



BEESS Weekly Memo



Events Coming Soon

Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) Statewide Math Competition for Students with Visual Impairments (Grades 1-12)

FIMC-VI's fifth annual American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Abacus Math Bee will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville on **October 3, 2026**. Students with visual impairments in grades 1-12 are invited to test their abacus or mental math skills in this regional event. Florida's regional competition will award prizes to the top three scorers in each of five competitive math levels. A family workshop, hands-on STEM activities, lunch and an awards ceremony will be provided at this engaging, educational student and family event. Families of students who are not competing are also invited to join the family workshop and hands-on learning.

By participating in FIMC-VI's regional competition, students also have the opportunity to qualify for APH's National Abacus Bee Finals. The top 30 students from around the country qualify. Each year, up to 30% of students who qualify for the national competition are from Florida. Let's keep it up! Share and learn more about the [Florida APH Abacus Math Bee](#). The student registration deadline is **September 8, 2026**.

Professional Learning

FIN Statewide Sessions 2026-27

FIN is facilitating a series of statewide professional learning and technical assistance sessions for district and school leaders, teachers, and families on the topics listed below. The session dates for each topic are provided for reference, and the registration links are on the attached flyers. Please disseminate the flyers to schools and families in your local educational agency (LEA). The sessions, dates and times (Eastern Time [ET]) are as follows:

- Peers as Partners in Learning (PPL) - Administrators - **August 20, 2026**, from 3 to 4 p.m.;
- School BPIE Assessment FIN - Trained Leader - **August 26 or September 22, 2026**, from 10:30 a.m. to noon;
- State Performance Plan Indicator 5: Educational Environment Data Quality - Full-Time Equivalent Survey Period 2 - **September 10, 2026**, from 10:30 a.m. to noon;

- Collaborative Teaching Partnerships: What Administrators Need to Know - **September 22, 2026**, from 10:30 a.m. to noon;
- Using the Collaborative Teaching Walkthrough Tool - Administrators - **September 24, 2026**, from 10:30 a.m. to noon;
- Family Session 1 – Back to School and Communication Tips - **August 27, 2026**, from noon to 1 p.m.;
- Family Session 2 – BPIE Overview - **September 14, 2026**, from noon to 1 p.m.;
- Family Session 3 – How to Be a Champion for Your Child - **October 14, 2026**, from noon to 1 p.m.;
- Family Session 4 – Executive Functioning Skills - **October 27, 2026**, from noon to 1 p.m.; and
- Family Session 5 – Student Engagement and Homework Tips - **November 17, 2026**, from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information regarding these sessions, see the attached documents or contact the [FIN IDEA-funded state project](#) or a [local FIN facilitator](#).

- Filename: PL Session Registration Q1
- Filename: Statewide Family Series

FIMC-VI Book Study Opportunity for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVIs)

Ready to elevate your practice for students with a visual impairment and complex learning needs? Explore *Sensing & Learning* with colleagues through a year-long Professional Learning Community and book study designed for TSVIs. Strengthen your assessment skills, improve individual educational plans, and connect with fellow teachers. Receive the book at no cost to you, access Moodle resources, and earn up to 14 inservice points. To learn more and to register, go to [Professional Learning Community and Block](#), or contact [Cheri Hart](#) with any questions.

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

The Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RMTC-DHH) Presents: Technical Assistance Live! (TA-Live!): Writing High-Quality Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing!

This interactive webinar series is designed to support teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing (TODHHs) in developing high-quality, data-driven and student-centered IEPs that address the unique needs of learners who are DHH. Webinars will be held virtually on Zoom from 2 to 3 p.m. ET (from 1 to 2 p.m. Central Time). Each webinar will be structured as follows: 30 minutes for focused instruction on the topic (recorded) and 30 minutes for question and answer and live IEP technical assistance (not recorded). The dates and topics are as follows:

- Foundations of Quality IEPs for TODHHs – **September 23, 2026**;
- Writing Strong Present Levels & Measurable Goals – **November 18, 2026**;

- Accommodations, Services, Supports, & Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) – **January 13, 2027**; and
- Progress Monitoring & Data Collection – **April 7, 2027**.

