

Presented by the ESE Division
April 17, 2025

Exceptional Student Education

What, Why, Who

Presenter: Opal T. Bennett, Ed.S. Coordinator, Due Process

The Alphabet Soup

ESE



IDEA



FDLRS
Florida Diagnostic &
Learning Resources
System

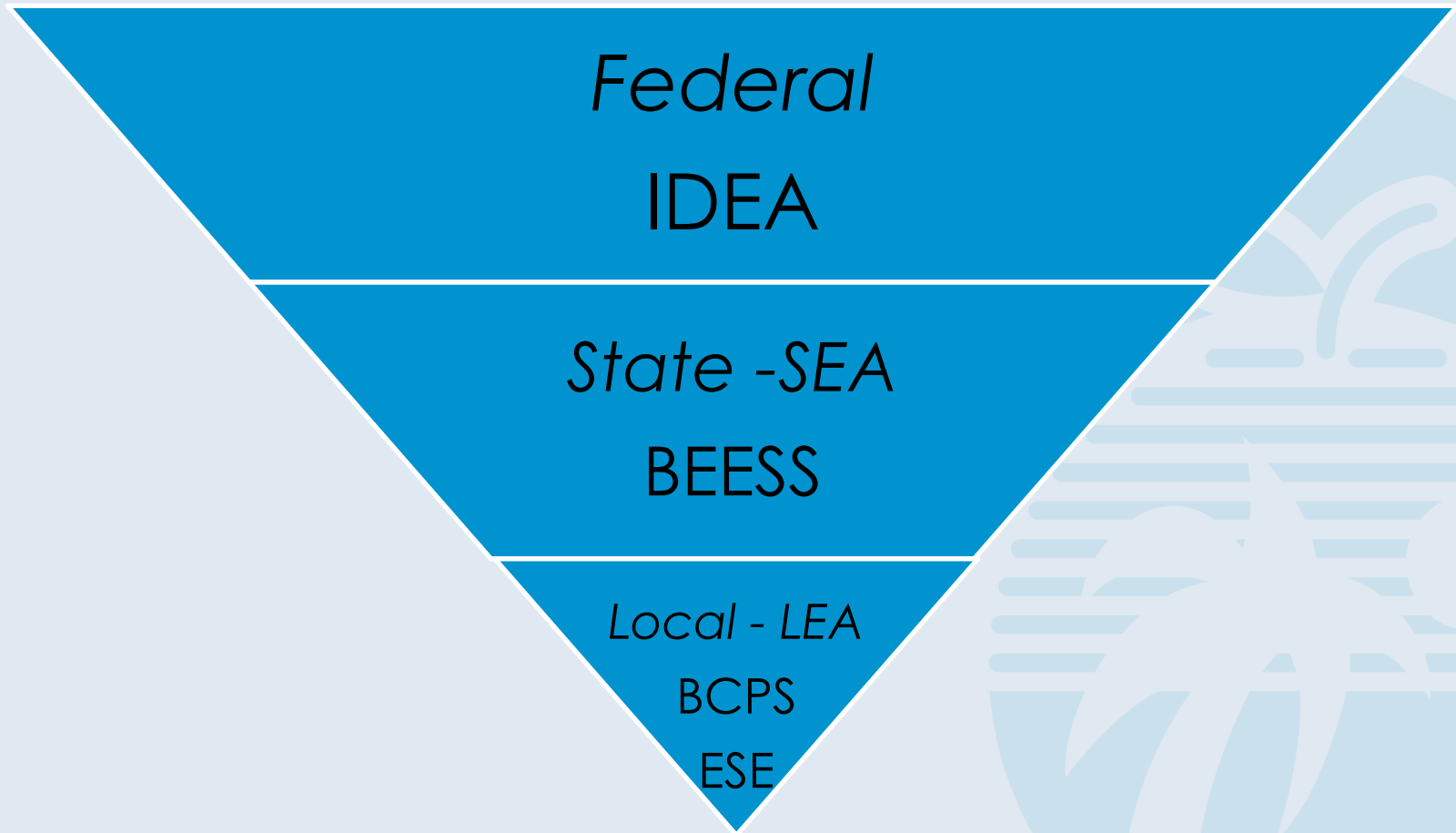
FDLRS
BEESS



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org



The Structure



The Alphabet Soup - IDEA

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.

ed.gov/idea



The Alphabet Soup - IDEA

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

ed.gov/idea



The Alphabet Soup - IDEA

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

Infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, with disabilities and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C.

Children and youth ages 3 through 21 receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.

ed.gov/idea



The Alphabet Soup - BEESS

BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services administers programs for students with disabilities. Additionally, the bureau coordinates student services throughout the state and participates in multiple inter-agency efforts designed to strengthen the quality and variety of services available to eligible students with disabilities.

fldoe.org



The Alphabet Soup - BEESS

BUREAU OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES

BEESS provides parents, educators, and other Floridians with access to information about exceptional student education, student services, juvenile justice education, early intervention, parent and professional partnerships, and many other topics.

fldoe.org



The Alphabet Soup - FDLRS

FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) is an IDEA Funded State Project of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Bureau of Exceptional Education and Students Services (BEESS). BEESS directly supports the FDOE's Guiding Principles and Strategic Initiatives.

fldrs.org



The Alphabet Soup - FDLRS

FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCE SYSTEM

The four central functions of each FDLRS Associate Centers are Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development, and Technology.

