



Weekly Memo

Events Coming Soon

2024 Florida Educators of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference—Exploring the Stars: Empowering Deaf Education Through Cosmic Connections

We are over the moon about the upcoming 2024 Florida Educators of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing annual conference. Returning to Gainesville, we are excited to announce our keynote speaker, Johanna Lucht, the first NASA engineer who is deaf. Join us for an inspiring and informative event dedicated to advancing education and opportunities for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The conference will be on **November 8 and 9, 2024**. Visit [FEDHH Registration](#) to register for this conference.

Action Items

2025 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership and the 2025 Outstanding Assistant Principal Achievement Award Nominations

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has issued a memorandum regarding [2025 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership and the 2025 Outstanding Assistant Principal Achievement Award Nominations](#). Nomination materials for your district's nominees must be submitted by **December 9, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

2025 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year Nominations

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [2025 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year Nominations](#). Nomination materials for your district's nominee must be submitted by **December 9, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

2026 Florida Teacher of the Year Nominations

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [2026 Florida Teacher of the Year Nominations](#). Nomination materials for your district's nominee must be submitted by **February 10, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program Request for Application (RFA) and Allocation

The FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program Request for Application \(RFA\) and Allocation](#) and attachment A, [Request for Application \(RFA Discretionary\)](#). The application deadline is **November 1, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

Professional Learning

FIMC-VI and an Introduction to Desmos Accessibility

Join FIMC-VI and Steve Clower, accessibility specialist, from Desmos Studio for an introduction to the online Desmos calculators. Participants will learn the available accessibility functions for students with low vision and students using refreshable braille displays. Resources will be shared to support student and teacher training in the use of the Desmos online calculators. This webinar is for TSVIs as well as those educators involved with math or science instruction for students with VIs. The training will be on **October 10, 2024**, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. ET. To learn more and register, go to [FIMC-VI Introduction to Desmos Accessibility](#). For questions, contact Liz Anderson at eanderson@fimcvi.org.

Job Vacancies

Position Available with the Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISRD)

ISRD, an IDEA funded state project, is seeking a coordinator for the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) Region. This position will serve Calhoun, FAMU Lab School, FL Department of Corrections, Franklin, FSU Lab School, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Tallahassee Collegiate Academy, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton and Washington counties. The position is supported by the Putnam County School District. To view the job description and apply, go to [Putnam County School District Employment](#), scroll down to “Search Current Job Openings,” click on “Click to view current job openings,” then click it again, and select “Coordinator, ESE Spec Project - ISRD.” For job details (“View Details of Highlighted Position”) and to apply (“Apply for Selected Position(s)”), choose the appropriate button in the upper-right-hand corner. The application deadline is until filled. If you have questions pertaining to the job description, contact Chastity Lee at leec@nefec.org or 386-329-3894.

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 at the Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI)

FIMC-VI, an IDEA funded state project, is seeking a statewide educational specialist for the visually impaired (SES-VI). FIMC-VI staff assist with coordinating all aspects of braille versions of statewide assessments in collaboration with the FDOE Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment and Test Development Center. As part of a plan for the use of refreshable braille displays, screen reading software, and embossers on statewide assessment, the SES-VI will provide statewide, regional and district training on this assistive technology. The SES-VI may also collaborate with FIMC-VI staff to conduct item reviews and proofread braille versions of statewide assessments. This position requires Florida teacher certification in visual impairments and three years teaching experience. Additionally, due to the complex nature of the braille and tactile graphics reviews, the SES-VI must be able to quickly and precisely read contracted and uncontracted Unified English Braille (UEB). Knowledge of both UEB Math/Science and UEB with Nemeth is preferred. Candidates must reside in Florida but may be remote. To view the job description and apply, go to the [Hillsborough County Public Schools application site](#). For questions, contact Liz Anderson at landerson@fimcvi.org or 813-837-7826.

Position Available with TATS for Programs Serving Prekindergarten (PreK) Children with Disabilities

TATS, an IDEA funded state project, is seeking a training specialist for the Northwest Region, which includes the following counties: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington. This position will provide in-person and virtual technical assistance, training and support to school district PreK coordinators for programs serving PreK children with disabilities, and their early childhood partners. The support will include but is not limited to the following: State Performance Indicators/APR related to IDEA Part B PreK, child outcomes, curriculum and instruction, evaluation and assessment, family involvement, least restrictive environment (LRE), program effectiveness, Part C to Part B transition, and transition to kindergarten. To view the full job description and apply, go to [TATS NW Regional Facilitator Position](#).

Position Available with FDLRS in the Heartland Associate Center

FDLRS, an IDEA funded state project, is seeking a manager for the Heartland Associate Center, which serves DeSoto, Glades, Hendry and Highlands counties. The application deadline is September 19, 2024. To view the full job description and apply, go to [FDLRS Discretionary Project web page](#). For questions, contact Sonja Bennett at sonja.bennett@heartlanded.org.

Informational Items

Para to Teacher Tuition Support Program

Does your school district have paraprofessionals who could grow into great special education teachers? The state-funded Exceptional Student Education Tuition Support Program is available to help provide financial assistance to paraprofessionals currently working with students receiving exceptional education in Florida's public schools. Paraprofessionals who already have an Associate of Arts degree or equivalent college coursework, or those who currently hold a bachelor's degree in a non-education field, may be eligible to receive tuition support to earn a

degree in an initial certification teacher preparation program for ESE, deaf or hard of hearing, visual impairment, or early childhood with the PreK endorsement. For program requirements, information, and colleges or universities in Florida with eligible special education programs, go to the Para-to-Teacher Tuition Support for Exceptional Student Educators website <https://paratoteacherprogram.com/>. For questions, contact Dr. Keri Fogle at paratoteach@uwf.edu.

Tip of the Week

Track Effectiveness of Child Find Activities

Districts that use a variety of methods to identify students with disabilities may discover that some of those methods are more successful than others. Ask parents how they learned about the availability of special education services. Then, use that feedback to help your district fine-tune its child find efforts. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

Alice Schmitges
Bureau Chief



For more information, contact
850-245-0475