



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



Florida Department of Education is proud to provide access to **Special Ed Connection**® to parents of students with disabilities.

**Special Ed Connection**® is a web-based resource that parents can use to gain an understanding of what special education is and how it works, as their child enters, progresses through and exits the world of special education requirements. From legal rights to practical application and from student referrals to IEPs, **Special Ed Connection**® explains specific procedures and provides real-world application strategies so parents can learn the complexities surrounding special education supports and services.

Here are highlights of just a few of the many components that will be made available for your use:

**Smart Starts** – The best starting point to gain an interpretation and a better understanding of almost 450 special education topics. You'll find that *SmartStarts* provide practical guidance, based on federal regulations and case law. From assistive technology to chronic health conditions to measuring progress, each *SmartStart* will help you understand the law and how it applies to your individual child's situation.

**Special Ed Online Dictionary** – Provides straightforward definitions of more than 1,400 widely used terms, enabling enhanced dialogue about special education issues. Straight-to-the-point explanations are provided so you'll understand the meaning of terms such as *prior written notice*, *least restrictive environment*, *transition services*, *functional behavioral assessment*, and *behavioral intervention plan*—giving you the ability to be more actively involved in meeting your child's educational needs.

**News and Updates** – Stay current on the latest news and developments in the special education community—including news about legislation, best practice strategies from special education experts, updates from experts regarding new techniques being used in the special education community and more!

**Special Ed Round-Ups** – Provide you with an easy way to quickly locate practical guidance and gain access to valuable resources on a host of important special education issues from autism to bullying to postsecondary transition and more.

To find out more about gaining access to this exciting resource —  
contact **Debbie Valdes / FLDRS Parent Services**  
phone: 813-837-7733 or email: [debbie.valdes@hcps.net](mailto:debbie.valdes@hcps.net)



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