

Ferguson-Florissant School District

October 2023

Mission Statement:

Through implementation of continuous improvement practices Special School District in partnership with Ferguson-Florissant School District will provide specialized programming, supports and services designed for all student's successful contribution to our community.

Let's Talk!

Let's Talk is an open invitation from Special School District (SSD) to tell us what's on your mind. Let's Talk is an easy way to submit feedback at your convenience directly to the SSD staff member who can help.

Please be safe and enjoy!



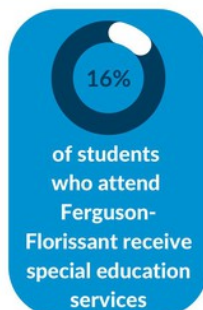
Below you will find "By the Numbers" a snapshot of our SSD support, staff, and services within Ferguson-Florissant School District. Take a look!


Special Education Highlights

 **1,603 STUDENTS**

who live in Ferguson-Florissant School District receive special education services from SSD

9,237 K-12 STUDENTS 
enrolled in Ferguson-Florissant



 **1,478 STUDENTS** attend Ferguson-Florissant schools


 **83 STUDENTS** attend SSD schools/sites

 **42 STUDENTS** receive Special Non-public Access Program services


SSD Services

SSD also provides a range of other services to students who live in the Ferguson-Florissant, including:


Homebound Instruction

 Students who are unable to access services in a traditional school setting due to illness, injury, or disability


Special Non-public Access Program (SNAP)

 Students who attend private or parochial schools can receive after-school special education services through SSD

Courts Program

 Provides students the skills needed to make a successful transition out of a detention or treatment center

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

 Ferguson-Florissant provides its own ECSE services for children 3 to 5 years of age

Career Technical Education (CTE) Highlights

north TECH
HIGH SCHOOL

High school students earn the real-world skills today's employers demand as they prepare for college and careers through experiential learning in over 25 programs.

135 STUDENTS ATTEND NORTH TECH

 **24 DIFFERENT PROGRAMS ATTENDED**

In all school districts on any given day, student counts may vary. For consistency, the information below is the student core data provided to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the Dec. 1, 2022, unduplicated child count, as well as information from SSD's Student Individualized Education Program (IEP) Management System on May 25, 2023.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2023-24 - FIRST SEMESTER



SEPTEMBER

1 - Hub Huddle: CAASTL
5 - Virtual Workshop: Preparing For Your Student's IEP
14 - Family Cafe
19 - FACE Virtual Open House
20 - Family Leadership Institute, Day 1
21 - American Sign Language, Class 1
27 - Lunch & Learn with Easter Seals
27 - Family Leadership Institute, Day 2
28 - American Sign Language, Class 2

OCTOBER

4 - Family Leadership Institute, Day 3
5 - Family Cafe
5 - American Sign Language, Class 3
6 - Hub Huddle: CAASTL
9 - Virtual Workshop: Behavioral Strategies in the Home (Part 1)
12 - American Sign Language, Class 4
19 - American Sign Language, Class 5
25 - Lunch & Learn with Pathways to Independence
26 - American Sign Language, Class 6

NOVEMBER

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT MONTH

2 - American Sign Language Make-Up Session
3 - Hub Huddle: CAASTL
4 - Family Academy
15 - Lunch & Learn with Starkloff
16 - Family Cafe
17 - Hub Huddle: Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
21 - FACE Virtual Open House

DECEMBER

1 - Hub Huddle: CAASTL
1 - Hub Huddle: Higher Education Consortium
5 - Virtual Workshop: Missouri Poison Center

READY TO REGISTER?

Registration is required for most of these offerings. To join in on the fun, scan the QR code or visit www.ssdmo.org/FACEEvents



Upcoming Events from FACE:

The **Community Action Agency of St. Louis (CAASTL)** will be available at the Family Resource Hub, located inside North County Technical High School on October 6th and November 3rd from 10-2pm. CAASTL can provide the following programs and services to families:

- Case management
- Utility assistance
- Rental assistance
- Financial education
- Weatherization
- Program development and educational activities.

Contact [FACE](#) with any questions.



Family Cafe

Do you have a strong desire to make connections with other families in your community? Join FACE on October 5th from 6-8pm for a **Family Cafe**. Family Cafes are hosted by families for families. Conversations are centered around the Strengthening Families Five Protective Factors: Resilience, Relationships, Knowledge, Support, and Communication. To learn more or to register, click [here](#).



Pathways to Independence for a Lunch and Learn

FACE is excited to host **Pathways to Independence for a Lunch and Learn** on October 25th from 11:30-12. Pathways to Independence is a local non-profit supporting teens through navigating their transition years, with a focus on friendship and social skills. Pathways is geared toward more independent teens, often with a Level 1 Autism diagnosis, a learning disability, or other developmental disability. Through a monthly calendar, participants have their choice of a variety of social activities and social skills classes. To access the video, please visit the [SSD YouTube channel](#).

