



[BEESS Weekly Memo](#)



Rule Updates

Notice of Proposed Rule

This rule revision is scheduled for the State Board of Education meeting on **October 14, 2026**:

- [Rule 6A-4.0051](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate

To view the above-mentioned final proposed rule and submit comments, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review](#).

Events Coming Soon

Learning Ally Race to Read

The Learning Ally Race to Read is running from now until **October 30, 2026**. Help your student's build strong reading habits using Learning Ally's engaging audiobook platform. Take advantage of all the available resources and the chance to win a set of earbuds to energize your classroom and motivate at-home learners. No registration is required.

To participate, go to the [Learning Ally Educator Portal](#) and log in. The Race to Read message will direct you on how to access resources, track reading progress and keep your student's motivated. For questions, contact Dr. Martaluz Pozo at mpozo@learningally.org.

Action Items

2027 Art in the Capital Competition

The FDOE issued a memorandum regarding [2027 Art in the Capital Competition](#). Districts must submit the winning piece of art to their legislator by **January 1, 2027**. See the memo for more information.

Job Vacancies

Position Available in FIN (Region 1 – Job ID#63248)

FIN, an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project, is seeking a FIN facilitator in the Florida Panhandle. The FIN facilitator will work in a regional capacity to serve the following districts: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, FAMU Lab School, Franklin, FSU Bay, FSU Lab School, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Tallahassee Collegiate Academy, Walton, Washington, and Wakulla. The application is open until position is filled. To view the full job description and apply, go to the [FSU Jobs](#) webpage.

To learn more about FIN, go to the [FIN](#) webpage. For questions, contact Kelly Claude and JaSheena Ekhtor at lsi-finadmin@fsu.edu.

Informational Items

2026 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Leadership Summit

BEESS hosted the first ever ESE Leadership Summit, Building Excellence in Exceptional Education, on September 15 and 16, 2026, in Orlando. The Summit strengthened the capacity of school and district ESE leaders to **increase student achievement** for students with disabilities through high-quality instruction, effective implementation of the IDEA Part B, data-driven decision-making, and meaningful collaboration.

Along with presentations from BEESS staff from Dispute Resolution and Monitoring, Instructional Support Services, Program Accountability, Assessment and Data Systems, and Student Support Services, the following presentations were also offered:

- Leading Florida Forward: Priorities for Exceptional Education;
- Cognitive Science of Learning;
- Collaborating with a Purpose: Solving Problems of Practice Together;
- Strengthening Understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B Child Find Responsibilities;
- Supporting Students with Disabilities Through Specially Designed Instruction; and
- A Student Perspective on Leadership and Resiliency (presented by Jacob Orellana).

BEESS would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Jacob for providing a valuable student leadership perspective during his well-received session. His insights and experiences enriched the conversation and offered a meaningful reminder of the importance of elevating and including student voices in our work. We also extend our gratitude to Yvonne Leon of Miami-Dade County Public Schools for her support and contributions to the success of the ESE Leadership Summit. BEESS is equally grateful to the Florida Diagnostic Learning and Resources System Administration, particularly Dr. Alexandra Kanellis, for coordinating the event, as well as to all of our Expo partners whose participation and support helped make the Summit a success. Finally, we appreciate our continued collaboration with the Bureau of School Improvement and were

honored to welcome our special guests, including 2027 Florida Teacher of the Year Kyndall Brown. The collective support, partnership and participation of everyone involved contributed to a meaningful and successful ESE Leadership Summit.

Below is a picture of (from left to right) Dusty Sims, Lead State Executive Director, Bureau of School Improvement; Kyndall Brown, 2027 Florida Teacher of the Year; Jacob Orellana, Student Leader; Yvonne Leon, Miami-Dade ESE Director; Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement; and Patricia Bodiford, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services.



State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Information Collection Request Posted for 30-Day Public Comment

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) published two Information Collection Requests (ICRs) for public comment in the Federal Register. With these requests, the Department is proposing to revise the approved information collections and to establish a new six-year cycle for SPP/APRs covering Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 through FFY 2031. Changes proposed to the present ICRs are aimed at more closely aligning Federal monitoring mechanisms (such as the SPP/APR) to the IDEA's statutory requirements and increasing transparency and would go into effect with the States' FFY 2026 SPP/APRs to be submitted in February 2028. The proposed changes also reflect priorities to collect and disseminate meaningful data, improve outcomes and increase parent choice. For more information, use the following Part C and Part B links:

- [1820-0578 IDEA Part C State Performance Plan \(SPP\) and Annual Performance Report \(APR\)](#)
- [1820-0624 IDEA Part B State Performance Plan \(SPP\) and Annual Performance Report \(APR\)](#)

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which includes the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), is committed to improving early childhood, educational and employment outcomes, and to raising expectations for all people with disabilities, their families, their communities and the nation. A key responsibility of OSEP is to ensure States' compliance with IDEA. The Department invites public comment on the proposed revisions and the directed questions by **October 15, 2026**.

Provide Clean Copies of Amended Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)

A BIP full of strike-throughs and handwritten additions is not just hard to follow; it also creates confusion about when certain changes took effect. Prepare a clean copy of the BIP after each amendment to eliminate guesswork and ensure that school staff understand the student's interventions going forward. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief