



BEESS Weekly Memo



Professional Learning

Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) Info and Updates Part 1

FIMC-VI, an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project is offering a webinar on **August 13, 2026**, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET. The [FIMC-VI Portal](#) is where local educational agencies (LEAs) request materials for students with visual impairments, including braille and large print textbooks, Perkins brailers, loan library items, and products from the American Printing House for the Blind. In order to access these materials, teachers of students with visual impairments must register for a Portal account and be approved by their exceptional student education (ESE) director or delegate. If your LEA has a new ESE director or administrator overseeing the vision program, please contact [Tiffany Conrad](#) so these staff can be updated in our Portal. For more information about registering and approving users, see the [FIMC-VI Portal User Guide](#). For more information on this topic and more and to register, go to [FIMC-VI Info and Updates](#).

2026-27 Intro to Statewide Assessments for Students with Visual Impairments

From big picture to fine details, this webinar is a one-stop shop for all statewide assessments with a deep dive into general education assessments. Participants will learn how to successfully prepare for administering statewide assessments, including required materials, advance planning, accommodations, manipulatives, ordering processes and upcoming changes. This webinar will be on **August 18, 2026**, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET. For more information and to register, go to [Florida Statewide Assessment Webinars for 2026-27](#).

To learn more and register for any upcoming events, visit [FIMC-VI](#). For questions, contact [Tiffany Conrad](#).

2026-27 Virtual Communication Matrix Overview Sessions

The Access Project and Assistive Technology Learning Connections (ATLC) will be hosting virtual Communication Matrix overview sessions for the 2026-27 school year. The Communication Matrix is an evidence-based assessment tool that helps support students with complex communication needs. It pinpoints an individual's current communication level and gives a framework for determining future goals. LEA participants will receive assessment credits for trial when they

attend the one-hour session. The scheduled dates are **August 18 and October 14, 2026, and January 19 and April 13, 2027**. For more information and to register, see the attached flyer. For questions, contact [Janet Good](#), ATLC, or [Jeff Pruitt](#), Access Project.

- Filename: 26-27 Communication Matrix Flyer

Informational Items

Resiliency Florida Characteristic of the Month—Resiliency

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, every Florida public school was required to annually provide children in grades 6-12 at least five hours of mental health instruction. This mental health instruction is now referred to as Resiliency Education, Civic and Character Education and Life Skills Education. The Resiliency Florida initiative for Florida schools was launched in February 2021 to emphasize 11 Resiliency characteristics to empower students to persevere and overcome life's inevitable challenges. Visit the [Resiliency Florida](#) website for more information and additional resources.

August's featured characteristic is Resiliency, which means coming back after challenges or setbacks. Resiliency Florida offers a variety of resources to support starting the conversation about resiliency, not only in school, but at home. Visit the following web pages for grade-specific parent and teacher resources, a reading list, real stories, and the Resiliency Toolkit, all pertaining to Resiliency:

- [Parent Resource](#)
- [Teacher Resources](#)
- [Reading List](#)
- [Real Stories](#)
- [Resiliency Toolkit](#)

Florida Low Vision Initiative (FLVI) Webinar

This webinar, which occurred on August 6, 2026, provides an overview of FLVI, an IDEA-funded program that offers no-cost comprehensive low vision care and prescribed portable low vision devices for eligible prekindergarten through grade 8 students with visual impairments. Participants will learn about FLVI services, the referral process, the LiveBinders resource platform, and the ongoing support available to teachers of students with visual impairments. You can view the recording at [FIMC-VI Recorded Webinars](#).

School District Actions as a Result of Legislation Enacted in 2026

The FDOE issued a memorandum regarding [school district actions as a result of legislation enacted in 2026](#). See the memo for more information.

Amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Required Instruction Planning and Reporting

The FDOE issued a memorandum regarding an [amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C., Required Instruction Planning and Reporting](#). See the memo for more information.

Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C., Education Records

The FDOE issued a memorandum regarding [Rule 6A-1.0955, F.A.C., Education Records](#). See the memo for more information.

Catch Student Behaving

Employ antecedent strategies to build a positive relationship with a student by catching her doing what she is supposed to be doing. Write a positive note on the student's behavior sheet and send home positive notes to the parent. This reinforces "good" behavior. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief

COMMUNICATON MATRIX



Tuesday Aug 18, 2026 [11:00 a.m.*](#) or [2: 00 p.m.](#)

Wednesday Oct 14, 2026 [10:00 a.m.](#) or [2: 00 p.m.](#)

Tuesday Jan 19, 2027 [10:00 a.m.](#) or [2: 00 p.m.](#)

Tuesday Apr 13, 2027 [10:00 a.m.](#) or [2: 00 p.m.](#)

ACCESS
Providing Resources that Facilitate the Teaching & Learning of Access Points



* When selecting the August 18, 2026, 11:00 a.m. training, the time will show as 10:00-11:00 a.m. Central Time.

Further information is available following registration confirmation.

Note: All times are Eastern Time.

Please select the time/link to register.

Join us for this one hour Communication Matrix overview.

The Communication Matrix is an evidence-based assessment tool that helps support students with complex communication needs. It pinpoints an individual's current communication level and gives a framework for determining future goals. Local Educational Agency participants will receive assessment credits for trial.

For more information, contact Jeff Pruitt at jeff@accesstofls.org or Janet Good at jgood@usf.edu.

