



Weekly Memo



Rule Activity

Notices of Proposed Rule

These rule revisions are scheduled for the State Board of Education meeting on **November 13, 2025**. To view the following final proposed rules and submit comments, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review](#):

- Rule [6A-1.09401](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Student Performance Standards
- Rule [6A-1.09412](#), F.A.C., Course Requirements - Grades K-12 Basic and Adult Secondary Programs
- Rule [6A-1.09414](#), F.A.C., Course Requirements - Grades PK-12 Exceptional Student Education
- Rule [6A-3.0171](#), F.A.C., Responsibilities of School Districts for Student Transportation
- Rule [6A-6.0571](#), F.A.C., Career and Technical Education and Adult General Education Standards and Industry-Driven Benchmarks

Events Coming Soon

Learning Ally Spotlight on Dyslexia (SPOD) Diving Deeper Series

Learning Ally invites you to an exclusive, interactive, follow-up session with Dr. Tim Odegard, a leading expert in dyslexia research and a pivotal member of the International Dyslexia Association Definition Committee. This virtual event will take place on **November 5, 2025**, at 4:00 p.m. Visit the [SPOD Diving Deeper Series](#) event web page for more information and to register.

2025 Fall Intellectual Disabilities (InD) Virtual Contacts' Meetings

The Access Project has scheduled meeting dates for InD contacts for district coordinators. These meetings will be held virtually for size-alike districts. Small districts will be on **November 4, 2025**; medium districts on **November 5, 2025**; and large/very large districts on **November 6, 2025**. All participants must register to attend. For more information and to register see the attached file.

- Filename: 2025-26 Virtual InD Meetings

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Annual Statewide Conference

CARD invites you to the 33rd Annual CARD Statewide Conference in Orlando, **January 16 through 18, 2026**, and on **January 15, 2026**, the state lead for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) from FDOE will present the latest statewide data at the annual district contacts' meeting. This is Florida's largest autism-related conference featuring 55 sessions and more than 73 professional presenters, connecting autism research with practical strategies for 900 to 1,200 professionals and families. Visit the [CARD Conference](#) web page for more information and to register.

Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) 2026 Winter Leadership Institute

The Florida CASE 2026 Winter Leadership Institute will be held from **January 20 to 22, 2026**, in Altamonte Springs. The deadline to make hotel reservations is **January 5, 2026**. See the [Florida CASE 2026 Winter Leadership Institute](#) web page for conference and hotel registration information and the attached flyers for the draft agenda and the list of featured speakers. For questions, contact Dr. Rosalind Hall at drrosalind1@gmail.com.

- Filename: CASE 2026 Winter Conference Draft Agenda
- Filename: 2026 Winter CASE Meet the Speakers

If interested in purchasing a T-shirt to celebrate 50 years of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), visit the [CASE 2026 Winter Leadership Institute T-Shirt Opportunity](#) web page.

Action Items

Share Your Input for the January 2026 ASD Contacts' Meeting

The FDOE state lead for ASD and CARD are planning the upcoming ASD District Contacts' Meeting and want your feedback. Take a few minutes to complete [this short survey](#) to share what topics, data or resources you would like included in the January 2026 meeting. Your input will help shape the agenda and ensure the content meets district and educator needs. The deadline to submit the survey is **November 21, 2025**.

Informational Items

Call for District Reviewers for 2025-26 Florida Instructional Materials Adoption

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding a [call for reviewers for the 2025-26 instructional materials adoption](#). See the memo for more information.

Gifted Education Week in Florida

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [Gifted Education Week in Florida](#). See the memo for more information.

The Florida Low Vision Initiative (FLVI) Newsletter

FLVI, an IDEA-funded state project, through Florida Supportive Services for Students with Visual Impairments, is accepting referrals for the 2025-26 school year. Low vision services are also available to students with low vision, prekindergarten four-year olds through eighth grade, who receive direct instruction from a teacher of students with visual impairments, as documented in the student's individual educational plan (IEP).

FLVI participants:

- Receive a no-cost, comprehensive low vision evaluation;
- Are eligible to receive glasses and a wide variety of portable optical aids, when prescribed for specific low vision needs; and
- Receive training in the use of glasses and portable optical aids.

