



Weekly Memo

Rule Activity

Notices of Rule Development

To view available drafts and submit comments for the following rules, go to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) [State Board Rules Under Review web page](#):

- Rule [6A-1.09401](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Student Performance Standards
- Rule [6A-4.0051](#), F.A.C., Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate

Events Coming Soon

Para-to-Teacher Support Program

Does your district or school have paraprofessionals who would make great exceptional student education teachers? The Para-to-Teacher Support Program will hold a virtual question-and-answer session on **November 14, 2024**, at 6 p.m. EST. Dr. Keri Fogle, program director, will discuss funding opportunities for paraprofessionals with an associate degree, the equivalent number of college credit hours, or a bachelor's degree in a noneducation field. The Para-to-Teacher Support Program is an Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA)-funded state project whose grant program has supported nearly 300 paraprofessionals to earn their degrees to become special education teachers throughout Florida. For further information, requirements, and colleges or universities where paraprofessionals can receive financial support while earning their initial certification in special education, please visit the [Para to Teacher Tuition Support for Exceptional Student Educators website](#). To request the Zoom link for the virtual session, contact paratoteach@uwf.edu.

Working With the Experts: Visually Impaired (VI) – Technology for Students with Visual Impairments

The Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) is offering “Working with the Experts – VI: Technology for Students with Visual Impairments” on **December 12-13, 2024**, in Orlando. Whether you are ready to learn basic JAWS skills or refine them, you will not want to miss the Fall Working with the Experts, which will focus on JAWS and refreshable braille displays. There will be a variety of presenters to provide sessions that will feature an introduction

to intermediate screen-reader skills, hands-on exploration of various refreshable braille displays and more. To learn more and to register, go to the [FIMC-VI Working with the Experts Fall 2024 website](#). For questions, contact Tiffany Conrad at tconrad@fimcvi.org.

Professional Learning

Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RMTCDHH) – Listening and Spoken Language Strategies: Thinking Outside the [Theme] Box

RMTCDHH is excited to offer *Listening and Spoken Language Strategies: Thinking Outside the [Theme] Box* on **February 21-22, 2024**, face-to-face in Panama City Beach. This professional learning opportunity is a collaboration between RMTCDHH and the University of Central Florida Listening Center. This day-and-a-half collaborative event will include hands-on activities where the participants will leave with tools and resources that can be implemented in their instructional practice the following workday. For more information and to register, go to the [Listening and Spoken Language Strategies: Thinking Outside the \[Theme\] Box registration page](#). For questions, contact Gwen Black at Gwen.Black@fldoe.org or Carmelina Hollingsworth at c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org.

Job Vacancies

Positions Available in the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) PAEC Associate Center

FDLRS PAEC, an IDEA-funded state project, is seeking specialists for the areas of human resource development and/or technology. FDLRS PAEC serves the districts of Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Walton and Washington. The application deadline is open until filled. To view the full job description and apply, go to [PAEC Jobs web page](#). For questions, contact Toyka Holden at Toyka.Holden@paec.org.

Position Available with FDLRS Crown

FDLRS, an IDEA-funded state project, is seeking a school psychologist. This is a 12-month position that will support Duval, Clay and Nassau counties with evaluating children ages 3 to 5 to see if they are eligible for special education services. The application deadline is October 3, 2024. To view the full job description and apply, go to the [Duval County Public Schools Job Listings web page](#). For questions, contact Henry Schmitges, FDLRS Crown supervisor, at schmitges@duvalschools.org.

Announcing the New Summer Bridge Program

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [announcing the new Summer Bridge Program](#).

New BEESS Team Members

Hope Florida

BEESS would like to welcome the following new Hope Navigators:

Lakisha Williamson received her certification in Early Childhood Development, Education and Management from Tallahassee State College, which provided her with opportunities to be active in some great positions in the classroom and behind the scenes, specifically, as an owner of “Serenity,” a 24-hour home childcare, and supporting Hope Florida at The Department of Children and Families, which allowed for countless experiences assisting children and helping families. Ms. Williamson’s aspirations are to guide Floridians on an individualized path to proficiency and economic self-sufficiency by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based community, non-profits and government entities to break down traditional community silos, maximizing support and uncovering opportunities. A fun fact about Ms. Williamson is that she is a “foodie” and her family loves to cook and eat all different types of food.

Juani Anderson has worked in the social services field for several years; including being a child welfare case manager since 2006. She has a passion for helping others, and it gives her joy to see others succeed. Ms. Anderson recently celebrated her 53rd birthday in Las Vegas. She has an amazing 4-year-old grandson and enjoys butterflies. Ms. Anderson is excited and honored to be part of the Hope Florida team in BEESS.

Asia Jarmon is a graduate of Florida A&M University where she earned a master’s degree in social work. Previously, Ms. Jarmon worked with the Department of Children and Families as an adult protective investigator, providing essential services for vulnerable adults in need and has also had experience in the beauty industry as a lash technician. Outside of work, Ms. Jarmon is a dedicated “cheer mom, loves spending time with her family, and spending time at the gym.

Derius Whiten is excited to be a part of the Hope Florida team. He is a graduate of Florida State University and has been a part of BEESS as an administrative secretary for the Dispute Resolution and Monitoring Unit. He is incredibly excited for the opportunity to provide resources to those who need them and to continue his journey as a life-long learner in this new position.

Collect Paraprofessional Input Before a Manifestation Determination Review

A paraprofessional who works with a student individually or in a small-group setting may be able to pick up on behavior triggers more than other educators. Make it a habit to collect behavior-related input from one-to-one or classroom paraprofessionals before conducting a manifestation determination review. ([Special Ed Connection](#)[®])

Alice Schmitges
Bureau Chief