Standing Up and Sitting Tall for Inclusion

By: JaSheena Ekhator, Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) Facilitator

Broward County Public Schools celebrated National Inclusive Schools Week, which is an annual event held each year during the first week in December. Since its inception in 2001, National Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population including students with disabilities. The week also provided an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children.

Inclusive Schools Week’s theme was Stand Up and Sit Tall for Inclusion, which celebrated the commitment schools are making to engage students with disabilities in meaningful opportunities with their peers without disabilities. To highlight best practices for Inclusion, the Exceptional Student Learning Support Division held an inaugural event for educators to share how their schools are Standing Up and Sitting Tall for Inclusion. This event provided teachers with meaningful learning opportunities in topics addressing: Universal Design for Learning, Meaningful Inclusion, Growth Mindset and Instructional Strategies. Danielle McGill, a former student of Broward County Public schools shared her positive experiences in an inclusive setting and ways she is assisting adults with disabilities in how to use various forms of transportation to increase their independence. Danielle is a Policy Leadership Fellow Advocate of the Ann Stork Center. The following schools also shared ways they are ensuring students are valued members of their school community and are given every opportunity to be included: Discovery Elementary, Stirling Elementary, Harbordale Elementary, Tradewinds Elementary, The Quest Center, Imagine Charter School at Weston and Northeast High.
During the Inclusive Schools Week celebration, schools also shared activities that were conducted during the week at Silver Ridge Elementary and Mc Nicol Middle. On December 19, 2017 during a special School Board Presentation, Cooper City High and Norcrest Elementary had the opportunity to share meaningful ways their schools are Standing Up and Sitting Tall for Inclusion. Alexis Steinman, Arianna Edelman, Mark Fontana, Logan Sibet and Michael Gelman participated in the reading of the Inclusive Schools Week Resolution from Cooper City High as members of the Best Buddies program.

The Exceptional Student Learning Support Division is committed to best practices for inclusive education for all students. We continue to be encouraged by all who are Standing Up and Sitting Tall for Inclusion in our school communities.
Active Parenting classes took place at Wilton Manors Elementary this fall from October 12-November 16. The classes were supported by our PTA and the Hanley Center to increase parent engagement and involvement. We had four different groups running simultaneously.

The first group was led by our school psychologist, Nicole Campanella and first grade teacher, Gina Pineda. Here is what they had to say about their group:

Our Active Parenting class was a highly successful one! We averaged 10 families a class and many brought multiple caregivers. As is usually the case, there was some hesitancy in the beginning. Parents often asked, “How can I effectively discipline if I don’t yell or spank?” We spent extra time on Session 3: Responsibility and Discipline, as our parents wanted to leave the class feeling like they had all the tools they needed to implement logical consequences. This year we had a great response to the homework assignments. The parents went home and tried the strategies we armed them with. I believe they were more successful because they were able to bring the results back to the group and discuss what worked and what didn’t. This benefited everyone!

The second group was led in Spanish by our second grade teacher, Nidza Garland-Cuesta. Here’s what she had to say about her group:

During the Active Parenting Class which I provided in Spanish, I had a handful of parents who consistently attended the six sessions. Throughout the sessions the parents had a constant struggle with understanding how to consistently implement logical consequences with their child. We went through many scenarios in which they had to come up with logical consequences for breaking the house rules. As the sessions progressed and the parents practiced the home assignments, they were more eager to actively parent their child and in return, their child became more cooperative with their expectations. The classes were extremely informative for the parents and at the end parents asked, “Is there a way for us to meet once a month so we do not go back to our old ways?” I provided the books to parents as a way for them to go back and review all the information they learned.

The third group was led by our autism coach, Catherine Lozada. Here’s what she had to say…

In this specialized Active Parenting course, we focused on building a parent community where parents could share with each other, support each other, and find comfort in working with others who “walk in their shoes” each and every day. The curriculum was modified to meet the needs of our parents raising a student(s) with autism. As we worked our way through the required coursework, we frequently stopped to discuss ways to use and/or adapt the strategies with our children. We invited guest speakers from the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) to support our discussions on developing communication skills and dealing with challenging behavior. The program was such a HUGE success that many asked, “Can we continue this in January?”
Lastly, the Haitian-Creole group was led by our school counselor, Edwidge Antoine and second grade teacher, Marie Nazien. Here’s what they had to say about their group:

We had some new and old parents of students in both primary and intermediate classes who attended the sessions. They were open to learning new strategies for disciplining their children. The previous attendees shared how their disciplining methods have adjusted over time. They provided some helpful tips on how the new parents could incorporate the information in a culturally sensitive way. A parent shared that after watching the video on giving children choices, she learned that making demands is not as effective as giving choices. In addition, the parents expressed that they did not want to lose face in front of their children. It is understood in the culture that giving a child a voice is losing power. We stressed the importance of parent engagement in school activities as it relates to the success of the total child. Overall, the group learned how to balance their cultural values and beliefs with the school’s expectations for their child. They too asked, “When can we meet again?”

