



[BEESS Weekly Memo](#)



Events Coming Soon

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

CARD invites you to the 33rd Annual CARD Statewide Conference in Orlando from **January 16 to 18, 2026**. On **January 15, 2026**, the state lead for autism spectrum disorder from the Florida Department of Education (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.

Action Items

Exceptional Student Evaluation Program Request for Application (RFA) Submission

The due date for the RFA submission is **December 15, 2025**. All required documents must be submitted by this date for review and approval. Please complete the DOE-101 as stated in the communication sent to exceptional student education (ESE) directors on December 10, 2025.

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

The Annual Census began on December 1, 2025, and an email was sent to ESE directors with instructions for accessing the FIMC-VI portal to manage the approval of users within their local educational agency (LEA). This first step of the process must be completed by **December 31, 2025**. From January 1 to 31, 2026, the Annual Census will be open for authorized LEA staff to register new students and update student records. No students may be registered from February 1 to 7, 2026. We recommend that staff watch the recording of the [FIMC-VI Info and Updates Part 2 Webinar](#), which addresses the new process for completing the Annual Census in the FIMC-VI portal.

The Annual Census allows the State of Florida to calculate the number of students with visual impairments registered in LEAs and receive funding from the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. The Act to Promote the Education of the Blind authorizes an annual appropriation for the American Printing House for the Blind to produce and distribute educational materials adapted for

students who are visually impaired and enrolled in formal educational programs below the college level. The production and distribution of these tangible educational materials are done at no cost to the LEAs where students are registered. For more information about student eligibility, registration requirements or the online process, contact Liz Anderson at eanderson@fimcvi.org, or Tiffany Conrad at tconrad@fimcvi.org, or visit the [FIMC-VI web page](#).

Civics Seal of Excellence Endorsement Course

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [Civics Seal of Excellence Endorsement Course](#). Registration will be open on **January 7, 2026**. Please see the memo for more information.

Job Vacancies

Position Available with the Access Project

The Access Project, an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-funded state project, is seeking an assistant coordinator to assist the Access Project director with planning, developing and coordinating activities to support local, regional and statewide stakeholders with the teaching and learning of Access Points. To apply, visit the [Florida Atlantic University Careers](#) web page.

Informational Items

Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0 Office Hours Update

Reminder to ESE directors: The Tier 3 office hours are scheduled on an as-needed basis. The BEESS monitoring activity lead will contact the LEA to schedule any necessary calls for Tier 3. As such, the Tier 3 Office Hours call scheduled for December 23, 2025, will **not** be held.

Educator Certification Rule Amendments

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [educator certification rule amendments](#). Please see the memo for more information.

Revisions to Rule 6A-5.067, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Teacher Apprenticeship Program

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding the [revisions to Rule 6A-5.067, F.A.C.](#) Please see the memo for more information.

Amendments to 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 and Rule 6A-1.09414, F.A.C., Course Requirements - Grades PreK-12 Exceptional Student Education

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [amendments to Rules 6A-1.09401 and 6A-1.09412, F.A.C.](#) Please 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 (VIs), 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 VIs, 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.

Tip of the Week

Ask Parents Why They Want a Particular Service

To help show parents are included in the IEP development process, district team members can ask why parents believe a student needs a particular service or support they are seeking (such as a one-to-one aide). This can help districts better understand the student's needs while limiting predetermination claims. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Patricia Bodiford
Bureau Chief