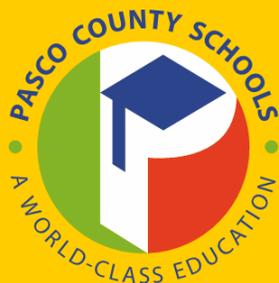


# Parent Guide

*to Exceptional Student Education*



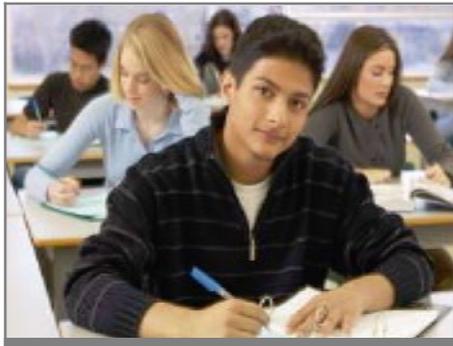
**Parents....**

**Have a voice at the state level! Take the ESE Parent Survey, available each year from February 1 to May 31.**

[www.esesurvey.com](http://www.esesurvey.com)

This guide was created to help parents and guardians of children with special needs learn about Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in Pasco County Schools and answer many common questions.

## What is ESE?



Exceptional Student Education (ESE) is the name given in Florida to educational programs and services for students with special learning needs, including those who have disabilities and those who are gifted.

When a child is having difficulty in school, several kinds of help or interventions, are tried before a referral for evaluation is made. If the interventions are not successful, then the school and the parent will meet to discuss the option of evaluation. **The evaluation will only happen with parent consent.**

In order to be eligible for ESE programs and services, a student must meet all of the requirements listed in Florida State Board of Education Rules for a specific disability.

## Exceptional Student Education ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
APD	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
ASA	Autism Society of America
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorders
ASHA	American Speech/Language Hearing Association
AT	Assistive Technology
BEESS	Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services
C.A.R.D.	Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
CBI	Community Based Instruction
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children
CMS	Children's Medical Services
CST	Child Study Team
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DD	Developmentally Delayed
DHH	Deaf or Hard of Hearing
DOE	Department of Education
DOH	Department of Health
DSI	Dual-Sensory Impairment
DSM V	Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
EBD	Emotional or Behavioral Disability
EIP	Early Intervention Program
EP	Education Plan
ESE	Exceptional Student Education
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
ESY	Extended School Year
ET	Extended Transition
FAAST	Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education
FBA	Functional Behavior Assessment
FCC	Family Care Council
FDDC	Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
FDLRS	Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
FERPA	Family Educational Rights Privacy Act
FIN	Florida Inclusion Network

## Exceptional Student Education ACRONYMS

FND	Family Network on Disabilities
FSA	Florida Standards Assessment
FSAA	Florida Standards Alternative Assessments
HH	Hospital Homebound
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individual Educational Plan
IFSP	Individualized Family Support Plan
InD	Intellectual Disabilities
IPE	Individual Plan of Employment
ISS	In School Staffing
LEA	Local Education Agency
LES	Local Early Steps
LI	Language Impairment
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MTSS/RTI	Multi Tier System of Support/Response to Intervention
NORD	National Organization for Rare Disorders
OCR	Office of Civil Rights
OHI	Other Health Impaired
OI	Orthopedic Impairment
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
PBIP	Positive Behavior Intervention Plan
PIC	Pasco Interagency Council
SBIT	School-Based Intervention Team
SEA	State Education Agency
SEDNET	Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network
SI	Speech Impairment
SLD	Specific Learning Disabilities
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist
SP	Service Plan
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TATS	Technical Assistance & Training System
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
UCP	United Cerebral Palsy
VI	Visual Impairment
VPK	Voluntary Prekindergarten

## GLOSSARY OF ESE TERMS

**Access Points Standards:** Academic Expectations written specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities to access the general education curriculum.

**Accommodation:** A different way of doing something that takes into account a person's disability. Accommodations are changes in how a student is taught or tested. Accommodations do not change the requirements of a course or the standards the student must meet. (Compare with "modification".)

**Assessment:** A way of collecting information about what a student knows and can do and what a student still needs to learn. Assessment may include testing, observing the student, and looking at a student's portfolio or work samples.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** Characterized by an uneven Developmental profile and a pattern of qualitative impairments in social interaction, communication and the presence of restricted repetitive, and/or stereo-typed patterns of behavior, interest and activities.

**Child Study Team (CST):** A group of people who help teachers meet the learning needs of their students. The team may refer a student for an "evaluation."