MarineLab in Action

By: Allyson Dudich and Jenna Roth, DHH Itinerant/Transition Specialists

Forty Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing students from Broward County had the unique opportunity to attend MarineLab in Key Largo for a three-day and two night snorkeling trip. Together with the Rochester Institute of Technology, Broward County was able to create a fully immersive and accessible STEM program, allowing many of these students to experience marine life for the first time.

MarineLab's mission is to use education and adventure in the Florida Keys marine ecosystem to foster environmental awareness and stewardship on a local, regional, and global scale. The program included snorkeling field trips to the sea grass mangrove and coral reef communities. Evening discussions took place on coral reef ecology and fish identification, along with labs on invertebrate diversity and zooplankton identification. This streamlined STEM curriculum was designed to connect the classroom to the outside world through experiential learning. Aside from the educational benefits of this amazing opportunity, students formed quick bonds and lasting friendships. At the culmination of the trip our students learned that regardless of mode of communication or type of educational environment they attend, it is imperative that we all work together to reduce the human footprint and direct impact that we have on our environment.
Broward School’s ESLS Division participated in the 22nd Annual Broward Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization Buddy Walk and 5K Run on Sunday, October 15th, at Markham Park in Sunrise. The Buddy Walk was established by the National Down Syndrome Society to promote acceptance and inclusion of individuals with Down Syndrome and to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October. Thirty ESLS staff members and their children joined the District ESLS Team. This year we were joined by five elementary school teams in order to support our students in raising funds, awareness, advocacy, and inclusionary practices.

Way to Go Team Broward ESLS!
Exceptional Student Learning Support Welcomes New Staff to the Division!

Behavior
Dr. Avrilios Mounoutjis - Program Specialist
Lori Ramsey - Technician
Delroy Mercurius - Technician

Hospital Homebound
Natasha Archie - Teacher
Gail Feeley - SLP

Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)
Erin Beasley - Program Monitor
Mavie Bravo - Interpreter

Visually Impaired
Kristine Orsini - Teacher

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)
Lorraine Fritz - Clerk Specialist

IF YOU HAVE TAKEN THIS COURSE DURING THE 2017 SUMMER, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=y7Ws7nBFWEpmqN4PjUlloWb-CXWVItsg2W7Xj1zXuUzO*pDjWUjL1DVRQUn55z4RQLn5ERCUU1XO4
Broward Association of School Psychologists (BASP)  
Power Up! Be a Positive Change!

By: Elouise Demestichas, School Psychologist

The 2017 – 2018 school year started with many challenges from Mother Nature. The impact of the hurricanes has left many families without basic necessities. BASP continues to be committed to helping children in our neighborhood through community service as well as by offering professional development opportunities to school personnel who serve our children.

Community Service

The Children’s Service Fund, Inc. (CSFI):
In the continued spirit of helping needy children through the Florida Association of School Psychologist(s) (FASP) Children’s Service Fund, Inc. (CSFI), BASP held a raffle at its End-of-Year Luncheon (June 2017). BASP’s efforts raised $744, which was presented to Dr. Cash, the treasurer of CSFI. The CSFI provides direct and indirect services that promote the educational and psychological well-being of Florida’s needy children and families. Ninety-five percent of all funds raised for CSFI go directly to Florida’s students and families in need of assistance. Dr. Cash noted that the overwhelming need this year was for students who were accepted to college and received aid for tuition, but could not afford books.

BASP Annual Charity School Supply Collection
BASP collected school supplies for donation to “Tools for Schools,” where Broward Title 1 teachers who are in desperate need for supplies, can pick up what is needed for their students. As a result of the hurricane, many children had their supplies damaged or ruined. In addition, new students whose families lost everything, have arrived and are still arriving from Puerto Rico. These children and their families will benefit greatly from our collection.

