

FDLRS Parent Services News & Information

For Parents and Caregivers of
Students with Disabilities



August 2021



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE

WELCOME BACK

On behalf of the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS), we would like to welcome you back to another school year. We are looking forward to forming and maintaining a productive partnership with you by providing support through our newsletters, parent information sessions, and one-on-one phone calls to name just a few. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education.

During the summer, we launched our newly designed [FDLRS Website](#). We encourage our families to explore the new-and-improved site and see some new pages like "[Who Should I Call First?](#)" under Parent Services.

Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us at fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net.

Enjoy your visit and don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

- FDLRS Parent Services

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WHAT IS FIEP?

Our first parent information session is right around the corner on August 13, 2021, titled "Overview of the Facilitated Individual Educational Plan (FIEP) Meeting." This 1-hour session will provide parents and caregivers a first-hand look into the structure of a FIEP meeting, what to expect, and your role in the process. Visit <https://hillsborough.fdlrs.org/parent-services/webinars-workshops> to see additional sessions and other upcoming events.



OPEN HOUSE

School Open House's are right around the corner. Check your child's school website for dates and times. Keep in mind that some schools offer different times for new incoming students. Open House is a great opportunity for your child to meet their teacher(s), get familiar with their school and classroom(s), as well as see some friends. As a parent or guardian, it is also a perfect time to sign up to help within the classroom or become part of the PTA/PTSA.

ADDRESS CHANGES

New Address!



Did you move over the summer?

Please contact your child's school and have them update your child's records.

TRANSPORTATION



Need information about your child's school bus? You can visit the Transportation website for general information and contacts at <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Page/580> or visit <https://webquery.sdhc.k12.fl.us/livewq/webquery/> to see bus route information, including stops and times.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The first meeting this year will be held on September 17, 2021 from 10 AM to 12 PM. This meeting will be in-person at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County at 1002 E. Palm Avenue, Tampa 33605.

The primary focus of the Superintendent's Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities, is to identify and recommend systemic strategies to improve outcomes for all students who have disabilities within Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS).

Additional information can be found on the HCPS Exceptional Student Education page at <https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/Page/6208>.



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, <https://hillsborough.fdlrs.org/parent-services/special-ed-connection>.

Parent 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

debbie.valdes@hcps.net

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corinne.smith@hcps.net

Parent Services Information

(813) 837-7732 (English)

(813) 837-7728 (Spanish)

fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net

Parent Liaisons, Exceptional Student Education

Jennifer Belinc-DeGregorio, jennifer.belinc-degregorio@hcps.net

Sandra BuShea, sandra.bushea@hcps.net

Lina Moreno, lina.moreno@hcps.net

Christine Poe, christine.poe@hcps.net

Liaison School Assignments

Website!

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

**Empowering Families
Enriching Communication
Navigating Education**



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

Lynn L. Gray, Chair
Stacy A. Hahn, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Nadia T. Combs
Karen Perez
Melissa Snively
Jessica Vaughn
Henry "Shake" Washington

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

**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 (District) 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; 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; 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