

FUSION

AN INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Dear School Social Workers,

As we draw close to the end of the 2021-2022 school year, the Student Support Services Project would like to provide you with resources that might be helpful as you wrap up this school year and begin preparing for the 2022-2023 school year. Working together as an integrated team, we look forward to working with all mental health services providers and will be planning for upcoming trainings for the 2022-2023 school year. As we celebrated Student Services Week and School Social Work (SSW) Week, thank you for all the great work you are doing and thanks for sharing your stories with us.

Click the following link to view a video of one of those celebrations: [Broward County School Board Recognizes National SSW Week](#).

As we plan for the end of year, attendance continues to be a challenge. Below are resources that you can use as you close out the school year strong:

- ◇ [USF Reasons for Chronic Absenteeism](#)
- ◇ [Proving Ground – How-To Series](#)

Additionally, this publication includes resources for attendance, SSW certification, a youth leadership opportunity, and evidence-based practices.

Thank you for all your hard work!

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Attendance and Driving Privileges

Remember to notify your students about Attendance and Driving Privileges. Schools are usually closed over the summer; therefore, it is challenging for students to have their driver's license reinstated during that time.

The Florida Legislature requires schools to report to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) the name, birth date, sex and social security number of any minor who attains the age of 14 and accumulates 15 unexcused absences in a 90-calendar-day period. The legislation states that minors who fail to satisfy attendance requirements are ineligible for driving privileges. School districts must report all students who withdraw from school with a withdrawal code, calculated in the dropout rate, to DHSMV.

According to section [322.091](#), Florida Statutes (F.S.), a minor is not eligible for driving privileges unless he or she:

- ◇ Is enrolled in a public school, nonpublic school or home education program and satisfies relevant attendance requirements;
- ◇ Has received a high school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special diploma or certificate of high school completion.
- ◇ Is enrolled in a study course in preparation for the high school equivalency assessment and meets relevant attendance requirements.
- ◇ Is enrolled in other educational activities approved by the school board that satisfy relevant attendance requirements.
- ◇ Has been issued a certificate of exemption according to s. [1003.21\(3\)](#), F.S.

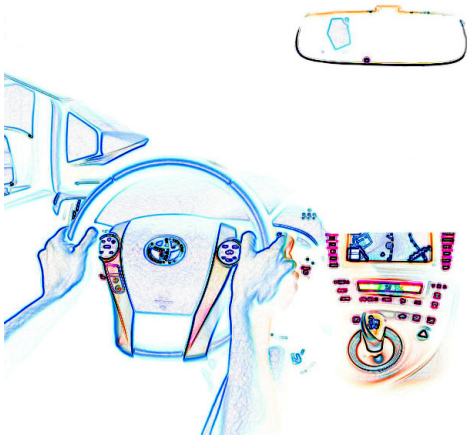
Has received a hardship waiver, pursuant to s. [322.091](#), F.S.

Because schools are closed during the summer months for most students, schools and districts can help by reminding students before the last month of the school year so they are aware of their attendance status. This will allow students the opportunity to improve their attendance before their information is sent to DHSMV.

Attendance and Driving Privileges (cont'd)

THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◇ The principal or designee is responsible for notifying the district school board of all students between the ages of 14 and 18 who accumulate 15 unexcused absences within a period of 90 calendar days. This may look different depending on your county school district.
- ◇ Typically, the data prep or the person responsible for recording attendance will send a report to the district data school office.



- ◇ The district-level data office will then electronically transmit the name of the student, date of birth, gender and, if available, social security number to the Northwest Datacenter, which then sends the information to DHSMV.
- ◇ The school district is also required to report all students who withdraw from school with a withdrawal code that is calculated in the dropout rate.
- ◇ The DHSMV will not process records of students who are less than 14 years of age. Notification to the DHSMV initiates one of two actions:
 - ◆ The DHSMV will post a Notice of Intent to suspend driving privileges to the driving record of all reported licensed students. These students may lose their driver's license unless they comply with attendance requirements; or
 - ◆ The DHSMV will post an education noncompliance entry to the record created for this specific purpose for all reported unlicensed students, and they may not apply for a driver's license until relevant attendance requirements are satisfied.

