored specifically for state employees. This is a great resource for both content specialists and your own personal researching needs. For more information, visit <http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/research/services-for-state-employees/>.

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Bureau Chief
Dr. Kathy Nobles
Chikevia Owens

Healthy Schools Director
Penny Taylor
Michelle Gaines
Nichole Wilder
Ksena Zipperer

Standards Director
Ann Whitney
Ashley Palelis
Julia Somers-Arthur
Kathleen Casper

Instructional Support Director
Katrina Figgitt
LaKeesha Parker
Petricia Sailor
Cathy Seeds
April Drennan

Instructional Materials
Ritu Badaya
Genevieve English-Charles

STEM Director
Dr. Jonathan Keener
Heidi Brennan
Rashad Bennett
Shelly Miedona

School Counseling Consultant
Helen Lancashire

**For more information,
contact:
850-245-0423**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Health

Child Human Trafficking

Florida has been identified as the third largest hub for human trafficking in the United States.

What is Human Trafficking?

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, slavery or a commercial sex act.

Please visit the [FDOE human trafficking webpage](#) for current statistics, information and future training opportunities. The Healthy Schools [Child Human Trafficking document](#) is another free resource for schools, parents and communities for anti-trafficking awareness efforts. January is Human Trafficking Awareness month start planning activities now.

Warning signs of potential school-aged victims of human trafficking:

The student-

- Has unexplained absences from school for a period of time (truancy)
- Demonstrates an inability to attend school on a regular basis
- Chronically runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression or fear
- Lacks control over his or her schedule or identification documents
- Is hungry-malnourished or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, behavior or material possessions (has expensive items)
- Makes references to sexual situations that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a “boyfriend” who is noticeably older (10+ years)
- Makes references to terminology of the commercial sex industry that are beyond age specific norms; engages in promiscuous behavior and may be labeled “fast” by peers

Educators, other school/community-based professionals and parents have a critical role to play in recognizing human trafficking and in helping potential victims access specialized services. We encourage all adults to take a stand against human trafficking.

If you suspect an adult or child is a victim of human trafficking, please visit the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#), or call them at 1-888-373-7888. If you suspect a child is a victim, please call the [Florida Abuse Hotline](#) at 1-800-96-ABUSE.

Upcoming Conferences and Trainings

- [Florida Statewide Tobacco Prevention Course for Educators](#) is open until May 2016. The online professional development for K-12 educators is a no cost self-paced course. Two courses now available this school year.
- [2016 Florida School Health Association Annual Conference and Training](#) is May 4-6, 2016, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.
- School Health Partners Workshop 2015: Enhancing the Work of SHAC, SHWAC and Wellness Task Force Committees in Florida School Districts

Did you know that every school district is statutorily required to have a School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) and a Wellness Policy Committee? Some school districts combine these committees into a SHWAC. Regional resource workshops are being conducted statewide during the fall of 2015 through a collaborative effort of the Florida Departments of Education, Health, Agriculture and Consumer Services, Children and Families, Action for Healthy Kids, and the University of South Florida HIV Project. District committee chairs and members are invited to attend at no cost.

Locations:

Date	City	Site
December 3	Kissimmee	UF IFAS
December 15	Ft. Lauderdale	Rock Island Professional Development Center

The workshops will address why Florida needs SHACs and Wellness Committees; data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey; and will provide a video presentation of success stories from around the state and presentations from state partners. There will be a regional model SHAC/Wellness Committee Panel along with a working lunch followed by resource presentations on the following topics:

- ⇒ Building Healthy School Teams
- ⇒ Engaging Parents for Bullying Prevention
- ⇒ Youth Mental Health First Aid Overview
- ⇒ State Agency Resources

Register now at:

<http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/trainings-and-conferences>

Literacy

Why have students write across the curriculum?

As most Florida educators are aware by now, student writing has emerged from the language arts classroom and is now expected to form a significant part of the instruction in every class from K to 12th grade.