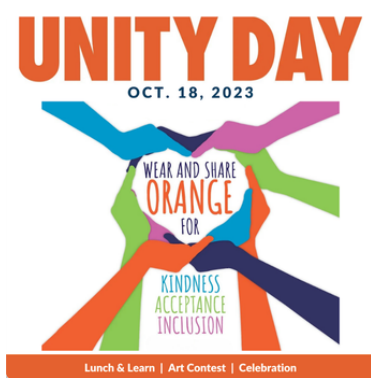


Family Academy

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT! FACE is hosting its second annual **Family Academy** on Saturday, November 4th from 9-12 at North Tech High School, 1700 Derhake Rd., Florissant MO 63033. Families will have the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of community providers and vendors as well as participate in self-directed learning opportunities. So gather up the kids and head to North Tech for a morning filled with fun and empowerment. Visit the FACE [webpage](#) for more information and to register!

Behavioral Strategies in the Home and Community Series:

Are you often frustrated or at a loss trying to manage your student's behavior? Join SSD's Applied Behavior Analysts on October 9th from 6-7pm to learn basic behavior strategies on how to prevent and react to behaviors when in and out in the community. In this webinar, attendees will review reinforcement strategies, basic functions of behavior, determining what your student prefers, how to apply these things across settings, and where resources are for you in the community. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.



Unity Day

Unity Day is coming to Special School District. All across the nation, Unity Day is being celebrated on October 18th. Students should wear and share orange to unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. FACE will be holding a **["Unity Day: Express Yourself" contest](#)**. Students are encouraged to submit entries based on the theme: "Kindness, Acceptance and Inclusion." All forms of artistic expression will be accepted. Check the FACE website for more details on how to enter, and for additional [October events](#) and [opportunities to support](#) Unity Day.



Survey

Students Who Receive Special Education Services Invited to Take SSD Survey:

Special School District values the academic and personal well-being of our students and prioritizes making data-informed decisions to support their success. In collaboration with Panorama Education, SSD students in grades 3-12 are invited to share their voices through two surveys, a climate survey and a social-emotional learning (SEL) survey. The surveys will be given during the fall and spring of the 2023-24 school year, with the fall survey window being **Sept. 19 through Oct. 9**. The surveys will be administered electronically, but PDF versions can be previewed on [SSD's website](#).



SEF Critical Needs Program

SEF Critical Needs Program: The Special Education Foundation (SEF) offers Critical Needs services - a solution to provide immediate funding to those students served by the Special School District (SSD) where the family is either unable to financially meet the need, has exhausted community resources, or is at risk for a student medical emergency that may result in the loss of independence or academic failure. Applications (accepted year-round) are to be completed by a social worker, teacher or administrator through the [SEF website](#), submitted to Adrienne Eaglin at aeaglin@ssdmo.org or mailed to the Special School District Learning Center at 900 Hornet Drive, Hazelwood, MO 63042.



Back to School

Helping Students Navigate Back-to-School Anxiety: Tips for Families:

The start of a new school year can bring both excitement and apprehension for students, especially after the challenges posed by the previous year. It's not uncommon for students to experience back-to-school anxiety as they face new classrooms, teachers, and classmates. As a family member, your support and guidance play a crucial role in helping your student manage these feelings and start the year positively. [Read more...](#)

Online SSD Resources to Help Families All Year: Visit SSDMO.org for links to resources that will direct you to information that will be helpful throughout the year - bookmark the webpage to make it easy to find. The links below apply to all students county-wide who receive services from SSD.

- [Partner Districts](#)
- [Partner District Communication Sequence](#)
- [IEPs - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Bullying Resources](#)
- [Student & Related Services](#)

SSD's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) program is seeking applicants interested in participating in the Fall 2023 SSD Family Leadership Institute.

Family Leadership Institute participants can:

- Build an understanding of future planning and problem-solving utilizing the Charting the LifeCourse tools.
- Learn to effectively participate in their student's education and improve the educational climate for all children.
- Learn how to positively interact and collaborate with other families and school personnel.
- Discover new resources and network with other families.

This program, offered at **no cost** to participants, is designed for family members who are the educational decision-makers for a student with a disability.

The three sessions will be held in-person on Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00 PM on **October 4**. Dinner will be provided for attendees.

Location: Special School District Central office Room 60-61, 12110 Clayton Road, Town and Country, Missouri 63131. (Enter at lower level circle drive)

Are you interested in joining this year's Family Leadership Institute?

[Apply online!](#) Paper applications are available by request. For more information, call 314.989.8460 or email face@ssdmo.org.

From our Social Workers corner...

My name is Mallory Sample and I am in my third year with SSD as an Early Intervention Social Worker.