The Harvest Drive
The coordinators of this year’s Harvest Drive, which provides food for over 2,000 needy families in Broward County, specifically requested jars of peanut butter and jelly. BASP's Community Service Committee was successful in collecting MANY jars of peanut butter and jelly.
The Holiday Toy Drive
Through the Annual Holiday Toy Drive, BASP fulfilled the wishes of 103 children with items requested, including a Kindle tablet, skateboards, basketballs, footballs, art sets, tons of Legos and games galore!! BASP is thankful to the Exceptional Student Learning Support (ESLS) Team for their generosity that made these wishes come true!

Dan Marino WalkAbout Autism Walkathon
For the second consecutive year, BASP is sponsoring a team in support of the 8th Annual Dan Marino Foundation (DMF) “Walk About Autism & Expo,” which was held at the Hard Rock Stadium on Saturday, January 27, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The goal was to generate awareness and raise funds to empower individuals with Autism and other developmental disabilities.

Professional Development

Cyberbullying: Technology Gone Awry by Ralph E. (Gene) Cash, Ph.D. ABPP
Through the efforts of BASP’s Professional Development Chairs, Dawn Baydowicz and Catherine Poindujour, our first professional development workshop took place on Friday, October 20, 2017. More than 75 participants consisting of District School Psychologists and Social Workers attended a workshop on bullying, cyberbullying, and self-harm. Renowned speaker and Nova Southeastern University faculty member, Dr. Cash, presented on how technology has given rise to cyberbullying and its effects on youth as well as regulatory attempts, prevention, and intervention strategies. The information encouraged professionals to evaluate their own practices in creating a safe space for students. The workshop ended with a delightful surprise when Charles Negrea, president of BASP, presented Dr. Cash with a donation of $250 made out to the Children’s Services Fund, Inc. BASP’s next professional development event will take place on March 23, 2018 at Arthur Ashe. Stephanie Livesay of Western Psychological Services (WPS) will be presenting on Autism Assessments.

School Psychology Week

Broward school psychologists celebrated School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) 2017 from November 13-17. Nicole Wilson chaired the SPAW Committee with the help of committee members Meredith Miller, Lindsay Piontkowski, Jackie Bell, Debbie Baran, and Intern School Psychologists Angela Nertney, Heidy Perez, Alexa Borroto, Tiffani Butler, and Jalisa Smith.
This year’s theme for School Psychology Awareness Week was “Power up! Be a positive charge!” which highlighted how taking small, positive actions can create connections that lead to positive change, build greater successes and develop the academic and social–emotional skills students need to promote personal achievement, growth, and resilience as well as a sense of belonging and well-being. BASP supported school psychologists with various gifts including magnets, highlighters, and “Power Up” granola bars. In addition, fifteen BASP members received portable chargers to help “Power Up” their devices.

School psychologists were recognized at a Broward County School Board meeting in October, as well as through a memo sent out to all administrators within the district. Additionally, the Psychological Services Department reached out into the community by hosting an informational table at the district's main office, Nova Southeastern University, and the West Regional Library during School Psychology Awareness Week. While at Nova, Nicole Wilson and Debbie Baran presented to the doctoral and specialist level students and professors within the school psychology program.

_BASP continues to explore ways to serve children in our community and provide much needed professional development for our colleagues._

*Please visit us at our newly remodeled website: [http://www.baspfl.org](http://www.baspfl.org)*

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**Make Math Fun!**

by Naomi Church, FDLRS Program Specialist

For so many of our students, math can be challenging. We can help students to engage with math by playing games at school (in centers and small group) and home (family game nights) that work on a variety of skills. Try some of these:

- **Dominoes** - The classic game of Dominoes helps students to subitize (immediately recognize) number patterns. The recognition and matching of like numbers are foundational skills that can actually be found in the Kindergarten Mathematics Florida Standards (MAFS).

- **BattleShip** - This engaging and competitive game teaches students about coordinates. They learn how to locate and name coordinates on a plane while using strategy and reasoning to figure out where the opponent’s ships may be.

- **Trouble** - This game works on subitizing dice, counting and one-to-one correspondence. All of these are components of number sense and are foundational math skills that many of our students do not have adequate practice with.

Take some time to let your students interact with math concepts in exciting game play to increase their skills and motivation!
Stop The “R” Word - March 7, 2018
https://www.r-word.org/

World Down Syndrome Day - March 21, 2018
https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/

FSAA Testing
Elementary/Middle- February 26 - April 13, 2018
High - March 13 - April 27, 2018
http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/fl-alternate-assessment.stml

Growth Mindset Webinar for Parents
February 7, 2018  4:00-5:00 p.m.
http://browardschools.adobeconnect.com/parentwebinar/
FDLRS Professional Development Alternatives Online Modules

2017-2018 Flyer of Available Courses  www.fl-pda.org

High-quality online content and activities. Available statewide and free to Florida educators. Classroom-related assessment tasks. Designed to assist educators with responding to the various instructional and behavioral needs of each individual learner in order to maximize achievement for all students. Facilitated modules provide ongoing collaboration with colleagues and expert facilitators.