We know this for two reasons:

1. The Florida Standards include literacy. In addition to the standards for language arts, we now have Standards for Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science, and the Technical Subjects in grades 6-12.
2. These literacy standards – for reading, writing, listening and speaking – are now part of all course descriptions.

Those are reasons why teachers are expected to integrate writing and other literacy skills into their teaching.

Now here are the reasons why teachers should include literacy in all subjects:

- **The process of composing text improves reading skills** (Fitzgerald & Shanahan, 2000).

This make sense when you think about it. In working through the cognitive steps of developing ideas, planning the structure, choosing and arranging details, finding the language and formulating the phrases and sentences necessary to produce a piece of writing, students extend and deepen their understanding of text and are better prepared to comprehend and analyze what they read.

- **Writing about what we learn helps us to understand it better and move it into long-term memory.**

Think of a few things you have written recently. They likely include many of these: emails, letters, daily notes, brainstorming, lists of ideas or items, meeting minutes, reports or directions. What was your purpose for each? Writing helps us sort out our ideas, share our thinking, document information, remember and understand.

- **Developing a foundation of academic discourse, both in speaking and in writing, allows students to collaborate, learn from others and find the language to clearly articulate their ideas.**

In the workplace and in college, students will be expected to express themselves with professionalism. It is our job support them in learning and using academic and discipline specific language and collegial ways of expressing themselves.

- **Written work provides a window into student thinking (formative assessment).**

Try a quick-write at the end of the class period. For example: "Explain in one paragraph the process we studied today." The results the students hand you as they head out the door will give a quick and fairly accurate idea of what they have learned and what still needs work.

As a bonus, by pulling together their understanding of the material and trying to explain it, your students will have gained a deeper understanding of it.

There are many ways that writing and other literacy strategies can help your students extend their thinking and reach greater mastery. For more information, please visit our webpage, [Literacy for Learning in the Content Areas](#), or contact Julia Somers-Arthur, literacy specialist, at Julia.Somers-Arthur@fldoe.org.

Gifted

Gifted Education Update

Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG) held its annual conference in Tampa, Florida, on September 25 and 26, 2016, and kicked off the state's first Gifted Education Awareness Week (as designated by Governor Rick Scott in a proclamation that can be found at <http://files.ctctcdn.com/3baab35b001/8c607e5b-90ca-462f-b510-f8bbdd046223.pdf>).

As the Florida gifted education specialist, I was excited to attend the conference where I introduced the conference keynote speaker, Dr. Jim Delisle, and had a chance to welcome everyone to the event and bring a message of support for gifted education from the Florida Department of Education.

There are exciting things going on in gifted education in our districts related to increasing access to gifted learners from all demographic groups:

Seminole County Schools received a \$2.4 million federal Javits Grant to improve support for gifted learners, especially focused on increasing access to gifted services for English Language Learner (ELL) students. You can read about it in the Orlando Sentinel at <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/education/school-zone/os-florida-schools-grant-students-gifted-post.html>.

Pinellas County Schools' gifted education coordinator, Jenny Klimis, was quoted and highlighted in the following article for her work to increase equity and to look at social emotional needs of gifted students: <http://www.districtadministration.com/article/how-schools-maximize-gifted-talent>. Duval County and Miami-Dade County Schools are working to increase diversity in gifted programs are discussed in an article found at <http://jacksonville.com/news/schools/2015-09-26/story/closing-gap-how-duval-getting-more-minorities-gifted-programs>.

The Florida Department of Education will continue to provide live webinar discussions on topics of importance related to gifted education. The November 9th webinar with Josh Shaine from M.I.T. focused on creating and implementing acceleration plans and supporting high achievers and underachieving gifted students.

For more information on joining the gifted education webinars or to be added to our gifted education email list, please contact me at Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org.

Technology

New: Student Tutorials Search Feature

The Florida Students site has been up and running and the feedback received has been extremely positive. A new feature on the website is the search button located on the left side of the screen. The new search functionality allows users to view resources specific to subject area, grade level and type. For example, a teacher can view all tutorials available for first grade mathematics without scrolling through all resources. Please visit www.floridastudents.org to view tutorials designed by Florida educators and other available resources.