Early Intervening Services (EIS) is a tool that schools use to address disproportionately (the over representation of racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse children in Special Education). Our services help children who need additional academic or behavioral support to be successful in school. Students that I work with do not have a current IEP, has consistent difficulties with regulating emotions or behavior and may appear anxious, avoidant, over-reactive, short-tempered, overly irritable, etc.



Finally, should a student need IEP services it is important to note that my role does not deny or delay a student's access to Special Education evaluations or services.

Outside of work I am a wife and the proud parent of two wonderful children (ages 12 and 9), a graduate of McCluer North (Go Stars!), and an avid reader. You can usually find me transporting my kids to their various activities (swimming, theater, and basketball) and spending a lot of quality time with my family.

***My tip for the month will be:
Mindfulness***

Have you ever found yourself wondering "what *is* mindfulness exactly?"

Mindfulness is a practice that helps you to become more aware of what you're experiencing in *this* moment and accepting it as it is. Mindfulness aims to help you to be kinder to yourself and to others.

Many times when we hear the word *mindfulness* we think it means being calm and relaxed...totally zen. Mindfulness can help with this but it's really more about awareness and acceptance.

So, why should you care about mindfulness? For so many reasons!

Mindfulness can help make it easier for you to tune into yourself and your needs. Practicing mindfulness can help you build confidence and feel good about who you are. It can help you gain better control over your reactions and emotions...to stop and take a breath before responding when feeling a strong emotion. Mindfulness can help you start your day with good intentions and finish your day calmly as you drift to sleep.

Mindfulness is a practice. Something to continually be working on and growing. It is something that we can do, not a specific way to feel or to be.

Do you practice any mindful habits?

[Social Work Referral Form](#)

Visit my website for resources and activities!

[SSD Social Work - Ferguson Florissant](#)



FACE
Family and Community
Engagement

Satellite Food Pantry
at
The Family Resource Hub
North Tech High School
1700 Derhake Road
Florissant, MO 63033

Supporting families with access to
non-perishable food items and
household supplies.



Hours of Operation	
Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday	By Appointment Only
Tuesday and Friday	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Contact the SSD Family and Community
Engagement Department at
314-989-7683 or email
FACE@ssdmo.org
for additional information.



SSD SPECIAL
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY



Free Flu Shots Through BJC: Receiving a flu shot helps keep you and your community healthy! Free flu vaccinations are being provided through Barnes-Jewish Hospital. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit <https://bit.ly/3oCxqYu>

PARENTS your voice makes a DIFFERENCE!

SSD Board of Education

Connect with the SSD Board of Education: The SSD Board of Education strives for transparency, accountability, and accessibility. We welcome family, staff, and community members to share comments, concerns, and ideas with SSD Board of Education members. To find the Board member representing your subdistrict, [visit the Board of Education page on the SSD website](#).

Community Outreach

Operation Food Search will provide free grab-and-go meals to children Monday-Friday (3:30 pm-4:30 pm) along with other resources at select St. Louis County Library locations during the school year. Stop by after school and pick up a shelf-stable meal to take home. Meals will be available free of charge for children ages 5-18. For more information, please visit <https://www.slcl.org/events> or call 314-994-3300.

Free online Math program for K-5 students!

<https://www.zearn.org/> Zearn is a free Math online program for K-5 students. It has online materials, printable materials, is set up for full digital use, or working in small groups with independent practice.

[Zearn Math: Top-rated math program created for teachers, by teachers](#)

Zearn Math is a K-5 math curriculum based on Eureka Math / EngageNY with top-rated materials for teacher-led and digital instruction.

www.zearn.org

T-Mobile we believe access to education is access to opportunity. That's why we're offering free hotspots and internet to 10 million eligible households.

<https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/project-10-million>

Another Discounted Internet service

Affordable Internet Service for Families

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a [Federal Communications Commission program](#) that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. This new benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Eligible households can enroll through a [participating broadband provider](#) or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an [online](#) or mail in application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/ACP, or by calling 877-384-2575.

SPED Director & Coordinator Contact Information

2022-2023 Special Education - District

Director - Dr. Shanise Terrell 314-824-2065 sterrell@fergflor.org or sterrell@ssdmo.org

Director Secretary - Kristi Webb 314-824-2214 kwebb@fergflor.org or kwebb@ssdmo.org

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cgardner@ssdmo.org cgardner@fergflor.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FERGUSON-FLORISSANT SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 11th BOE meeting 6pm

October 19th & 20th No School (District office will be open)

October 23rd - 27th Parent Teacher conference week

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 11th Parent Advisory Council 7pm

October 24th BOE 7pm

Additional Resources

- [SSD Superintendent Updates](#)
- [SSD Parent Advisory Council](#)
- [Parent Education & Diversity Awareness Program](#)
- [SSD Guidance/Resources for In-Person and Distance Learning](#)
- [SSD Partner District - Ferguson-Florissant](#)
- [Academic and Related Services Toolkit](#)



Special School District of St. Louis County



Facebook



@SSDDStLCo

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Kristi Webb, Secretary



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