

EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION

Parent Newsletter

Winter 2016 - 2017

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the *Extra Special Edition* for the 2016-2017 school year, the newsletter for exceptional parents of Calhoun County. Each issue contains information for parents regarding children in the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program in our district.

People First Language



About 50 million Americans report having a disability. Most Americans will experience a disability some time during the course of their lives. Disabilities can affect people in different ways, even when one person has the same type of disability as another person. Some disabilities may be hidden or not easy to see.

People first language is used to speak appropriately and respectfully about an individual with a disability. People first language emphasizes the person first not the disability. For example, when referring to a person with a disability, refer to the person first by using phrases such as: "a person who...", "a person who has..."

Here are suggestions on how to communicate with and about people with disabilities.

People First Language	Language to Avoid
Person with a disability	The disabled, handicapped
Person without a disability	Normal person, heathy person
Person with intellectual, cognitive, developmental disability	Retarded, slow, simple, moronic, defective, afflicted, special person
Person with an emotional or behavioral disability, person with a mental health or a psychiatric disability	Insane, crazy, psycho, maniac, nuts
Person who is hard of hearing	Hearing impaired, suffers hearing loss
Person who is deaf	Deaf and dumb, mute
Person who is blind/visually impaired	The blind
Person who has a communication disorder, is unable to speak, or uses a device to speak	Mute, dumb
Person who uses a wheelchair	Confined or restricted to a wheelchair, wheelchair bound
Person with a physical disability	Crippled, lame, deformed, invalid
Accessible parking or bathrooms	Handicapped parking or bathroom
Person of short stature	Midget
Person with Down syndrome	Mongoloid
Person who is successful, productive	Has overcome his/her disability

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*"Love the life you live.
Live the life you love"*
-Bob Marley



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For more information about disability and health, visit www.cdc.gov/disabilities

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What is Inclusion?

Inclusion is the practice of educating all students together—students with disabilities and students without disabilities—regardless of their abilities or readiness. It is more than placing students with disabilities in a room with their peers without disabilities. With true inclusion, students with disabilities can access the general education curriculum, classrooms and typical school activities.

Inclusion IS

- All students learning together regardless of labels
- An atmosphere that promotes a sense of belonging, equality, acceptance, and individual worth
- Collaborative, integrated services by education teams
- Supports and adaptations within the general education curriculum and settings
- Highly effective, research-based instruction and assessment



Inclusion IS NOT

- Expecting all students to do the same thing, at the same time, in the same way
- Dumping students into general education classrooms without supports for students and teachers
- Educators working in isolation
- Students always grouped by ability
- Watering down curricula

Who Benefits from Inclusion?

For students with disabilities, inclusion will:

- Improve social and communication skills
- Increase academic achievement
- Allow participating in more school activities
- Foster the development of relationships with peers without disabilities

Students without disabilities will:

- Learn more from the strategies used to support students with disabilities
- Learn to understand, value, and advocate for people who have disabilities

For more information about inclusion please contact one of our FDLRS PAEC FIN Consultants at caren.prichard@paec.org or mary.ziemba@paec.org.

Florida Standards and Assessments

What are the Florida Standards and Florida Standards Assessments?

The Florida Standard in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics were approved by the Florida State Board of Education in February 2014 and were fully implemented in grades K-12 in the 2014-2015 school year. All Florida schools teach the Florida Standards. The Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) provide parents and families, teachers, policy makers, and the general public with information regarding how well students are learning the Florida Standards.

How do the Florida Standards benefit my student?

The Florida Standards prepare Florida students for success in college, career, and life by emphasizing analytical thinking. The Florida Standards Assessments provide a more authentic assessment of the Florida Standards, because they include more than multiple-choice questions. Students are asked to create graphs, interact with test content, and write and respond in different ways than required on traditional tests. Question types assess students' higher-order thinking skills in keeping with the higher expectations of the Florida Standards.

Can my student practice taking the test?

Prior to administering each computer-based assessment, test administrators conduct a practice test that contains sample test items to prepare students of the item types, tools, and online interface they will encounter during testing. Practice tests are available in the FSA Portal for students to practice on their own.

How can I support my student?

Parents and families can promote student success by staying involved in their child's education, offering positive support and feedback, and encouraging their child to relax and do his or her very best. By staying connected with their child's school and teachers and taking advantage of online resources, such as school websites and portals, parents and families can stay informed and be equipped to meet the needs of their child at home.