Tech Tools for Teachers

At some point in your teaching career, you have probably given your students an assignment to do a presentation for the class on a course-related topic. As you explained the parameters of the assignment, you could hear the audible sighs and groans from the class. They reluctantly began to look through their textbook for information. You required them to create a visual to use in their presentations. Most of the students created a poster the night before the presentation with markers and a few cut-out pictures from a magazine. The students were neither engaged in their work nor focused on the content they needed to learn. Sound familiar?

Presentations can be a good way for students to learn communication skills and demonstrate proficiency of content if students are allowed to use their creativity. A technology tool called Animoto makes presentations more engaging for your students and less painful for you as the teacher. Animoto is a cloud-based application that creates movie slideshows with just a few clicks. Students pick a template for how they want their presentation to look and select a song to accompany their visuals. They then customize their movies with photos, videos and text. Transitions and animations can be added to each slide to give presentations a more polished look. Once videos are completed, students have several options for how they want to publish their work. Videos can be downloaded to a computer, embedded in a blog or website or shared on social media.

The upside to utilizing Animoto in your classroom is that students can produce a professional grade product in a short amount of time. You won't have to devote several days for in-class work time as is often the case for assigning student projects. Students love to use technology, and creating their own movies will give students a sense of ownership over their final products increasing retention of content. Also, with so many options for publishing students' work, students can show their work to the class, the school, or even the entire world via the internet!

Animoto does provide a free-trial period; however, the trial version has several limitations such as limited customization and low resolution. To really receive the benefits of this tool, it is best to purchase a subscription. These are available for both individual teachers and at the school level.

There are many high-quality platforms for creating video that are available. Before considering the purchase of Animoto or any other tool, consider the needs for your classroom and do your research.

STEM

Sarasota County

Sarasota County had the second highest percentage of fifth grade students pass the science FCAT 2.0, with 70 percent earning a score of 3 and above on a scale of 1 to 5. Only St. Johns County, which surrounds St. Augustine, had a higher passage rate with 74 percent of tested fifth graders. To access video of Sarasota's focus on science education, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TrFBOOzDNQ>.

Elementary Mathematics Resources

Comprehensive 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Suggested Activities and Supplies to Support Mathematics Education documents have been created for teachers to use to enhance/support math instruction in the classroom. Within each domain, there are parent resource links, a brief bibliography of children's literature and activities from CPALMS to support mastery of standards within each of the grade level domains. In addition, 3rd grade has a Fraction unit and a Multiplication and Division unit of study. Fourth grade has a Multi-digit Multiplication and one-Digit Divisor unit and a Fraction unit of study. Fifth grade has a Multi-digit Multiplication and Whole Number Quotient unit and a Fraction unit of Study. These units of study were created for teachers who are new to the grade level and/or are in need of additional support to teach the standards within those topics. The units are comprehensive and each standard is addressed within the unit. There are also links to remediate to the previous year's unit should there be a need. To access these resources, go to the FDOE website to Standards & Instructional Support. Click Content Areas, Mathematics, Science & STEM Programs, and finally Mathematics. Scroll down to Instructional Support to access these documents. <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/subject-areas/math-science/mathematics>

2015 Grades 7-12 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Finalists

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education.

2015 Florida Finalists:

Michele Meyer	Mathematics	Valley Ridge Academy	St. Johns
George Pringle	Mathematics	PK Younge Research School	Alachua
Sue Traynham	Mathematics	Sickles High	Hillsborough
Kelly Zunkiewicz	Mathematics	Earl J. Lennard High	Hillsborough
Lorraine Plageman	Science	Jupiter Community High	Palm Beach
Tracy Smith	Science	Bak Middle School of the Arts	Palm Beach
Bertha Vazquez	Science	George Washington Carver Middle	Miami-Dade
Marion Zeiner	Science	Episcopal School of Jacksonville	Duval

Nominations are now open for the 2016 awards cycle for grades K-6. To nominate a teacher, please go to <https://www.paemst.org/>.