**Case manager:** The ESE teacher responsible for the orchestration and management of an individual student's education.

**Consent:** Parents' agreement to let the school take an action that affects their child's education. Consent is usually obtained by the parent signing a form.

**Continuum of Services:** The range of possible services for students with disabilities. It includes services provided in a general education classroom, a special class, a special school, or other placements.

**Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing (DHH):** A student who has a loss of some or all of the ability to hear

## GLOSSARY OF ESE TERMS

**Developmentally Delayed (DD):** This program is for children ages birth to five years of age only. A child with a developmental delay is developing at a slower pace than his or her peers either mentally, emotionally, or physically.

**Diploma Options:** Various types of standard diplomas earned based on successful completion of state defined criteria for students pursuing a standard diploma and standard diploma via access points.

**Disability:** A condition that makes it difficult for a student to learn or do things in the same ways as most other students. A disability may be short-term or permanent.

**Dismissal:** A decision made at an IEP or an EP meeting to dismiss a student from ESE services because the student no longer needs those services. The IEP team reviews evaluations and other information about the student before making this decision. Parents will receive written notice before services are stopped.

**Dual-Sensory Impaired (DSI):** A student who has dual-sensory impairments affecting both vision and hearing, the combination of which causes a serious impairment in the abilities to acquire information, communicate, or function within the environment, or who has a degenerative condition which will lead to such an impairment.

**Due Process Hearing:** A formal meeting held to settle disagreements between parents and school districts about the evaluation, eligibility, placement, services, or IEP of a child with a disability. The meeting is run by an administrative law judge.

**Education Plan (EP):** A written plan describing the individual learning needs of a gifted student and the services that will be provided to the student.

**Eligibility Criteria:** The requirements a child must meet to be eligible for each exceptionality category. The eligibility criteria are listed in Florida's State Board of Education rules.

## GLOSSARY OF ESE TERMS

**Eligibility Staffing:** A meeting at which the parents and a group of school staff members determine if a student is eligible for ESE services based on the eligibility criteria.

**Eligible:** Refers to a student who meets the requirements for and is in need of ESE.

**Emotional or Behavioral Disability (EBD):** Persistent and consistent behavior that adversely affect educational performance. Not attributable to age, culture, gender or ethnicity.

**ESE Parent Collaborative Network:** The group which collaborates with Pasco County ESE department to support district initiatives.

**Evaluation:** A way of collecting information about a student's learning needs, strengths and interests. It is used to help decide whether a student has a disability and is eligible for ESE programs and services.

**Exceptionality:** A disability or special learning need.

**Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA):** Measures student academic performance on the Access Points in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, similar to Florida Standardized Assessment.

**Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE):** The words used in the federal law (IDEA) to describe the right of a student with a disability to special services that will meet his or her individual learning needs, at no cost to his or her parents.

**Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA):** The process of gathering data about problem behaviors of students.

**Functional Vocational Evaluation:** An ongoing process that identifies a student's work-related skills, interests and need for training.

**GED Diploma:** A high school diploma earned by a student who is at least 18 years old and who passes the Tests of General Educational Development.

**Gifted:** Students who exhibit high cognitive abilities and need special learning experiences that allow them to make progress that reflects those abilities. It is possible for a gifted student to have a disability as well.

## GLOSSARY OF ESE TERMS

**Hospital Homebound (HH):** A student in this program must be taught at home or in a hospital for an extended period of time due to a severe illness, injury or health problem.

**Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE):** An evaluation requested by a student's parents and carried out by someone who does not work for the school district.

**Independent Functioning:** A student's skills in meeting his or her own needs, such as feeding, dressing and toileting; traveling safely; and using time management and organizational strategies.

**Individual Educational Plan (IEP):** A written plan describing the individual learning needs of a student with disabilities and the services, supports, accommodations and/or modifications that will be provided to the student.

**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** The most important United States law regarding the education of students with disabilities.

**Intellectual Disabilities (InD):** Significantly below average general intellectual and adaptive functioning manifested during the developmental period (birth to 18 years) with significant delays in academic skills.

**Interventions:** Strategies used to help a student make progress in learning or behavior.

**Job Coaching:** Help for a student with disabilities in which a specially trained adult goes to the workplace with the student to help the student learn all of the tasks that are part of that job.

**Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):** The school setting (placement) that allows a child with a disability to be educated to the greatest extent possible with children who do not have disabilities.

