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Welcome Back



The school year for 2009-2010 has already started for many of you. This second edition of the Student Support Services newsletter is highlighting some important issues for the beginning of the school year.

We welcome your comments and look forward to your suggestions.

Your Student Support Services Team



504 and the Schools

As we are entering a new school year, questions to ask may be:

- Is all staff aware of the students who have 504 accommodation plans?
- Do you have a system for monitoring those plans?
- Are parents aware of the process for resolving concerns?

An organizational checklist may assist with your new school year preparations and can be found at <http://sss.usf.edu/resources/topic/section504/index.html> under Other Resources.

Schools are encouraged to provide ongoing information and staff development regarding responsibilities and rights for students who are 504 eligible. An online tutorial is available at <http://sss.usf.edu/504tutorial>. Also available are the Parent and Teacher Guide to Section 504: Frequently Asked Questions and the District Guide for Meeting the Needs of Students. Both of these publications can be found at <http://sss.usf.edu/resources/topic/section504/index.html>.

We are very excited that 504 expert, Dave Richards, will be joining us at AMM to present 504 hot topics. In providing timely technical assistance for 504, we welcome your pressing questions and will attempt to problem solve with you. Please submit questions to Bettye Hyle via e-mail at bhyle@tempest.coedu.usf.edu. Our office will select questions for our future newsletter editions. We look forward to hearing from you.

H1N1 Information & Resources

District Web sites can now link to <http://www.flu.gov>. This Web site provides one-stop access for families to obtain the latest U.S. Government H1N1 information and resources "Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools" is available at www.flu.gov/plan/school/toolkit.html.

We would like to remind you of the Department of Education's Emergency Information Network for Florida school districts. If your district's server goes down or is taken down during an emergency, such as a hurricane or disaster, visitors to your Web site will be able to view your emergency site which contains only basic information and can be updated remotely with incident status information like school closures and reopenings.

You can confirm with your district technology staff that your district's emergency site is current and can be updated during an emergency. You can view your site by visiting <http://emergency.firn.edu/emergency.php> - select your district from the drop down menu and click on *Show Selected Emergency Page*. If you have not taken advantage of this free service from Florida Information Resource Network (FIRN), your district can contact Adrian Madhosingh at amadhosingh@hcs.net to set up your district's emergency site.

Florida's KidCare Program

Prior to the startup of the new school year, your district will be receiving postcards (not applications). The postcards contain information for parents and students on how to enroll in Florida's KidCare Program. Please be sure to distribute this important information to all of your school centers.

During these difficult economic times, Florida KidCare can provide affordable yet comprehensive health insurance coverage for kids under age 19. Please visit www.healthykids.org or call (888) 340-5437 for assistance.

Students Experiencing Homelessness: Avoiding Barriers to School Enrollment



As the 2009-2010 school year begins, families and communities continue the climb toward financial solvency. Unfortunately, the demographics of this population are not static. Florida's new and returning students will likely include more families somewhere along the continuum of financial instability. Due to circumstances such as job loss, looming health care costs, and other catastrophic events, communities are fraught with increased households experiencing homelessness as well as those who are dangerously teetering on the fence.

In light of this sobering reality, school personnel are in a unique position of ensuring school enrollment, attendance and overall success for children who lack a "fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." This includes, but is not limited to, children who: share housing due to loss of residence or economic hardship; live in motels/hotels, etc., due to lack of alternative adequate housing; are awaiting foster care services; live in cars, parks, etc., and are migratory students under certain conditions.

Critical to this responsibility is information. The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvement Act is incorporated into the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Florida distributes McKinney-Vento funding to local school districts to ensure equal access to a free and appropriate public education.

Specifically, school districts must designate a liaison to identify those children who qualify as homeless to ensure that they are immediately enrolled, and have equal educational opportunities for success.

Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/titlex.asp> to view Technical Assistance Paper: 2007-2008 Title X, Part C Education for Homeless Children and Youth (PDF). To access the Homeless Education (Liaisons) District Program Contact Directory, visit <https://app1.fldoe.org/flbpos/nclbchoice/bposDirectory/directory.aspx>. In the Program Area box, scroll down to select *Title X Homeless Contacts*. Select *All Districts* in the District box and click on *Submit* to view an alphabetical Excel listing of all Title X Homeless Contacts.

Upcoming Events

Florida Association of Student Services Administrators (FASSA) Conference
September 15, 2009, Renaissance Vinoy Resort, St. Petersburg, FL

Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP) Annual Conference
October 28-31, 2009, at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, St. Petersburg, FL.
http://www.fasp.org/Conferences/Annual_Conference.html

Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA) 2009 Convention
October 29-31, 2009, Renaissance Orlando Resort at SeaWorld
<http://www.fla-schoolcounselor.org/convention2009/index.htm>

Florida Counseling Association 60th Annual Convention
Celebrating All Facets of Counseling
November 19-21, 2009, Miami, Florida
<http://www.flacounseling.org/displayconvspecific.cfm?convnbr=6890>

AMM—Lights— Camera—Action!

Premiering AMM 2009
A Red Carpet Event
September 16-18, 2009
Featured Presentations:

- RtI Implementation
- Postsecondary Programs for 18-22 year-old students
- General Supervision
- Section 504 OCR Concerns and other hot "504" Topics

Renaissance Vinoy Resort

State University System Regional Admissions Workshops

The Board of Governors Office and the State University System (SUS) Admission Directors are pleased to announce that the annual SUS Admissions Tour will continue this year. The tour will convene as follows:

Location	Date	Location	Date
FSU	Sept. 2	FIU	Sept. 8
UNF	Sept. 3	FAU	Sept. 9
UCF	Sept. 4	NCF	Sept. 10
		USF	Sept. 11

At each workshop, school counselors will have an opportunity to receive timely information needed to advise students on postsecondary options available to them. School counselors will also be able to interact with the presenters and ask specific questions and gather information about admissions and other related postsecondary topics.

Registration information and an agenda for each session is available at <http://www.flbog.org/about/cod/asa/admissionstour.php>. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the tour, please e-mail admissionstour@flbog.org.

FASSA Conference

The FASSA Conference will be held on September 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg prior to AMM. Registration for this event is \$60.00 and includes an annual \$25.00 membership fee and lunch. An evening reception has also been scheduled.

Agenda plans include a keynote address by Dr. Michael Curtis, "Navigating Changing Times for Student Services Professionals," a panel discussion on Differentiated Accountability and Implementation of Problem Solving - Response to Intervention, and district sharing of timely issues impacting student services personnel.

More information on conference registration and a finalized agenda will follow. For additional information, please contact Linda Troupe at linda.troupe@polk-fl.net.

School Entry Requirements 2009-2010

Prior to entry, attendance, or transfer to Florida schools (kindergarten through 12th grade), each child shall have on file a Florida Certification of Immunization, DH 680. There is a new seventh grade requirement for this school year. For more information, call (850) 245-4342 or visit www.immunizeflorida.org.

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