To request services from FLVI, go to [FLVI Request for Services 2025-26](#). To learn more about the services and instructional support provided by FLVI, visit the [LiveBinders resource platform](#). For questions, contact Kim Roberts at kmroberts@fsu.edu.

Special Ed Connection®

BEESS provides all local educational agencies (LEAs) with access to Special Ed Connection® at www.specialedconnection.com at no cost. Special Ed Connection® is your one-stop-shop for:

- Best practices to meet legal and regulatory mandates;
- Helping you tackle everyday compliance issues;
- Ready-to-use charts, checklists and professional development tools to guide and train staff;
- Case-based insights to help staff avoid missteps that lead to litigation; and
- Insights from special education, Section 504 and response-to-intervention experts.

If you need your login information or would like to schedule a webinar for your staff contact the Special Ed Connection® Help Desk/Training Team at specialedconnection@lrp.com.

LRP Direct Specialized Training for Education Professionals (Direct Step) Courses

BEESS is pleased to offer districts access to a variety of LRP Direct Specialized Training for Education Professionals (Direct Step) Courses regarding exceptional student education (ESE) compliance requirements. These courses are provided to further strengthen the quality and understanding of services available to eligible students with disabilities in the state of Florida. Please plan to utilize this resource throughout your district by integrating these offerings into your professional learning options. You are encouraged to forward the attached documents to district staff. For questions or concerns, contact your BEESS-assigned dispute resolution liaison or email BEESScomplaints@fldoe.org.

- Direct Steps LRP Courses Available
- FDOE LRP Instructions

BEESS Contacts for Updates to LEA ESE Staff

BEESS requests ESE directors to contact the following BEESS staff for updates to staff contacts:

- Program Accountability, Assessment & Data Systems ShareFile: Del Caceres at Deliris.Caceres@fldoe.org
- Dispute Resolution and Monitoring ShareFile: Aubrey Willis at Aubrey.Willis@fldoe.org
- ESE Directors' listserv: Department of Education – BEESS at DOEBEESS@fldoe.org

Consider a 1:1 Aide for a Child Who Elopes

Eloping is especially serious for a student who lacks the ability to avoid danger. Dedicated supervision may not always be necessary, but the IEP team should consider and discuss it as one option to keep the student safe during the school day. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief



Access Project has scheduled the 2025-2026 Intellectual Disabilities (InD) contact meetings for district coordinators. These meetings are intended to support district level staff through collaborative discussions between size alike districts. Meetings are being held virtually through Zoom.

Fall Meeting Schedule

Group	Date	Registration Link
Small Districts	November 4, 2025	https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/req/8ajtciy
Medium Districts	November 5, 2025	https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/req/cea4kxd
Large/Very Large Districts	November 6, 2025	https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/req/smygatt

Spring Meeting Save-the-Date

Group	Date
Small Districts	April 7, 2026
Medium Districts	April 8, 2026
Large/Very Large Districts	April 9, 2026

Each participant should register using the provided links. Districts may send multiple representatives.

[Florida DOE Size Alike Map.](#)

We look forward to seeing you!

Jeff Pruitt, Project Manager:

Jeff@accesstofls.org



DRAFT

FLORIDA CASE 2026 Winter Leadership Institute

January 20-22, 2026

Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs
350 Northlake Blvd
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-5297

Florida CASE Winter Leadership Institute 2026

“Celebrating 50 Years of IDEA-Honor the Past and Shape the Future”

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

1:00 PM- 1:10 PM	Welcome-
1:10 PM- 2:30 PM	Special Education Law Update
2:30 PM-3:00 PM	Refreshment Break/ Gallery Walk
3:00 PM-4:30 PM	Special Education Law Update
4:30 PM	Adjourn

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

7:00AM - 8:30AM	Breakfast Buffet
8:00-8:15 AM	Welcome-
8:15-9:15 AM	“Keynote Speaker”
9:15AM-10:00AM	Break, Gallery Walk, and Networking
10:00AM-11:30AM	“National ESE Legal/Law”
11:30AM-12:45PM	Luncheon
12:50PM-1:50PM	“National ESE Legal/Law”
1:50PM-2:15PM	Networking
2:30PM-4:00 PM	“ESE Discipline Procedures”
4:00 PM	Adjourn