**Mediation:** A process in which parents and school personnel try to settle disagreements with the help of a person who has been trained to resolve conflicts.

## GLOSSARY OF ESE TERMS

**Modification:** A change in the requirements of a course or the standards a student must meet; a change in what the student is taught or tested on.

**Occupational Therapy (OT):** Treatment for a student with a disability that helps the student to maintain, improve, restore, or develop skills needed for daily living.

**Orientation and Mobility:** Instructing individuals who are blind or visually impaired with safe and effective travel through their environment.

**Orthopedic Impairment (OI):** Severe skeletal, muscular, or neuromuscular impairment.

**Other Health Impaired (OHI):** Having limited strength, vitality, or alertness with respect to the educational environment that is due to chronic or acute health problems.

**Physical Therapy (PT):** A related service to provide treatment for a student that helps to maintain, improve, restore or develop the student's movements and coordination so that he or she can benefit from special education.

**Placement:** The range of settings where your child can receive special education services.

**Positive Behavior Intervention Plan (PBIP):** A plan that helps a student decrease his or her problem behaviors. The PBIP includes strategies the student will be taught that will allow the student to stop the problem behaviors or replace them with other behaviors. The PBIP also includes the method for determining the student's progress in decreasing the problem behavior.

**Present Levels of Educational Performance:** Statements in an IEP that describes what a student is able to do, what they know, and the areas they struggle with. These will determine what the student needs to learn.

**Procedural Safeguards:** Federal special education law under IDEA that outlines the protections for families to students with disabilities.

**Regular Standards:** The academic content that most students are studying in Florida. The general curriculum or Common Core Standards describe what students are expected to know and be able to do at various points in their education.

**Related Services:** Supports given to a student with a disability in addition to classroom teaching to help them benefit from special education. Examples of related services are special transportation, physical and occupational therapy and the services of readers for the blind.

## GLOSSARY OF ESE TERMS

**Screening:** A way of testing a group of students to find out if any of them need an individual evaluation.

**Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD):** A student who has average or above average ability, but is still unable to learn things as easily as most other students do.

**Speech Impaired (SI) and Language Impaired (LI):** Related to a student's ability to talk, write, listen or read. This includes understanding others and making himself or herself understood.

**State Board of Education Rules:** The rules developed to implement Florida's laws related to education.

**Transfer of Rights:** The shift of rights from the parents of a student with a disability to the student when the student reaches the "age of majority."

**Transition IEP Meeting:** Used for students age 14 or older. The transition IEP helps prepare students for life after school. A major purpose of the meeting is to help plan a young person's move into adult life.

**Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI):** An acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in a disability that adversely affects educational performance.

**Visual Impairment (VI):** A student who has a loss of some or all of the ability to see.

**Vocational Services:** Relating to skills needed for a trade or technical career. Examples of vocational skills are typing and carpentry.

Definitions adapted from *An Introduction to Exceptional Student Education*; Copyright 2012; State of Florida Department of Education. Available through the Clearinghouse Information Center of the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS).

## Continuum of Services

**Consultation:** ESE teacher meets with general education teachers in accordance with the student's IEP to plan, implement, and monitor instructional strategies. The meetings are regularly documented and are designed to ensure that the student with a disability is successful in the general education classroom.

**Co-Teaching:** Both general education and ESE teachers share responsibility for planning, delivering, and evaluating Pre-K-12 instruction for all students in a class/subject for the **entire class period**.

**Support Facilitation:** Both general education and ESE teachers share responsibility for planning, delivering and evaluating Pre-K-12 instruction for all students in a class/period. The ESE teacher's schedule is flexible allowing instruction to occur for a **partial period** or **certain days** of the week.

**Dual Certification:** One teacher serves as both the general education teacher and the ESE teacher to provide the specially designed instruction as identified in the student's IEP. The teacher must meet certification requirements in both general education and exceptional student education.

**Resource:** ESE teacher is providing instruction to a small group of all disabled students with similar individual needs so that they can receive specially designed instruction for a portion of their day.

**Separate Class:** ESE teacher is providing instruction to a group of all disabled students with similar individual needs so that they can receive specially designed instruction for the majority or all of their day.