Funding also supports implementation of the BEESS Portal to Professional Learning Alternatives (PLA). PLA online courses are designed to provide Florida teachers with widely available, easily accessible opportunities to increase their skills in the area of exceptional student education.

fldrs.org



The Alphabet Soup - ESE

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Children with disabilities who need specially designed instruction and related services are called exceptional students. The special help they are given at school is called exceptional student education (ESE).

The purpose of ESE is to help each child with a disability progress in school and prepare for life after school.

ed.gov/idea



The Alphabet Soup - ESE

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

A team of people makes decisions about the child's needs and ESE services. The child's parents are part of this team. This process is based on the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

ed.gov/idea



The Alphabet Soup - ESE

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

ESE services include specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of the child. ESE services may also include technology devices, therapy, special transportation, or other supports. There is no charge for ESE services.

ed.gov/idea



THE ESE DIVISION

Provides assistance to:

Parents, Schools, BCPS Departments

Curriculum Support

Related Services Support

Professional Development

Compliance Support

Parent Support

Parent Trainings

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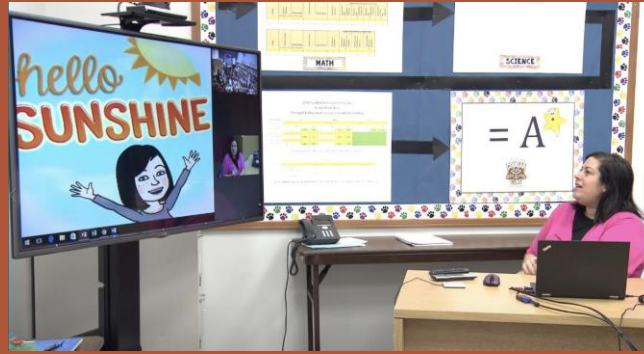




Educating Today's Students to
Succeed in Tomorrow's World

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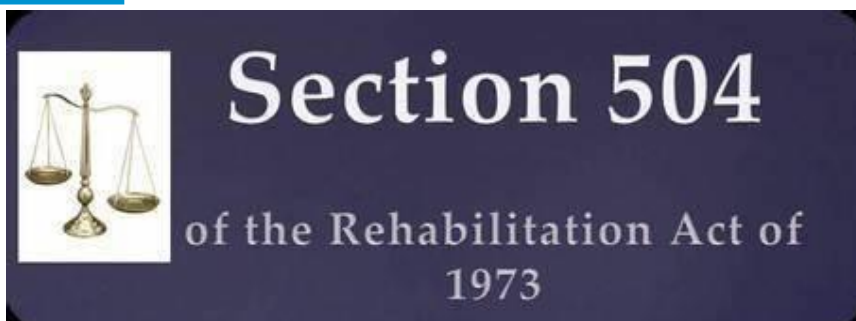




EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION DIVISION

Section 504

Presented by Sandra Wilches
District 504 Specialist



ADA
Americans with
Disabilities Act

Section 504/ADA Governing Laws

- Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantees them a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).
- ADA prohibits discrimination based on disability in programs and activities regardless of whether they receive federal financial assistance.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office for Civil Rights

A component of the USDOE; enforces Section 504 and Title II of the ADA and subsequent amendments of both laws

Receives complaints; conducts compliance reviews; provides technical assistance to school districts, parents, or advocates



Who may need to be considered for a 504 evaluation?

- Students who have a disability
- Students who have a temporary impairment (e.g. broken arm)
- Students whose parents have indicated a health concern (e.g. allergies)
- Students who you suspect may have a disability because they exhibit learning or behavioral challenges that do not respond to instruction/interventions AND their needs do not appear to rise to the level of needing special education services.



What do I do if I think a student may need a 504 evaluation?

A parent, teacher, or other staff member may raise a concern about a student's need for help.

The school-based team will meet with the parent to discuss all relevant information about the student.

At the meeting, the team will determine if more information is needed. This could result in a consent for a 504 evaluation.

However, the team could determine that the student needs interventions and/or may require an ESE evaluation.

Interventions can occur concurrently with a Section 504 evaluation and/or an ESE evaluation.



Section 504 Evaluation

- An evaluation under Section 504 is not a full and individual evaluation as required under IDEA.
- Data used for the evaluation and determination of a disability can be broad and should include information from a **variety of sources.**



Evaluation Data Examples

- Medical reports
- Medical diagnosis
- Private evaluations
- Teacher observations
- Rating scales
- Graphed progress monitoring data
- School records:
 - Attendance
 - Academics
 - Behavior



Section 504 Eligibility Criteria

Section 504 Eligibility is established when the 504 Team utilizes evaluation data to determine that a student has a physical or mental impairment **that substantially limits one or more major life activity.**

Physical Impairment – Medical conditions

Mental Impairments – Psychological/Learning/Behavior

A diagnosis alone is insufficient to establish eligibility under Section 504.



504 Determinations

**Not 504
Eligible**

**504 Eligible
with a plan**

**504 Eligible
with no
plan**



What is included in a Section 504 Plan?

- The educational impact of the identified disability(ies)
- Accommodations and services necessary to facilitate access to education and any other school activities in the least restrictive environment
- Services and accommodations based on information and data used in the evaluation and eligibility determination process
- How, where, and by whom the services and accommodations will be provided
- Self-management of health conditions in the school setting or school sponsored activities, if applicable





Educating Today's Students to
Succeed in Tomorrow's World

Contact Information

Exceptional Student Education

Section 504 Department

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