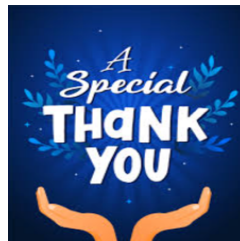
Florida CASE Winter Leadership Institute 2026

“Celebrating 50 Years of IDEA-Honor the Past and Shape the Future”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

7:00AM - 8:15AM	Breakfast Buffet and Networking
8:15AM – 9:15 AM	Florida Bills & Legislation
9:15AM – 9:45 AM	Break/Check-Out
9:45 AM- 11:45 AM	Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) Updates
11:45-11:50 PM	Grand Prize Giveaway
11:50 PM-12:00 Noon	Closing remarks

SAVE THE DATE:
Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute
June 8-11, 2026
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa



FLORIDA CASE 2026 WINTER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FEATURED SPEAKERS



Julie J. Weatherly, Esq. is the Founder of RISE, Inc. located in Mobile, Alabama and has been working with school agencies in the area of special education law since 1986. RISE is a full-service legal and consulting business designed to assist educational agencies in the avoidance and resolution of special education legal disputes arising under the IDEA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the ADA and other applicable laws. Julie is a graduate of Presbyterian College and the University Georgia School of Law. She is a member of the State Bars of Alabama and Georgia and provides consultative and/or legal services to school agencies primarily in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, as well as on a national basis.



Manuel "Dr. Manny" Ferrer has spent his life building bridges between classrooms and communities, education and entrepreneurship, and past struggles and future opportunities. Recognized as a Chappie James Most Promising Teacher and a two-time Teacher of the Year, Dr. Ferrer began his journey by advocating for his brother during IEP meetings at just 16 years old while in high school. That experience ignited a career defined by advocacy and leadership. He served with distinction as both a teacher and administrator, before transitioning into the private sector with leading special education companies, and as a longstanding partner of Florida CASE. Today, Dr. Ferrer is an entrepreneur, best-selling author of *Breaking the Bell™*, and trusted advisor helping leaders reimagine education, sales, and opportunity for the next 50 years.



Amy J. Pitsch earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Rochester and her Juris Doctor from Florida State University College of Law. Based in Orlando, she practices Education and School Law, representing school districts and educational institutions across Florida. Her work focuses on special education (ESE and Section 504), student discipline, policies and procedures, and related legal matters. Ms. Pitsch regularly represents clients before the Florida Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, and in state and federal courts. She provides staff trainings, hearing officer services for expulsion and Section 504 cases, and expert witness services in attorneys' fees disputes. In addition, she has extensive experience defending civil rights claims under Title VII, the ADA, the ADEA, and the Florida Civil Rights Act.

FLORIDA CASE 2026 WINTER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Dawn Clayton currently serves as the Director for Academic Intervention Programs within Sarasota County Schools. Previously, Dawn served as Principal at Emma E. Booker, a Title I school in Sarasota, Florida. Under Dawn's leadership, the school grade increased, and the learning gains were amongst the best in district. Prior to her Principalship, Dawn spent 5 years as an Assistant Principal, also in Sarasota County, where she developed a love for working with special needs children. In 1995, Dawn earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from The City College of New York. She spent the next 8 years as an elementary teacher and earning two advanced degrees. In May of 2016, Dawn earned an Educational Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. Dawn is most proud of her two children! Arianna, age 21 is in college and David, age 11 is a proud 6 th grader! They are both making her proud each day!



Bob Cerra is a 33-year lobbyist for public school interests. For the past 27 years, he has been the Chairman and CEO of Cerra Consulting Group, Inc. a partnership between his brother, John Cerra and himself. They have represented dozens of school districts directly over the years and represented several groups closely specializing in student services and Exceptional Student Education over the years. Bob is currently the lobbyist for the North East Florida Educational Consortium, the Florida Association of School Psychologists and Flagler Schools. He is an expert on the school finance formula in Florida, education policy and in particular, exceptional student education issues.



We are pleased to introduce the new bureau chief for the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES), Patricia Bodiford. Throughout her career in education, Patricia has dedicated herself to increasing student achievement and outcomes for all of Florida's students with disabilities. She served as a paraprofessional for four years and then as a high school exceptional student education (ESE) teacher in Wakulla County Schools for 13 years before joining BEES. Patricia has been in various roles in BEES, first as a program specialist, then an educational program director and most recently as a senior educational program director. Patricia has a deep commitment to building capacity in BEES and providing timely service and support throughout the state. BEES is grateful to have her leadership in this new role.

