



## Weekly Memo

### Events Coming Soon

#### **2024 Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) Statewide Virtual Contacts' Meeting**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Bureau of Exceptional Education and Students Services is facilitating the 2024 SLD Contacts' Meeting on **October 30, 2024**, from 1 to 4 p.m., on Teams. Following the SLD state-of-the-state update, there will be presentations from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funded state projects, Problem Solving and Response to Intervention and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Tuition Support. To register for the meeting, go to the [SLD Contacts' Meeting Registration Form](#).

### Professional Learning

#### **Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)—High Leverage Practices (HLPs)**

Florida CASE invites you to join a virtual professional learning on “High Leverage Practices” on **October 15 and November 13, 2024**, with Dr. Kyena Cornelius, a faculty member at the University of Florida and one of the authors of the updated HLPs. HLPs are powerful tools for improving student outcomes. For additional information, see the attached document. For questions, contact Dr. Rosalind Hall, Florida CASE Past President, Board of Directors.

- Filename: HLP Professional Development Flyer

#### **Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RMTCDHH) for Working with the Experts - Deaf/Hard of Hearing (WWE-DHH)**

Please join the RMTCDHH for WWE-DHH: See the Sound - Visual Phonics and Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons. [See the Sound - Visual Phonics](#) is a multisensory [evidence-based intervention](#) approach to phonics instruction rooted in the science of reading. [Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons](#) is an evidence-based direct instruction program. When paired with *Visual Phonics*, evidence supports improved reading for students who are DHH. The event will be held in Brandon, FL on **November 21 and 22, 2024**. For more information and to register, go to [WWE-DHH: See the Sound - Visual Phonics and Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons](#). For questions, contact Gwen Black at [Gwen.Black@fldoe.org](mailto:Gwen.Black@fldoe.org) or Carmelina Hollingsworth at [c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org](mailto:c.hollingsworth@rmtcdhh.org).

## Action Items

### **Call for Florida Teacher Standards for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Endorsement Workgroup Members**

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding a [call for Florida teacher standards for ESOL endorsement workgroup members](#). Individuals seeking to participate in this workshop must email their interest by **October 18, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

### **U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Nominations**

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program nominations](#). Nominations must be submitted by **October 18, 2024**, per the instructions in the memo.

### **Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2025**

FDOE has issued a memorandum regarding [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2025](#), which will be **January 27-31, 2025**; and attachment A, [Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2025, district events template](#). The district events template must be submitted by **January 10, 2025**, per the instructions in the memo.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Toyka.Holden@paec.org).

## **Position Available with Technical Assistance and Training Systems (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/Annual Performance Report related to IDEA Part B PreK, child outcomes, curriculum and instruction, evaluation and assessment, family involvement, least restrictive environment, 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 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 [schmitgesh@duvalschools.org](mailto:schmitgesh@duvalschools.org).

## **Informational Items**

### **Lake County Middle School Saw a 67 Percent Decrease in Violent Behaviors**

Congratulations to the IDEA funded state project, Florida's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, for their incredible work supporting Lake County's Cecil E. Gray Middle School in Groveland. They were named the 2023-24 Bronze-Level Florida Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports System Model School. Three years ago, they began the program and have seen a 67% decrease in violent behaviors. To view the article, go to the [PineApple Report, Florida's Complete Resource for K-12 Education News](#).

### **Restraint Data for August 2024 are Now Available**

August 2024 data for restraint incidents submitted to the Involuntary Examination, Restraint, and Seclusion (known as IERS) web application are now available. The data have been posted to the [Program Accountability, Assessment & Data Systems web page](#) and can be located by scrolling down to the section titled "SWD Restraint Data – SY 2024-25," and selecting the appropriate month. Pursuant to section 1003.573(8), Florida Statutes, "The FDOE 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 FDOE's website."

### **Ensure Parents Understand Prior Written Notice (PWN)**

At the first individual education plan team meeting, clearly communicate to parents that prior written notice is issued after the meeting to document the team's decisions. Explaining procedural safeguards such as PWN can facilitate productive, efficient, and streamlined meetings while enabling parents' meaningful participation. ([Special Ed Connection®](#))

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

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
**HIGH LEVERAGE PRACTICES**

SPONSORED BY FLORIDA CASE

**High-leverage practices (HLPs) are powerful tools for improving student outcomes. They are fundamentals of teaching and are used consistently across subject areas, grade levels, and contexts. This Professional Learning is for all educators. Both half-day sessions are being offered to cover all areas and will be recorded.**



**PRESENTER**

**Dr. Kyena Cornelius**

Dr. Cornelius is a UF Staff Member, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Florida in the School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies. She is also involved in professional development for in-service educators and school administrators, particularly in co-teaching, inclusive practices, and high-leverage practices. In addition, Dr. Cornelius is one of the authors of the updated HLP.



**10/15/24 & 11/13/24**

**8:30AM - 12:30PM**

**ZOOM Link:**

**<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98750018700>**

***School & District Administrators  
& Educators are Welcomed***

**Follow this link for FREE  
registration:**

**[https://forms.gle/nXRufonhVLq  
WRpr78](https://forms.gle/nXRufonhVLqWRpr78)**