Certification

RESTRICTED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

Rule [6A-4.004](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages.

(6) Restricted professional certificate.

(a) A restricted professional certificate is a renewable type of certificate valid for five (5) school years issued by the Department of Education to an applicant who meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. Completes the application requirements as specified in Rule [6A-4.0012](#), F.A.C.; and
2. Satisfies all eligibility criteria specified in s. [1012.56\(2\)](#), F.S., except for mastery of general knowledge per s. [1012.56\(3\)](#), F.S.
3. A restricted professional certificate is only available to instructional personnel who are not classroom teachers, as defined in s. [1012.01\(2\)](#), F.S., in the following subject areas:
 - a. Educational Media Specialist;
 - b. School Counseling;
 - c. School Psychologist;
 - d. School Social Work; or
 - e. Speech-Language Impaired.

(b) An applicant who meets these requirements must only be assigned to non-classroom instructional positions for which they are certified.

NON-CERTIFICATED INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

[Rule 6A-1.0502](#), F.A.C.

School social workers can also hold licenses issued by the Department of Health without having to hold an educator certificate. However, it is at the discretion of the employer to determine the employment requirements. Rule [6A-1.0502\(12\)](#), F.A.C., notwithstanding the provisions of subsections [6A-1.0502\(1\) through \(9\)](#), F.A.C., the school board or charter school governing board may employ persons licensed as clinical social workers under Chapter 491, F.S., to render services to students in those areas covered by such license. The procedures for employment shall be the same as provided by law for certificated instructional personnel, and each person so employed shall be entitled to a written contract in the form prescribed pursuant to Rule [6A-1.064](#), F.A.C., provided, however, that a non-certificated person employed to render services as a licensed clinical social worker may not be assigned duties of an instructional nature that are not

Certification (cont'd)

NON-CERTIFICATED INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL (CONT'D)

covered within the scope of the person's license as defined by law.

If an applicant has specific questions about his/her status please advise the applicant to contact the Bureau of Educator Certification toll-free at 800-445-6739. Customer service representatives are available Monday–Friday (8:00 am–4:30 pm).

The Bureau of Educator Certification accepts office visitors by appointment Monday–Thursday, excluding holidays. To schedule an appointment, please call 850-245-9796

Evidence-Based Practices Resources

PRACTICEWISE

[Evidence-Based Psychosocial Interventions for Youth](#) is intended to guide practitioners, educators, youth and families in developing appropriate plans using psychosocial interventions. It was created for the period April 2022–September 2022 using the PracticeWise Evidence-Based Services (PWEBS) Database. This report updates and replaces the “Blue Menu” originally distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, Evidence-Based Services Committee, from 2002–2009.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center

SAMHSA is committed to improving prevention, treatment and recovery support services for mental and substance use disorders.

The Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center provides communities, clinicians, policy-makers and others with the information and tools to incorporate evidence-based practices into their communities or clinical settings.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

Children can be resilient with the support of caring mental health providers and teachers. Increased awareness of presenting behaviors should be monitored and brought to your school's problem-solving team. MTSS is for all students. MTSS is a framework for providing an instructional continuum to support learning for all students.

Jointly published by the National Center on Educational Outcomes and the Time Instructional Engagement Support Center, a brief titled [MTSS for All: Including Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities](#) provides suggestions for ways in which MTSS can include students with the most significant cognitive disabilities so that the MTSS provides a whole school and whole district approach to be implemented by educators.

Upcoming Events



YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (YLF)

For student leaders who are energetic, motivated and driven! YLF is a unique leadership-training program for high school students between the ages of 15-21. with disabilities. Students participate in a multi-faceted series of online leadership trainings, role playing, mentoring, job preparation, career exploration and activities to build social and communication skills.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

As we prepare to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month this is a reminder that early identification of mental health concerns is very important. Schools tend to be one of the primary learning environments where students know about the factors that influence their health. Prevention works! The right treatment is effective and students who have mental disorders can live full and productive lives and be successful students. As you work on your Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan, continue to focus on an MTSS to deliver evidenced-based mental health services for students with one or more co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses and to students at high risk of such diagnoses. Additional resources can be accessed at [Mental Health Resources](#).