IDEA...Celebrating 35 Years!

The Florida Department of Education Celebrated 35 years of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with a month-long schedule of events this past November.

The Student Support Services Project provided a display of activities that showcased student services statewide. It was an opportunity for other agencies and FDOE staff to see Student Services contributions to the success of students with disabilities.

Just a Reminder...

Celebrate Student Services Week!

February 7-11, 2011
Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments–

http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/

The first assessment to begin the transition to end-of-course testing in Florida is the Algebra 1 EOC, which will be administered for the first time in May 2011.

What’s on the Assessments

The Standards and course descriptions specify the expectations for student learning in Florida and provide the basis for the content that will be measured on each EOC Assessment. The *End-of-Course Assessment Test Item Specifications* provide information regarding the content and format of the assessments as well as sample test items for each benchmark assessed.

To learn more about the content of the EOCs, please review the following:

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
Algebra 1 Course Description
Biology 1 Course Description
Geometry Course Description
Test Item Specifications

Taking the Assessments

The electronic Practice Assessment Test Tool (ePAT) is intended to support and enhance student preparation for Florida’s state assessment test. The ePAT will familiarize students and staff with the format, item types, and computer-based tools of a computer-based assessment. Content may not accurately reflect the level of difficulty of items on an actual test, and performance on the ePAT is not an indicator of how a student will perform on an actual test. For more information on ePATs, please visit the Taking the Assessments category at http://fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/.

Families may also be referred to Frequently Asked Questions related to Florida EOC Assessments at http://www.fldoe.org/faq/default.asp?Dept=179&Cat=125.

Preteen Vaccine Week–

Is an observance created to raise awareness of the importance of immunizations for “tweens” 11 and 12 years of age.

Its goal is to raise awareness about the Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine requirement for 7th grade students based on recommendations by the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and to promote preteen doctor visits through multiple avenues such as schools, providers, and the media.

Pertussis (whooping cough) has been widespread during 2010. The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) recommends that all Floridians 10 years of age and older receive a booster dose of the Tdap vaccine against pertussis. Moreover, Florida law requires students entering seventh grade to be immunized against pertussis.

The ACIP currently recommends that 11- and 12-year-olds receive:

◊ Tdap vaccine booster to help prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. All 7th grade students in Florida public and private schools will need proof of a Tdap booster before starting the 2011-2012 school year.

◊ Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine to protect against certain serious types of bacterial meningitis and other related infections.

◊ Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series that can protect girls against cervical cancer (a cancer in a part of the reproductive system) in adulthood. Boys may also get this vaccine.

◊ Second varicella (chicken pox) vaccine (if they have never had varicella disease).

◊ Annual flu vaccine. This year’s flu vaccine protects against seasonal flu which includes the H1N1 strain.

This doctor’s visit is a great opportunity for health care providers, parents and preteens to discuss the challenges of growing up,
such as eating right, standing up to peer pressure, drugs and alcohol, and any other concerns. The doctor’s visit is also a good time for preteens to receive any required and recommended immunizations.

Preteens are at an age when they begin making important decisions and are ready to become more involved in their own personal health. The decisions they make at this age can set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy choices. For information and materials, use the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) link at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/preteens-adol/07gallery/default.htm.

**Child Abuse Prevention––**

**2011 Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign**

Prevent Child Abuse Florida, the Ounce of Prevention Fund and the Florida Department of Children and Families have launched Pinwheels for Prevention, a national campaign that focuses on a community-wide commitment to make children a priority.

Florida's implementation of the Pinwheels for Prevention focuses on healthy child development and includes: Community Resource Packets; broadcast of television and radio public service announcements in English and Spanish; pinwheels and other products; a press conference launching the statewide campaign; and coordination and advertisement of community events based on a central statewide theme.

In the coming weeks, you will be able to view or download the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign toolkit from the Local Events Page at http://www.ounce.org/capevents.html. As we approach the month of April, we also encourage you to visit this web page for information about Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in your area.

**Child Abuse Prevention Webinars**

Child Abuse Florida hosted two webinars to present the Winds of Change evaluation and to provide tips on how to successfully promote local child abuse prevention events.

The first web presentation shared research methods and results from an evaluation and efficacy study on Florida's public awareness campaign to prevent child abuse and neglect. The evaluation implemented two studies with different research designs and methodologies. To view this presentation, please visit http://ounce.na5.acrobat.com/p92239807/.

The second web presentation was in partnership with Children’s Week and Thomas Media Partners. It included tips on how to successfully promote community events to local media; when and how to submit press releases, opinion editorials, letters to the editor of local media outlets, and tips on ensuring press coverage. To view this presentation, please visit http://ounce.na5.acrobat.com/p12198181/.

Direct questions related to this information to Gria Davison, School Social Work Consultant, Student Support Services Project/USF, Florida Department of Education, at gdavison@usf.edu or (850) 245-7837.
Students With Asthma–

In partnership with the FDOE and Department of Health, School Health Program, and the Florida Asthma Prevention and Control Program (FLAPCP) surveyed Florida School Health Coordinators in 57 school districts regarding students with asthma in Florida schools.

The asthma survey findings are available at http://www.sss.usf.edu/resources/format/pdf/School_Health_Asthma_Survey_Report.pdf.

The asthma survey presentation is available at http://www.sss.usf.edu/resources/format/pdf/School_Health_Asthma_Survey_presentation.pdf.

In addition, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) has recently updated its online version of the Asthma Management and Education program that conforms with the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) 2007 Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR-3): Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. This continuing education course that provides 7 CE credits for registered nurses and 7 CECEs for respiratory therapists is available FREE via the AAFA website. To access the course, visit http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?id=4&sub=79&cont=432.

To register, enter AAFA as the organization code and FL-DOH as the group code.

Making an impact, from start to finish...

Today, SweatMonkey.org provides a complete solution for students, schools and organizations, designed to foster service learning and empower students to enact change in their communities. Students can find opportunities that interest them, track their hours, and get credit for their time. Schools can approve hours and generate reports to measure impact. And organizations can find student volunteers who really want to make a difference.

SweatMonkey.org® is a registered 501-(c)(s) non-profit. SweatMonkey.org is used by over 3,000 top-rated schools and organizations to automate their service learning programs. http://www.sweatmonkey.org/

Resources

2011 Florida Legislative Session

In preparation for the 2011 Legislative Session, the following websites will be helpful to search for Florida statutes and review bills that are filed during the session:

Online Sunshine
Florida Senate
Florida House of Representatives

Oil Spill Distress Resources

The substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has a new website for coping with oil spill distress at http://oilspilldistress.samhsa.gov/. It provides resources for educators, mental health/health care providers, and the community for recognizing warning signs and ideas for coping with stress. In addition to the website, SAMHSA will be providing districts with a School Tool Kit containing oil spill coping resources for educators.

Persons affected by the oil spill who need immediate assistance may call the Oil Spill Distress Hotline at (800) 985-5990 for information, support, and counseling.

The Future of Youth Service–

SweatMonkey.org has come a long way since 2005 when its founder, Cal Fore, then a sophomore in high school, asked the following question:

How do I find meaningful service learning opportunities in my community?

It started as a simple database...

Cal created the blueprint for what SweatMonkey.org is today: he brought together students and organizations within his community to create a searchable database of opportunities.