Registration is required for each session. To register for each session, please visit the [TA-Live! webpage](#). For more information, contact [Carmelina Hollingsworth](#).

Informational Items

2025-26 School Year Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program Accountability

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) issued a memorandum regarding [2025-26 school year VPK program accountability](#). See the memo for more information.

United States Department of Education (USED) Grants Ed-Flex Authority to Florida

The FDOE issued a memorandum regarding an [USED Grants Ed-Flex Authority to Florida](#). See the memo for more information.

Tip of the Week

Let Paraprofessional In On Game Plan Each Day

Some teachers might be younger than the paraprofessionals working with them, but that does not mean the paraprofessionals know it all. Foster collaborative relationships with paras by discussing accommodations, class schedules and materials to help implement plans with fidelity. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
850-245-0475



Statewide Professional Learning Sessions (2026-2027)

Audience: District and School Administrators, Leaders and Teachers

Join FIN for one or more statewide professional learning sessions to learn a variety of best practices related supporting students with disabilities using in-class supports.

Register here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ibX2janai3>. Session links will be emailed one week prior to the event. Contact FIN at LSI-FINAdmin@fsu.edu, find your FIN facilitator on the FIN website at www.FIN-Network.org, or call 850-645-7593 with questions.

Peers as Partners in Learning – Administrators

Learn more about the Peers as Partners in Learning program and courses at the middle and high school levels. Hear from others and share your own experiences!

August 20, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EST)

School BPIE Assessment FIN-Trained Leader

Is your school due to complete the School BPIE this year? Then your team leader needs to attend this training to facilitate this process with your school team. This session is repeated on September 22.

August 26, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

State Performance Plan Indicator 5: Educational Environments Data Quality - FTE Survey Period 2

FIN will review the educational environments data elements and calculation of the percentage of time that students with disabilities spend with their peers without disabilities.

September 10, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

School BPIE Assessment FIN-Trained Leader

Is your school due to complete the School BPIE this year? Then your team leader needs to attend this training to facilitate this process with your school team. This is a repeat of the session from August 26.

September 22, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Collaborative Teaching Partnerships - What Administrators Need to Know

Hear the basic elements of how to support teachers who teach together to provide specially designed instruction (SDI) for students with disabilities using in-class models of support.

September 22, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)

Collaborative Teaching Walkthrough Tool - Administrators

Learn how FIN's non-evaluative walkthrough tool is used to provide job-embedded coaching and technical assistance for teacher teams providing SDI using in-class models of support.

September 24, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EST)



Statewide Family Series – Fall 2026-2027

Join FIN for a series of statewide family sessions to learn about ways to support students with disabilities at home and in the least restrictive environment (LRE) at school.

Register here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ne0i5M30P5>. You will receive an email link for the session one week prior to the event.

Session 1 – Back to School and Communication Tips

August 27, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Session 2 – BPIE Overview

September 14, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Session 3 – How to Be a Champion for Your Child

October 14, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Session 4 – Executive Functioning Skills

October 27, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Session 5 – Student Engagement and Homework Tips

November 17, 2026 - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Additional dates and topics will be provided throughout the year. Please check the FIN website for updates at www.FIN-Network.org. Contact FIN at LSI-FINAdmin@fsu.edu or call 850-645-7593 with questions.

FIN is an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project by Florida Department of Education, Division of K-12 Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services.

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



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

The RICE matrix is a 7x7 grid used for prioritizing tasks. The rows represent Impact (1-7) and the columns represent Effort (1-7). The cells are color-coded based on their priority: Not Used (white), Emerging (yellow), Matured (orange), and Supported (grey). A red arrow points to item 13, 'New mobile app', which is categorized as High Impact, Medium Effort, and High Priority.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
5	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
6	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
7	43	44	45	46	47	48	49