Many of the PDA modules support the recertification requirement of 20 hours in teaching students with disabilities (Renewal Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities 1012.585, F.S.), however, each school district or private school agency determines which modules satisfy the content requirement for their employees. FDLRS reports inservice credits to school districts and private school agencies through their approved Master Inservice Plan (MIP) or its equivalent. It is the responsibility of educators who are not employed to ensure, prior to registration, that a district or agency will submit their inservice credits to FDOE.

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<tr>
<td>Assessment &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<td>Instructional Practices</td>
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<td>Language Development &amp; Communication Skills</td>
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<td>Transition</td>
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<td>Differentiating Reading Instruction (Awards credit for Competency 4 of the FL Reading Endorsement)</td>
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<td>Engaging Learners through Informative Assessment</td>
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<td>Technology for Student Success: An Introduction</td>
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<td>Technology for Student Success: Assistive Technology</td>
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<td>Surrogate Parent</td>
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<th>Independent Study Modules</th>
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<td>Effective Teaching Practices for Student with Disabilities: Focusing on the Content Areas</td>
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<td>Teaching Students with Disabilities</td>
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<td>Positive Behavior Intervention Support</td>
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<td>Battelle Developmental Inventory - 2nd Edition</td>
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<td>Inclusive Practices for the Developmentally Appropriate Pre-K Classroom</td>
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<td>Elementary K-6 Online Content Review Module</td>
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<td>Middle Grades 5-9 Online Content Review Module</td>
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Course descriptions and registration information:  www.fl-pda.org or www.fdlrs.org (click on the PDA logo)

- Facilitated modules offered locally: Contact your local FDLRS PDA Coordinator for course availability. Scroll down to “Contacts” and click on “PDA Coordinators”
- Facilitated modules offered statewide: Click on the statewide PDA registration banner
- Independent study modules: Click on “Register/Sign-in”

For additional questions about the PDA program: PDAquestions@gmail.com

FDLRS Administration Project Office: (386) 312-2265, Mary Ann Ahearn, Administrator

PDA is funded by the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services. Coordinated by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), a FDOE/BEESS discretionary project, in collaboration with the Florida Center for Interactive Media.
FAMILIES can increase math proficiency in their children by playing fun games at home. In this seminar, you will learn some strategies, activities & games that you can play as a family to increase student success in math. Materials to use at home will be provided, supplies may be limited. Register in advance: [http://bit.ly/2hvPdQJ](http://bit.ly/2hvPdQJ)
Do You Have Concerns?
FREE SCREENING and information for children (birth-5 years) who may have difficulty:

- Learning
- Seeing
- Speaking
- Walking
- Playing
- Hearing

Broward County Early Steps

A child’s first three years of life are the most important time for learning and brain development

- Early Steps supports families whose infants and toddlers (birth to 36 months) have a developmental delay and assists child care staff to work with each child.
- Early identification and intervention services lead to the best child outcomes.
- The Ages & Stages developmental screening your child care center administers will let you know if further evaluation is needed through the Early Steps Program.

Call: 754-321-7200

This document was developed by the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS), a special project funded by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B.
FDLRS Reach Presents:
Math Webinar Series
2018
Free for all school and district staff!

Please join us for this virtual meeting seminar, free and easy to participate! Registration is available in MyLearningPlan today to earn participation hours, NOT inservice points. Registration is not required to participate in the webinars. If you cannot join us live, recorded webinars will be available on http://mrschurch.net the following week.

