



## Weekly Memo

### Events Coming Soon

#### **Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) 2025 Winter Leadership Institute**

Florida CASE 2025 Winter Leadership Institute will be from **January 28 to 30, 2025**, at The Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs. Registration and hotel reservations are open. To register, go to [Florida CASE 2025 Winter Leadership Institute registration](#). To make hotel reservations, go to [FL CASE Winter 2025](#). Note that the deadline to make hotel reservations is **January 14, 2025**. You are encouraged to make your hotel reservations expeditiously as there are a limited number of rooms.

### Professional Learning

#### **Virtual Professional Learning Opportunities from the Florida and Virgin Islands (FAVI) Deaf-Blind Collaborative**

The FAVI Deaf-Blind Collaborative is hosting a workshop designed to help moms, families, friends and professionals understand the issues that may impact a father's involvement in his children's lives. This event will be held on **December 10, 2024**, from 10 a.m. to noon EST. For more information and to register, go to [Online Event: Involving Dads](#).

The FAVI Deaf-Blind Collaborative is also offering a series of Meet Open Hands Open Access (OHOA) Deaf-Blind Intervener Learning Modules for educators seeking professional learning on deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities and effective intervention. For more information and to register, go to [Professional Learning: Meet OHOA](#).

For more information on these professional learning opportunities, contact Shelly Voelker at [shellyv@ufl.edu](mailto:shellyv@ufl.edu).

## Action Items

### Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI) Annual Census

The Annual Census, conducted by FIMC-VI, will begin on **December 9, 2024**. Directors of exceptional student education will receive an email with instructions for accessing the online system to authorize district personnel to complete the census. This first step of the process must be completed by **December 31, 2024**. From **January 6 to February 1, 2025**, the census will be open for authorized district personnel (typically teachers of the visually impaired) to update student records. Visit the [Past Events](#) webpage of FIMC-VI's website to watch the [FIMC-VI Info and Updates Part 2 Webinar](#) recording. For more information about student eligibility, registration requirements, or the online process, contact Liz Anderson at [eanderson@fimcvi.org](mailto:eanderson@fimcvi.org) or Kathee Cagle at [kcagle@fimcvi.org](mailto:kcagle@fimcvi.org), or visit the [FIMC-VI website](#).

### Call for District Reviewers for the 2024-25 Florida Instructional Materials Adoption

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has issued a memorandum regarding a [call for district reviewers for English Language Arts, K-12; and English Language Arts Intervention Materials, K-3](#). The district review period will be from **January 3 to 24, 2025**. Individuals seeking to participate must follow the registration instructions in the memo.

### Commissioner's Academic Challenge (CAC)

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [2024 CAC, Florida's official high school academic tournament](#). The competition is scheduled to be held from **April 24 to 26, 2025**, in Orlando. To register your team, follow the instructions in the memo.

## Informational Items

### Learning Ally Updates

The Great Reading Games (GRG) Competition starts on **January 6, 2024**, but December Boost-Up Points are a great way to get students to read during the busy holiday season and upcoming break. Visit the [GRG Guidelines](#) webpage for more information and the [GRG Florida recommended book list](#) to help students find new choice titles.

Learning Ally Audiobooks are a great resource to help meet the needs of all students in the general classroom while differentiating instruction. For questions or support, schedule time with [Dr. Martaluz Rodriguez Pozo](#).

### Restraint Data for October 2024 is Now Available

October 2024 data for restraint incidents submitted to the Involuntary Examination, Restraint, and Seclusion (known as IERS) web application is now available. The data have been posted to the [Program Accountability, Assessments & Data Systems web page](#) and can be located by scrolling down to the section titles "SWD Restraint Data – SY 2024-25," and selecting the appropriate month. Pursuant to section 1003.573(8), Florida Statutes, "The department shall maintain aggregate data of incidents of restraint and disaggregate the data for analysis by county,

school, student exceptionality, and other variables, including the type and method of restraint used. This information shall be updated monthly, deidentified, and made available to the public through the department's website."

### **Adoption of New Rule 6A-5.078, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Professional Learning Requirements as a Condition for Certificate Reactivation**

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the adoption of [Rule 6A-5.078, F.A.C., Professional Learning Requirements as a Condition for Certificate Reactivation](#).

## Tip of the Week

### **Meet More Regularly to Fine Tune Inclusion**

A student with a disability who is new to inclusion may require changes to his individual educational plan (IEP) more than annually at first. The IEP team may need to meet to discuss adding or reducing services or changing accommodations or goals to make sure he succeeds in the least restrictive environment. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

***Alice Schmitges***  
***Bureau Chief***