

Flagler County Schools
Celebrate
Disability History and Awareness Week

October 6 – 17th, 2008

The 2008 Legislature created Section 1003.420,5 Florida Statutes, Disability History and Awareness Instruction. Based on this new statute, district school boards will be required to designate the first two weeks in October as “Disability History and Awareness Week.”

Purpose

Disability History and Awareness Week is a series of activities designed to focus on the *abilities* that people with disabilities have. The purpose of the instruction is to expand student’s knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability rights movement. The goal of Disability Awareness Week is for students, faculty, and the community to have a better understanding of people with disabilities and the issues faced. Another intended outcome is for all individuals to demonstrate less reservation in dealing with and communicating with people with disabilities.

Disability History and Awareness Goals

1. Better treatment of individuals with disabilities in society (especially youth in school) and increase attention to preventing the bullying or harassment of students with disabilities;
2. Encourage individuals with disabilities to develop self esteem, resulting in more individuals with disabilities gaining pride, obtaining postsecondary education, entering the workforce, and contributing to their communities; and,
3. Reaffirmation of the commitment to the full inclusion of and equal opportunities for all individuals with disabilities.
4. Create an environment of learning where students, faculty, and the community feel comfortable asking questions and discussing disability issues.
5. Develop a sense of respect and tolerance toward fellow human beings whose life experiences are different from the non-disabled population.
6. Encourage acceptance among all individuals. Recognize that difference is O.K. and beautiful.
7. Build a community of equality. Though difference exists, find ways in which we can live, learn, and work together.
8. Provide the Flagler County School District with information related to Disability History and law.

Disability Awareness Logo



Coordinator responsibilities

- Determine a team of people who can HELP you
- Design a week of activities that is age appropriate for your student body (feel free to use anything included in this document, or whatever your team determines informative and fun)
- Share information with the media, put on your school's marquis put up posters
- Disseminate and collect post week evaluations

Possible Guest Lecturers

- JoAnne and David Gee, parents raising a daughter with Downe's Syndrome 447-8465
- Christina and Joe Pinto, parents raising a son graduating this year from our ESE program and Unified Partner program with the Special Olympics P.O. Box 261 Bunnell, FL 3211 (386) 437-8134
- Dr. Brian Abrams – president of F.A.C.E.S brijul1@juno.com
- Donna Jaenicke, guidance counselor at MHS with a progressive physical disability 447-1575 ext. 5117
- John Fitton, Jessica Garrison, and Angela Kastinek, employees of Flagler County Schools who have successfully participated in Flagler County ESE programs. 447-1575
- Amber Dowling – Teacher for the hearing impaired, Rymfire Elementary
- Amanda Fadden – Matanzas High School student with a visual impairment who uses a guide dog (contact LeAnne Grillot 437-7526)
- FDLRS – JoAnne Gore <http://www.nefec.org/services2/service.asp?id=27>
- LeAnne Grillot – Teacher for the Visually Impaired – Flagler County Schools 437-7526
- YOUR schools Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech/Language Therapists

Guest lecturers from the community will be invited and paid to share with students and staff their experiences. Teachers will be required to sign up in advance for a spot with the various lecturers. Lecturers are invited to share, but are not limited to:

- Personal and family experiences
- Physical or mental limiting/liberating experiences
- Social experiences
- Lifestyle differences
- Any other educational experiences that may apply to the week's goals

Possible activities to share with schools

In class activities

- Lessons on disability issues
- Questions dealing with disability issues
- Communicating with people with disabilities handout
- Disability misconception handout and activities
- Experiencing disability activities
- In-class discussion/sharing
- Taking Disability Awareness / Who's who among celebrities with disabilities quiz
- Self-contained guest lecture (class specific)
- Any other educational experiences that may apply to the week's goals

Lunchtime Activities

- Activities related to the senses
- Wheelchair agility activities
- Learning disability simulation activity
- Reading disability simulation activity
- Hands-on experiences with occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy tools and devices
- Participating in daily lunchtime quizzes to try to win a "grab-bag" prize