All you need is a computer, laptop, or device with speakers!

| Universal Design for Learning in the Math Classroom | “There is no formula or recipe that works for all learners in all times. There is no set of lesson plans or units that can engage the range of learning styles, approaches, and intelligences that are likely to gather in one classroom.” -William Ayers
Join us to learn what Universal Design for Learning is and how you can apply these strategies to increase student success in the Mathematics Classroom. |
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<tr>
<td>Wed, January 17, 2018 3:00-4:00pm</td>
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<td>Growth Mindset in Mathematics</td>
<td>“I’m not a math person” is a statement made entirely too often. Learn how to use a Growth Mindset to work hard to grow our math understanding, attitude, and outlook.</td>
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<td>Mon, February 26, 2018 4:00-5:00pm</td>
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<td>Concrete-Representational-Abstract Strategy Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
<td>The Concrete-Representational-Abstract (CRA) teaching sequence has been found to help students with Learning Disabilities learn procedures and concepts (Flores, Hinton, &amp; Strozier, 2014). Join us to learn how to use this effective strategy to teach ALL students and mathematical concepts.</td>
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<td>Thur, March 22, 2018 1:30-2:30pm</td>
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Logging in is Easy!
From the comfort of your classroom, office or home! Starting 15 minutes before the start time, click the link, or copy and paste into your browser to enter the Adobe Connect Virtual Room.

https://fdlrs.adobeconnect.com/math/

Select Guest, and type your name. You will need speakers to hear the meeting, and you will ask questions and respond through a chat box in the meeting.

About the Presenter:
Naomi Church is a Program Specialist for the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS). Naomi has served Broward Schools for 15 years as an ESE Support Facilitator, RtI Coordinator, Instructional Coach and teacher. Naomi is passionate about professional development and building capacity in teachers and families to increase student success. Visit her math website for resources and more at http://mrschurch.net.

This document was developed by the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS), a discretionary project funded by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B.
MEDIA CENTER

Free educational resources available on loan for: teachers, parents, students… all in one location.

Reading & Math Materials  Videos  Assistive Technology  Resource Books  More...

New Location!

Wingate Oaks Center
1211 NW 33rd Terrace, Room 405
Lauderhill, FL 33311

Phone: 754-321-3428
gladys.martinez@browardschools.com

Hours of operation:
Monday – Friday
7:30am-12:00pm & 12:30pm-3:00pm

FDLRS Broward  @FDLRSReach
ESLS Division  @BrowardESE_SS
Dr. Hickman  @AHickman1911
Dr. Mucenic  @MC_Mucenic
Ms. Clay  @SonjClay
Ms. Bigos  @Jenn_Bigos

Follow us on Twitter

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The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Preschool; and state General Revenue funds.
### Quick Reference Directory

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<th>Office</th>
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<tr>
<td>Child Find</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEO</td>
<td>754-321-2150</td>
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<td>TDD</td>
<td>754-321-2158</td>
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### Executive Director, Exceptional Student Learning Support
Dr. Antoine Hickman  
Melissa Hill, Department Secretary

### Director, ESLS PreK & Elementary
Jennifer Bigos  
Evelyne Ng, Confidential Secretary

### Director, ESLS Secondary
Sonja Clay  
Candace Moncrieffe, Confidential Secretary

### Elementary Curriculum & Instruction  
(754) 321-3404
- Gary Grigull, ASD Supervisor  
- Janice Koblick, SLD Supervisor  
- Andrea Ciotti, InD Supervisor  
- Beth Williams, EBD Supervisor  
- Alex Lopes, PreK Supervisor (754) 321-7213

### Secondary Curriculum & Instruction  
(754) 321-3405
- Vacant, Transition Supervisor  
- Brian Norris, High School Supervisor  
- Dr. Nathalie Neree, Middle School & Behavior Supervisor

### DHH, VI, Hospital Homebound, Charter & Private Schools (754) 321-3453
- Terry Spurlock, Supervisor  
- Dr. Lisa Cunningham, Specialist DHH, Charter  
- David Riddle, Specialist VI, HH, Private

### FDLRS/FIN (754) 321-3466
- Gwen Lipscomb, Supervisor

### Speech/Language/OT/Physically Impaired  
(754) 321-3457
- Debra Harrington, Supervisor

### Psychological Services (754) 321-3440
- Rhonda Said, PreK Coordinator  
- Christina Reyes, Elementary Coordinator  
- Emily Goldstein, Secondary Coordinator  
- Opal Bennett, District 504/ADA Specialist  
- Yolanda Martinez, District 504/ADA Specialist

### Medicaid (754) 321-8461
- Deneen Gorassini

### Local Parent Resolution Office  
(754) 321-3411
- Felicia Starke, Coordinator  
- Sarah Samuels-Hall, Coordinator

### SEDNET/Family Counseling (754) 321-3421
- Dr. Charlene Grecsek, Coordinator

### Easy IEP/McKay (754) 321-3445
- Tara Rodger, Manager

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**Newsletter Editors:**  
Naomi Church & Gwen Lipscomb  
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)