**The identified specialized programs are outlined on the next page.  
If an IEP team recommends a specialized program and it is not located at the student's zoned school, transportation will be provided to the closest program school.**

## Pasco Specialized Programs

**Sensory Behavior Communication Program (SBCP)**- based on the Florida Standards for students with needs in the area of behavior, communication, and sensory which are moderate/severe and associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Social Behavior Program (SBP)**- based on Florida Standards for students with moderate/severe social, emotional, and behavior needs

**Access Curriculum Program-Independent (ACP-I)**- based on access points and supports for students with a significant cognitive disability at the independent level and with mild/moderate behavioral needs

**Access Curriculum Program- Supported/Participatory (ACP-S/P)**- based on access points for students with a significant cognitive disability at the supported and participatory level with mild/moderate behavioral needs

**Access Sensory Behavior Communication Program (ASBCP-I/S/P)**- based on access points for students with a significant cognitive disability at all levels and needs in the area of behavior, communication, and sensory which are severe/continuous and associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder or students at the independent or high supported level may receive this support based on individual student needs

**Access Intensive Behavior Curriculum Program (AIBCP-I/S)**- based on access points for students with significant cognitive disability at the independent or high supported level needing constant supports to address severe/continuous verbal and physical aggression

**Developmental Pre-Kindergarten (DPK)**- program for students with significant cognitive, communication, and independent functioning needs

**Sensory Behavioral Communication Pre-Kindergarten (SBC-PK)**- program for students with significant cognitive, reciprocal social interaction, communication, independent functioning and/or sensory/behavior needs

**Pre-Kindergarten Varying Exceptionalities (PK VE)**- program to address the needs of students with moderate developmental delays in multiple areas

## HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

All numbers are accessible from three area codes  
and using the numbers below: (813)794-XXXX  
(352)524-XXXX (727)774-XXXX

### Pasco County School District Main Office

2000

### Student Support Programs and Services Department

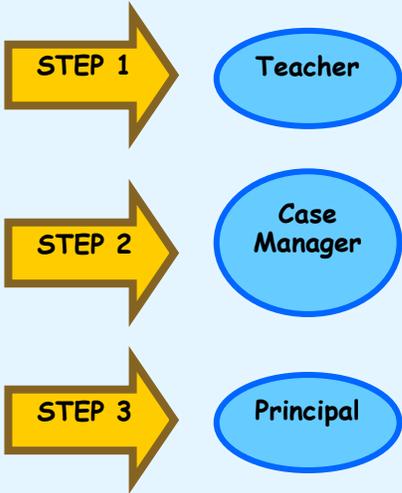
2600

Compliance	2165
English for Speakers of Other Languages	2600
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System	2630
Gifted Education	6088
Home Education	6209
Hospital/Homebound	3122
McKay Scholarship Office	2668
Medicaid	2601
School Counseling Services	2361
Pre-Kindergarten Programs	2771
School Psychology Services	2361
School Health Services	2360
Social Work Services	2442
Special Olympics	3062
Section 504	2062
Transportation Call Center	0450

### Additional Numbers

Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)	727-793-2723 ex2044
Parent Support Network	727-523-1130 ex211
SEDNET	727-669-1220 ex2024

**WHO TO TURN TO ...  
at the school level**



Contact Info	
Name:	
School Number:	
Email:	
Name:	
School Number:	
Email:	
Name:	
School Number:	
Email:	

**TEACHER:**  
Your first and primary contact is your child's teacher. You may send a note with your child or leave a message for the teacher to set up a conference to discuss your concerns.

**ESE CASE MANAGER:**  
The ESE Case Manager can schedule a meeting to discuss options for your child.

**PRINCIPAL (or other School Administrator):**  
If your child continues to have difficulties after receiving services or you do not feel your child's needs have been met, contact the principal's office to arrange a meeting.

**WHO TO TURN TO ...  
beyond the school level**

Contact Info
Name:
District Number:
Email:
Name:
District Number:
Email:

**ESE  
Compliance**



**ESE  
Supervisor**



**ESE Compliance/Resolution Specialist:**  
The District ESE Compliance person can assist with questions regarding IEPs and IDEA.

**ESE Supervisor:**  
Contact the District ESE Office when you feel your child's needs and your concerns have not been met at the school level.

DEPARTMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION  
[www.fldoe.org/ese](http://www.fldoe.org/ese)

FDLRS Gulfcoast  
Serving Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas Counties  
[www.fdlrsgulfcoast.org](http://www.fdlrsgulfcoast.org)



The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System is funded by the State of 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 (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Preschool; and State General Revenue funds.

This brochure was adapted from "*Possibilities: A Parent's Guide to Exceptional Student Education*" developed by FDLRS Alpha and The School District of Palm Beach County.

~2020~