2016-2017 Calhoun County Assessment Schedule

Dates 2017	Assessment
February 1—March 3	FSAA—Datafolio Testing Window
February 27—April 28	FSAA Performance Task Testing Window
February 28	Grades 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th ELA Writing Test (County-wide) and 9th FSA Writing—BHS
March 1	10th FSA ELA Writing—BHS and 9th FSA ELA Writing—Altha
March 2	10th FSA Writing Retakes—BHS & Altha and 10th FSA Writing—Altha
March 27	10th FSA Reading Retakes and Grade 10 Algebra I Retakes—Altha
March 28	3rd Grade ELA Assessment—Altha, BES, & CARR FSA ELA Retakes, Allgebra I Retakes, FCAT 2.0 Reading Retakes —BHS FSA Grade 10 Reading Retakes, Grade 10 Algebra I Retakes—Altha
March 29	3rd Grade ELA Assessment—Altha, BES, & CARR FSA ELA Retakes, Algebra I Retakes, FCAT 2.0 Reading Retakes—BHS
April 11	5th ELA—BES, 5th & 7th ELA—CARR, 4th & 8th ELA—Altha and 7th ELA & 6th Math—BMS
April 12	5th ELA—BES, 5th & 7th ELA—CARR, 4th & 8th ELA—Altha and 6th Math—Math
April 13	4th ELA—BES, 6th & 8th ELA— CARR, 5th & 9th ELA— Altha, 7th ELA/Session 2—BMS, and 8th ELA/Session 1—BMS
April 14	4th ELA—BES, 6th & 8th ELA—CARR, 5th & 9th ELA—Altha and 8th ELA/Session 2—BMS
April 17	7th & 8th Math—BMS and 9th FSA ELA—BHS
April 18	5th Math—BES, 4th ELA—CARR, 8th Math—CARR, 7th & 8th Math—BMS, 6th & 7th ELA—Altha and 9th FSA ELA—BHS
April 19	5th Math—BES, 4th ELA—CARR, 8th Math—CARR, 6th & 7th ELA—Altha, 10th FSA ELA—BHS and 6th ELA—BMS
April 20	4th Math—BES, 6th & 7th Math—CARR, 5th & 8th Math—Altha, 10th FSA ELA—BHS and 6th ELA—BMS
April 21	4th Math—BES, 6th & 7th Math—CARR and 5th & 8th Math—Altha
April 24	Geometry ECO—BHS
April 25	3rd Math—BES, 3rd & 4th Math—CARR, 3rd & 6th Math—Altha and Geometry EOC—BHS
April 26	3rd Math—BES, 3rd & 4th Math—CARR, 3rd & 6th Math—Altha and Algebra II EOC—BHS
April 27	4th & 7th Math—Altha, 5th Math—CARR and Algebra II EOC—BHS
April 28	4th & 7th Math—Altha and 5th Math—CARR
May 1	Algebra I EOC—BHS and Civics EOC—Altha
May 2	5th Science Assessment—Count-wide, 8th Science Assessment—County-wide, Algebra I EOC—BHS and 10th FSA ELA—Altha
May 3	5th Science Assessment—County-wide, Biology EOC—BHS, 10th FSA ELA —Altha and Geometry EOC—Altha
May 4	7th Civics—BMS & CARR, Algebra II EOC—Altha, Geometry EOC—Altha and US History EOC—BHS
May 5	Algebra II EOC—Altha and Geometry EOC—Altha
May 8	Algebra I EOC—Altha, BMS & CARR and US History EOC—Altha
May 9	Algebra I EOC—Altha, BMS & CARR and Biology EOC—Altha

*Dates of testing are subject to change

For more information and to access the FSA Portal, please visit <http://www.fsassessments.org>



Florida Standards Alternate Assessment

All Florida students participate in the state's assessment and accountability system. The Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) is designed for students whose participation in the general statewide assessment program (Florida Standards Assessments, Statewide Science Assessment, Next Generation Sunshine State Standards End-of-Course Assessments) is not appropriate, even with accommodations. The FSAA measures student academic performance on the Access Points (FS-AP) in Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Access Points reflect the essence or core intent of the standards that apply to all students in the same grade, but at reduced levels of complexity. Student performance is assessed at three levels of complexity. Students' achievement is reported through performance levels described as emergent, achieved and commended. Access Points are academic expectations written specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities. It is expected that only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are eligible under IDEA will participate in the FSAA.



For more information regarding the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment, please visit www.fldoe.org

New Online Tool To Empower and Inform Florida Families

The Florida Department of Education unveiled a new website that will help Florida families make critical education decisions by enabling them to access school and district-level data and will better inform families about the state's college and career ready standards and the quality of learning taking place in their students' classrooms.

The website is live at www.FloridaStudentsAchieve.org.

“We take great pride in the fact that Florida leads the nation in school choice and student performance,” Education Commissioner Pam Stewart said. “Through the Florida Students Achieve website, we provide a central location where parents and families can access the information they need to make the best education decisions for their students. It is my hope that all Floridians will take advantage of this tremendous resource.”

One of the website's primary functions is the school performance search tool, which ultimately enables parents to search by district, zip code, city or other geographic data view and then compare school and district data.

In addition to performance data, the site provides information relevant to current and future students of all ages and includes easy-to-find information about the Florida Standards, school and district performance results in core subjects, educator effectiveness and graduation and postsecondary statistics.

Thanks in large part to its business-friendly climate, companies from around the nation have moved their headquarters to Florida; more than 1.1 million private sector jobs have been created; and the state's unemployment rate has continually dropped. Another benefit to the Florida Students Achieve website is that it can be a helpful tool for anyone interested in moving to Florida.

For more information about the Florida Department of Education, visit www.fldoe.org.



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Serving Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Walton, and Washington counties



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