Welcome Back
On behalf of the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Parent & Family Services, we would like to welcome you back to another school year.

We are committed to forming and maintaining a productive partnership in your child’s education by building bridges between families, communities, and schools. We know that building strong and effective partnerships creates an environment where children and families can thrive.

Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact us at fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net or visit our website for more information at FDLRS Hillsborough.

Address Changes
Did you move during the summer? Please contact your child’s school and have them update your child's records.

Here Comes the Bus
If you haven’t heard, Hillsborough County Public School District has launched a new bus tracking system, Here Comes the Bus, to help notify parents, family members, and caregivers when the school bus is arriving in the morning and when the bus is dropping your child off in the afternoon.

This app gives families real-time location of your child’s bus and alerts when the bus is near. Enabling push notifications lets families know how far away the bus is and can schedule pickups more efficiently thereby eliminating any safety concerns of a child waiting alone. Do you have children that ride different buses? No worries, you can see all their information within one account.

Visit Here Comes the Bus to learn more or download the app and begin enjoying the convenience that your child’s bus is not too far away. The App code for Hillsborough is 75255.
Transportation
Do you need more information about your child’s school bus? You can visit the Transportation website for general information and contacts at Hillsborough Transportation or visit Hillsborough Bus Routes to see more information about pickup start and stop and times.

Superintendent’s Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities
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). For more information on how you can be involved, visit Exceptional Student Education Superintendent’s Advisory Council.

Special Ed Connection
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.

Hillsborough County Resources
Hillsborough County's Yellow Dot program alerts first responders to valuable health care information located in your glove compartment when involved in a traffic crash (medications, medical conditions, special needs, and other information).

Hillsborough Safe Encounter registration program assists family members who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, blindness, autism, down syndrome, deafness, and other medical and developmental disabilities that affect the way individuals interact and respond to law enforcement officers.

The City of Tampa Voluntary Special Needs Registry, a collaboration between the Tampa Police Department and Tampa Fire Rescue, was created to better help families with a medical condition or special need. A special sticker is placed near your front door or on your car to help first responders recognize if someone has a medical need when responding to a call.
Parent & Family Information Sessions

FDLRS Parent & Family Services offers a variety of information sessions that are relevant and of high interest to our families. We want to empower our families to be active participants in their child’s education by providing learning opportunities that strive to open doors of communication within the school and district.

Upcoming Sessions

ESE 101: Understanding Exceptional Student Education Supports & Services

Join us as we talk about Exceptional Student Education (ESE). Gain a better understanding of how your child becomes eligible for ESE services, what an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is, what support could look like in the classroom, and how we prepare for life after high school.

August 22, 2023 | 12:00 PM and October 24, 2023 | 6:00 PM


These sessions will be virtual.

Visit our FDLRS Hillsborough Webinars & Workshops page for more information or watch one of the many prerecorded sessions at FDLRS Recorded Webinars. If you would like to schedule a session at your school or group, contact Debbie Valdes at (813) 837-7733 or email debbie.valdes@hcps.net.

Useful Websites & Resources

FDLRS
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
FDLRS Hillsborough
FDLRS News & Updates
FDLRS Communications
FDLRS Parent Help Desk
Complete a Ticket

HCPS
Hillsborough Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
ESE Website
Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS)
HCPS Website
FDLRS Parent & Family Services

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.

PARENT & FAMILY SERVICES TEAM
Michael Levine, FDLRS Supervisor
Debbie Valdes, FDLRS Program Manager, (813) 837-7733
Corinne Smith, FDLRS Communications Liaison, (813) 837-7872
Jennifer Belinc-DeGregorio, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 815-3410
Sandra BuShea, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 360-1159
Lexie Harvey, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 738-2535
Lina Moreno, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 773-6804
Barbara Otis, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 825-3988
Christine Poe, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 279-1851
Corinne Smith, ESE Parent Liaison, (813) 360-1412

Parent & Family Services Information
(813) 837-7732 (English) • (813) 837-7728 (Spanish)
fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net

Don’t forget to follow us on
Twitter and Facebook!

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
(813) 837-7777
fdlrsparentservices@hcps.net

FDLRS is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B and State General Revenue funds.

The vision of the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) is that every child receiving exceptional student education services will be able to achieve their fullest potential from prekindergarten through postsecondary opportunities, resulting in college, career, and life readiness.

The mission of the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) is to support and enhance exceptional student education programs by providing evidence-based, high-quality professional learning opportunities; integrating assistive and instructional technology; promoting family engagement; and ensuring access to early intervention services.

Let us know your thoughts on this edition of our newsletter:
FDLRS Parent and Family Services Evaluation