DIRECT STEPS LRP COURSES:

330000 - Identifying Disabilities to Determine IDEA Eligibility

330001 - Child Find: Understanding IDEA Provisions and Responsibilities

330003 - Postsecondary Transition: IDEA Requirements for Processes, Procedures and Implementation

330005 - Required Components For Compliant IEPs

330006 - Least Restrictive Environment: What Teachers Need to Know

330007 - Independent Educational Evaluations: Responsibilities and Procedures

330009 - Guidelines for IEP Team Composition

330012 - Conducting Compliant IEP Team Meetings

330013 - Evaluations and Reevaluations – Purposes, Standards and Procedures

330016 - Legal Requirements and Practical Tips to Develop Measurable Annual IEP Goals

330018 - Legal Requirements and Best Practices for Prior Written Notice

330020 - Practical Strategies and IDEA Requirements for Developing IEPs

330023 - When to Review and How to Revise IEPs to Stay Compliant

330026 - IEP Implementation Strategies to Be IDEA Compliant

330030 - Requirements and Strategies to Facilitate Parental Participation in IEPs

330036 - Discipline and Placement Changes for Students With Disabilities Who Exhibit Violent Behavior

330038 - Developing and Implementing Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans

330046 - Eligibility and Development of a Student's Extended School Year Services

330047 - Early Intervention Services: Facilitating Transition From IDEA Part C to Part B

330058 - Meeting IDEA Requirements When Serving Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

330060 - Using a Trauma-Informed Approach to Develop More Effective IEPs

330061 - Legal Requirements & Practical Considerations for Identifying & Evaluating Specific Learning Disabilities

330062 - Evaluation, Eligibility, and IEP Development for Students with Autism

330065 - Collecting and Using Data to Improve IEPs, BIPs, and Section 504 Plans

330066 - Students with Autism and One-to-One Aides; Best Practices for Educators

330069 - Dispute Resolution and Available Remedies Under the IDEA

330074 - Exiting Students from Special Education: Graduation, Aging-out, Ineligibility, and Revocation of Consent

330078 - IEP, 504 and MDR Meetings: Guidance for Staff Who Are New to Special Education

330080 - Communicating with Parents: Tips and Strategies for Teachers

330088 - Predetermination in the IEP Process: What it is and How to Avoid it

330090 - Serving Parentally Placed Private School Students with Disabilities: Understanding Your District's IDEA Obligations

Instructions for accessing LRP trainings

Instructions for self-registration on the FDOE DirectSTEP® eLearning platform:

1. Go to [HTTP://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM](http://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM).
2. Read the “Is This Your First Time Here?” section located on the right side of the screen.
3. Click the “Create new account” button.
4. Create a username (Recommended format: John Sample = jsample).
5. Create a password (Recommended format : J#sample1). **Please write down your username and password and keep it somewhere secure for future reference. This information will NOT be emailed to you after you register.**
6. Enter your email address, first and last name.
7. Enter the letters/numbers pictured in the reCAPTCHA image. **If your web browser does not display a reCAPTCHA image, try a different web browser or contact your IT department.*
8. Click the “Create my new account” button.
9. You will receive a confirmation e-mail with a link to the website.

Instructions for taking a DirectSTEP® eLearning course:

1. Log in to [HTTP://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM](http://FLDOE2022-DS.LRP.COM) using the username and password you created.
2. Select the course you have been assigned to complete.
3. Click the course link again (next to the icon of a gold box.)
4. Click the “Enter” button to begin taking the course.
5. You can use the arrow icons to move through the slides in the lower left hand corner of the slide player.
6. When you reach the Final Assessment, you will need to click the “submit” button after you select an answer. You will be directed to a new window which will inform you whether or not you answered each question correctly. You will need to score an 80% or higher to pass.
7. When you have completed the assessment, it is important that you click the **“Exit Activity”** link in the upper right hand corner of your screen to get credit for completing the course and to record your grade.
8. Your “Course Completion Certificate” link will now be active. If you are required to print a Completion Certificate, you may do so from this page.