

# FDLRS Parent Services News & Information

For Parents and Caregivers of  
Students with Disabilities



February 2022



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE

## Who Should I Contact?

Can you believe we are already into the second semester of school? I hope this finds your child(ren) settled in and actively learning. We realize that at times you may have questions about your child's academics or their Exceptional Student Education services, so we have prepared steps to help you answer those questions in a timely manner.

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#### Step 1

- Teacher(s)

#### Step 2

- Case Manager
- ESE Contact
- Therapists
- Student Services

#### Step 3

- Assistant Principal

#### Step 4

- Principal

#### Step 5

- ESE Regional Supervisor

#### Step 6

- Regional Superintendent

### Steps 1 through 4

*Resources located within your child's school:* Contact your child's teacher, case manager or ESE contact, therapist, a member of the [Student Services Team](#) (Health Services, School Counselor, Social Worker or Psychologist), the Assistant Principal or Principal for help.

### Steps 5 and 6

*Resources located within the District:* Contact the school ESE Regional Supervisor or Regional Superintendent. [District contact locator](#)

### REMEMBER

**No matter where you are in the process, FDLRS Parent Services or your [ESE Parent Liaison](#) can help!**

# What are Accommodations?

Accommodations are changes made in how a student accesses information and demonstrates performance. These accommodations help increase, maintain, or improve the student's academic performance.

When developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP), the team which the parent is a part of, must determine how the student's disability affects their overall involvement and progress within the general education curriculum. The areas impacted are documented in the Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance statement or within other appropriate sections of the IEP. By documenting these supports in the IEP, it indicates that the IEP team members have agreed to make these supports available for the student when needed throughout the school day, if appropriate.

Accommodations are broken down into four distinct categories:

- Presentation—how students receive information. For example, if a student is unable to see or read textbooks or hear the teacher, the student may need supports to facilitate their ability to read, observe, and listen in the classroom
- Responding—how students show what they know. Response accommodations may enable students to use diverse ways to complete assignments, for example by speaking, writing, drawing, or other means of expression.
- Setting—how the environment is made accessible for instruction and assessments. For example, a student may need to change the location for taking a test.
- Scheduling—how time demands, and schedules may be adjusted. For example, a student may need an accommodation to address attention and their ability to monitor and manage time.

For more information on accommodations, see the Florida Department of Education [Accommodations Manual \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org/Manual) or contact your child's case manager at your school.



Are you interested in finding practical guidance, strategies, and helpful tools for your child with special needs? The Florida Department of Education is proud to provide access to the Special Ed Connection® at no cost to families of students with disabilities. For more information and to gain access to this free resource visit, [Special Ed Connection - FDLRS Hillsborough](#).

**P**arent Services is supported by Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) and Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS). Our goal is to guide and empower families to become collaborative, effective advocates for their child with special needs by providing information, help and support to promote academic and social success in school and within the community. Each Exceptional Student Education (ESE) parent liaison works closely with regional district schools and staff and is a parent of a child who has received ESE services.

## FDLRS Parent Services

[Debbie Valdes](#), FDLRS Program Manager, (813) 837-7733

[Corinne Smith](#), FDLRS Communications Liaison, (813) 837-7872

### Parent Services Information

(813) 837-7732 (English) • (813) 837-7728 (Spanish)

[fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net](mailto:fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net)

### Parent Liaisons, Exceptional Student Education

[Jennifer Belinc-DeGregorio](#), (813) 815-3410

[Sandra BuShea](#), (813) 360-1159

[Lexie Harvey](#), (813) 738-2535

[Lina Moreno](#), (813) 773-6804

[Christine Poe](#), (813) 279-1851

[LaNaye Wilson](#), (352) 585-9993

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Florida Diagnostic & Learning  
RESOURCES SYSTEM

Website!

<https://hillsborough.fdlrs.org/>

## Hillsborough County Resources

**Yellow Dot:** The Yellow Dot program gives you a voice when you are seriously injured following a traffic crash. The Yellow Dot sticker displayed on your vehicle window alerts first responders to valuable health care information located in your glove compartment (medications, pre-existing medical conditions, special needs, and other important medical information). Have questions? Contact Hillsborough County Fire Rescue at (813) 272-6600 .

**Safe Encounter:** Register yourself or family members who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, blindness, autism, Down syndrome, deafness, and other medical and developmental disabilities that affect the way individuals interact and respond to law enforcement officers . For questions, Contact Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office at (813) 247-8000.

**City of Tampa Voluntary Special Needs Registry:** The Tampa Police Department and Tampa Fire Rescue have joined together to better help families who may have a family member with a medical condition or special need. A special sticker has been created for families to place near their front door or on their car to help first responders recognize if someone has a medical need when they are responding to a call. Call (813) 274-8211 for more information.



Let us know your thoughts on this edition of our newsletter.

[Take the Survey](#)

### ***Vision***

Preparing Students for Life

### ***Mission***

To provide an education and the supports that enable each student to excel as a successful and responsible citizen. FDLRS Parent Services News & Information is designed to be an informational source for parents of Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) Exceptional Student Education (ESE). All submittals are subject to District supervisory approval. Hillsborough County Public Schools does not necessarily endorse all information.

### **School Board**

Nadia T. Combs, Chair  
Henry "Shake" Washington, Vice Chair  
Lynn L. Gray  
Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D.  
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### **Superintendent of Schools**

Addison Davis

### **Chief of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

Monica Verra-Tirado

### **Exceptional Student Education**

Kimberly Workman, General Director

### **Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System**

Michael Levine, Supervisor



The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS). FDLRS is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B and State General Revenue funds.

### ***Continuous Notification of Nondiscrimination***

*Pursuant to Title VI, Title IX, Section 504/Title II and other civil rights regulations, the School District of Hillsborough County does not discriminate nor tolerate harassment on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, genetic information or pregnancy in its. educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices; and it will take immediate action to eliminate such harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.*

*The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, Compliance. 813-272-4000; [pansy.houghton@hcps.net](mailto:pansy.houghton@hcps.net); 901 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33602. [Office for Civil Rights Compliance](#)*

### ***Website Accessibility Statement***

*The School District of Hillsborough County is committed to providing websites that are accessible to all of our stakeholders. If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader, eye-tracking device, voice recognition software, etc.) and are experiencing difficulty accessing information on this site, the following person has been designated to handle inquiries or complaints related to the functionality or inaccessibility of online content: Dr. Pansy Houghton, Executive Officer, Compliance. 813-272-4000; [pansy.houghton@hcps.net](mailto:pansy.houghton@hcps.net); 901 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33602.*

*As required by Section 668.6076, Florida Statutes, you are hereby notified that: Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing. History.--s. 1, ch. 2006-232.*

### **Our mailing address is:**

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System / Parent Services  
4210 West Bay Villa Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611