Level	Category	Sub-category	Item	Level	Category	Sub-category	Item	Level	Category	Sub-category	Item
1	Receptive	Understanding	1.1	1	Expressive	Production	1.1	1	Receptive	Understanding	1.1
2	Receptive	Understanding	2.1	2	Expressive	Production	2.1	2	Receptive	Understanding	2.1
3	Receptive	Understanding	3.1	3	Expressive	Production	3.1	3	Receptive	Understanding	3.1
4	Receptive	Understanding	4.1	4	Expressive	Production	4.1	4	Receptive	Understanding	4.1
5	Receptive	Understanding	5.1	5	Expressive	Production	5.1	5	Receptive	Understanding	5.1
6	Receptive	Understanding	6.1	6	Expressive	Production	6.1	6	Receptive	Understanding	6.1
7	Receptive	Understanding	7.1	7	Expressive	Production	7.1	7	Receptive	Understanding	7.1
8	Receptive	Understanding	8.1	8	Expressive	Production	8.1	8	Receptive	Understanding	8.1
9	Receptive	Understanding	9.1	9	Expressive	Production	9.1	9	Receptive	Understanding	9.1
10	Receptive	Understanding	10.1	10	Expressive	Production	10.1	10	Receptive	Understanding	10.1
11	Receptive	Understanding	11.1	11	Expressive	Production	11.1	11	Receptive	Understanding	11.1
12	Receptive	Understanding	12.1	12	Expressive	Production	12.1	12	Receptive	Understanding	12.1
13	Receptive	Understanding	13.1	13	Expressive	Production	13.1	13	Receptive	Understanding	13.1
14	Receptive	Understanding	14.1	14	Expressive	Production	14.1	14	Receptive	Understanding	14.1
15	Receptive	Understanding	15.1	15	Expressive	Production	15.1	15	Receptive	Understanding	15.1
16	Receptive	Understanding	16.1	16	Expressive	Production	16.1	16	Receptive	Understanding	16.1
17	Receptive	Understanding	17.1	17	Expressive	Production	17.1	17	Receptive	Understanding	17.1
18	Receptive	Understanding	18.1	18	Expressive	Production	18.1	18	Receptive	Understanding	18.1
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20	Receptive	Understanding	20.1	20	Expressive	Production	20.1	20	Receptive	Understanding	20.1
21	Receptive	Understanding	21.1	21	Expressive	Production	21.1	21	Receptive	Understanding	21.1
22	Receptive	Understanding	22.1	22	Expressive	Production	22.1	22	Receptive	Understanding	22.1
23	Receptive	Understanding	23.1	23	Expressive	Production	23.1	23	Receptive	Understanding	23.1
24	Receptive	Understanding	24.1	24	Expressive	Production	24.1	24	Receptive	Understanding	24.1
25	Receptive	Understanding	25.1	25	Expressive	Production	25.1	25	Receptive	Understanding	25.1
26	Receptive	Understanding	26.1	26	Expressive	Production	26.1	26	Receptive	Understanding	26.1
27	Receptive	Understanding	27.1	27	Expressive	Production	27.1	27	Receptive	Understanding	27.1
28	Receptive	Understanding	28.1	28	Expressive	Production	28.1	28	Receptive	Understanding	28.1
29	Receptive	Understanding	29.1	29	Expressive	Production	29.1	29	Receptive	Understanding	29.1
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36	Receptive	Understanding	36.1	36	Expressive	Production	36.1	36	Receptive	Understanding	36.1
37	Receptive	Understanding	37.1	37	Expressive	Production	37.1	37	Receptive	Understanding	37.1
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46	Receptive	Understanding	46.1	46	Expressive	Production	46.1	46	Receptive	Understanding	46.1
47	Receptive	Understanding	47.1	47	Expressive	Production	47.1	47	Receptive	Understanding	47.1
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49	Receptive	Understanding	49.1	49	Expressive	Production	49.1	49	Receptive	Understanding	49.1
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51	Receptive	Understanding	51.1	51	Expressive	Production	51.1	51	Receptive	Understanding	51.1
52	Receptive	Understanding	52.1	52	Expressive	Production	52.1	52	Receptive	Understanding	52.1
53	Receptive	Understanding	53.1	53	Expressive	Production	53.1	53	Receptive	Understanding	53.1
54	Receptive	Understanding	54.1	54	Expressive	Production	54.1	54	Receptive	Understanding	54.1
55	Receptive	Understanding	55.1	55	Expressive	Production	55.1	55	Receptive	Understanding	55.1
56	Receptive	Understanding	56.1	56	Expressive	Production	56.1	56	Receptive	Understanding	56.1
57	Receptive	Understanding	57.1	57	Expressive	Production	57.1	57	Receptive	Understanding	57.1
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61	Receptive	Understanding	61.1	61	Expressive	Production	61.1	61	Receptive	Understanding	61.1
62	Receptive	Understanding	62.1	62	Expressive	Production	62.1	62	Receptive	Understanding	62.1
63	Receptive	Understanding	63.1	63	Expressive	Production	63.1	63	Receptive	Understanding	63.1
64	Receptive	Understanding	64.1	64	Expressive	Production	64.1	64	Receptive	Understanding	64.1
65	Receptive	Understanding	65.1	65	Expressive	Production	65.1	65	Receptive	Understanding	65.1
66	Receptive	Understanding	66.1	66	Expressive	Production	66.1	66	Receptive	Understanding	66.1
67	Receptive	Understanding	67.1	67	Expressive	Production	67.1	67	Receptive	Understanding	67.1
68	Receptive	Understanding	68.1	68	Expressive	Production	68.1	68	Receptive	Understanding	68.1
69	Receptive	Understanding	69.1	69	Expressive	Production	69.1	69	Receptive	Understanding	69.1
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75	Receptive	Understanding	75.1	75	Expressive	Production	75.1	75	Receptive	Understanding	75.1
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97	Receptive	Understanding	97.1	97	Expressive	Production	97.1	97	Receptive	Understanding	97.1
98	Receptive	Understanding	98.1	98	Expressive	Production	98.1	98	Receptive	Understanding	98.1
99	Receptive	Understanding	99.1	99	Expressive	Production	99.1	99	Receptive	Understanding	99.1
100	Receptive	Understanding	100.1	100	Expressive	Production	100.1	100	Receptive	Understanding	100.1