In 1975, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, known today as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

In 2008, Florida Statutes, Section 1003.4205, entitled Disability History and Awareness Instruction, was signed into law and requires school districts to designate the first two weeks of October as Disability History and Awareness Weeks. During these two weeks, school districts promote instruction for students in all public schools to expand student knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights movement.

We are proud to participate in promoting awareness of disability history and the contributions of individuals with disabilities and encourage our families to share in raising awareness.

Visit Disability History & Awareness - FDLRS Hillsborough or Disability History & Awareness (fldoe.org) for additional information and resources.
OCTOBER
FDLRS Parent Information Sessions

October 5, 2021 — 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Accommodations: Involving Your Child in the Decision Making Process
Join us as we discuss how your child can provide invaluable insight when selecting and using accommodations during instruction and on assessments.

October 7, 2021 — 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM*
Navigating the FDLRS Website for Resources and Information
Join us as we explore the new FDLRS Hillsborough website. Learn more about Child Find, Florida Inclusion Network, Parent Services, and other programs and resources available to support families who have or are at risk of having special need. *This session will be presented in Spanish

October 7, 2021 — 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Understanding the World of Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
In this session, participants will be provided an overview into the world of ESE, including an awareness of the law that governs Exceptional Student Education, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

October 12, 2021 — 1:00PM to 2:00 PM
Promoting Positive Behavior
This training will provide care-givers general information related to behavior. The training will focus on defining behaviors, why they occur, provide behavior strategies, and highlight parent supports.

October 15, 2021 — 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Overview of the Facilitated Individual Educational Plan Meeting
This virtual 1-hour session will provide parents and caregivers the opportunity to have a first hand look at the structure of the Facilitated Individual Educational Plan (FIEP) meeting, what to expect, and the importance of your role in the process.

Registration Link
Immersive Reader

In case you missed the parent information session on “Leveling the Playing Field with Microsoft Learning Tools: Introduction to Immersive Reader,” here are some of the highlights.

Did you know that Immersive Reader can improve reading comprehension and increase fluency? This powerful tool can break words into syllables, use pictures for visual definitions, and offers to dictate speech and allowing the student to pick the voice they want to hear, to name just a few.

To learn more visit Microsoft Learning Tools.

The different features of Immersive Reader are available in various Microsoft online programs and desktops apps. This chart provides a brief list of where to find these features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where is it available?</th>
<th>OneNote</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read Aloud</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spacing and Font Size</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllables</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parts of Speech</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dictate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Line Focus</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picture Dictionary</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Equation support</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, Special Ed Connection - FDLRS Hillsborough.
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](mailto:debbie.valdes@hcps.net)

Corinne Smith, FDLRS Communications Liaison, (813) 837-7872  
[corinne.smith@hcps.net](mailto:corinne.smith@hcps.net)

**Parent Services Information**

(813) 837-7732 (English)  
(813) 837-7728 (Spanish)  
[fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net](mailto:fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net)

**Parent Liaisons, Exceptional Student Education**

Jennifer Belinc-DeGregorio, [jennifer.belinc-degregorio@hcps.net](mailto:jennifer.belinc-degregorio@hcps.net)

Sandra BuShea, [sandra.bushea@hcps.net](mailto:sandra.bushea@hcps.net)

Lexie Harvey, [lexie.harvey@hcps.net](mailto:lexie.harvey@hcps.net)

Lina Moreno, [lina.moreno@hcps.net](mailto:lina.moreno@hcps.net)

Christine Poe, [christine.poe@hcps.net](mailto:christine.poe@hcps.net)

**Liaison School Assignments**

**Website!**

[https://hillsborough.fdlrs.org/](https://hillsborough.fdlrs.org/)

https://twitter.com/@FDLRS_Hills

[https://facebook.com/FDLRSParentServicesHillsborough](https://facebook.com/FDLRSParentServicesHillsborough)

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.

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.

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