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Helpful Websites

http://www.addcenter.net A.D.D. and Family Support Center	http://www.inclusion.com Inclusion Press Home Page
http://www.advocacycenter.org The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.	http://www.idonline.org LD online guide to learning disabilities
http://www.afb.org American Foundation for the Blind	http://www.ncset.org National Center on Secondary Education & Transition
http://www.thearc.org The Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States	http://www.nichcy.org The National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities
http://www.autismpensacola.org Autism Pensacola	http://alliance.unh.edu National Home of Your Own Alliance
http://www.chadd.org Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders	http://www.rarediseases.org NORD: National Organization for Rare Disorders
http://www.firn.edu Clearinghouse Information Center Services	http://www.okaloosa.k12.fl.us Okaloosa County Schools
http://www.escambia.k12.fl.us Escambia County Schools	http://www.santarosa.k12.fl.us Santa Rosa County Schools
http://www.fctd.info Family Center on Technology and Disability	http://schwablearning.org Schwab Learning
http://www.fndfl.org Family Network on Disabilities of Florida	http://www.ucp.org United Cerebral Palsy
http://www.fddc.org Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.	http://www.ed.gov US Dept. of Education Office for Civil Rights

NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	SEDNET	Severely Emotionally Disturbed Network
NORD	National Organization for Rare Disorders	SLD	Specific Learning Disability
NPND	National Parent Network on Disabilities	SLI	Speech/Language Impaired
OI	Osteogenesis Imperfecta	SSI	Supplemental Security Income
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs	SLT	Speech/Language Therapy
OT	Occupational Therapy/Therapist	UCP	United Cerebral Palsy
PSC	Primary Service Coordinator	VE	Varying Exceptionalities
PI	Physically Impaired	VI	Visually Impaired
PPEC	Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care	WIC	Women, Infant and Children's Nutrition Program
PRO	Parent Resource Organization	Other Acronyms:	
PT	Physical Therapy/Therapist	_____	
RPC	Regional Policy Council	_____	
RPICC	Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center	_____	
R&R	Resource and Referral	_____	
SEA	State Education Association		
SED	Severely Emotionally Disturbed		

Purpose of the Resource Guide

The Resource Guide to Special Services is provided for parents, family and community members, and education professionals to assist in providing connections to agencies and organizations that provide services to persons with developmental disabilities.

Services are listed alphabetically, by category.

The electronic version of this guide is updated each semester, and can be found at

<http://www.fdlrswestgate.org>

The print version is updated annually.

Additional copies of this resource can be obtained by calling FDLRS at (850) 469-5423 or 1-888-445-9662, or you may print a copy of the online resource guide.

Response to Intervention

What is Response to Intervention (RtI)?

Response to intervention (RtI) is referenced in the **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act** as well as in the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) reauthorization of 2004**. RtI represents a systematic method for evaluating the needs of all students and for fostering positive student outcomes through carefully selected and implemented interventions. The **R** in RtI is defined as selecting the “at risk” students in general education. The **I** focuses on evidence based practices used to intervene with academic/behavioral concerns.

Each district is responsible for implementing RtI as a practice of providing high-quality instruction and intervention matched to student need, monitoring progress frequently to make decisions about change in instruction or goals and applying child response data to important educational decisions (NASDSE, 2005).

This is an exciting time in education! RtI represents a true milestone in the methodology of identifying students with special needs. Questions about RtI? Contact your school’s guidance counselor for more information about the process used in your district.

FICCIT	Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers	IEP	Individual Education Plan
FLARF	Florida Association for Rehabilitation Facilities	IFSP	Individual Family Service Plan
FND	Family Network on Disabilities	ISP	Individual Service Plan
FRS	Family Resource Specialist	ITP	Individual Transition Plan
FSDB	Florida School for the Deaf and Blind	LBR	Legislative Budget Request
FSP	Family Support Plan	LD	Learning Disability
FTE	Full Time Equivalency	LEA	Local Education Agency
HHSB	Health and Human Services Board	LICC	Local Interagency Community Collaboration
HI	Hearing Impaired	LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
HMO	Health Maintenance Organization	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
HRAC	Human Rights Advocacy Council	MD	Muscular Dystrophy
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Council	MS	Muscular Sclerosis
ICF	Intermediate Care Facility	NAEYC	National Association for the Education of Young Children
ID	Intellectual Disability	NEC*TAS	National Early Childhood* Technical Assistance System
IDEIA	Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act	NICHCY	National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities

A Guide to the Alphabet Soup of Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	DBS	Division of Blind Services
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder	DCF	Department of Children and Families
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	DD	Developmental Disabilities
AHCA	Agency for Health Care Administration	DDC	Developmental Disabilities Council
APD	Agency for Persons with Disabilities	DEI	Developmental Evaluation and Intervention
ARC	Association for Retarded Citizens	DOE	Department of Education
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorders	DOH	Department of Health
ASHA	American Speech/ Language Hearing Association	DS	Developmental Services
BEESS	Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services	EBD	Emotional/Behavior Disability
CARD	Center for Autism and Related Disabilities	EIP	Early Intervention Program
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children	EMH	Educable Mentally Handicapped
CHS	Children's Home Society	ESE	Exceptional Student Education
CMS	Children's Medical Services	FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
CP	Cerebral Palsy	FDLRS	Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
CPHU	County Public Health Unit	FEFP	Florida Education Funding Program

What You Should Know about Transition From Part C to Part B

- Early Steps, the service provider for children from birth to two years of age, holds a Transition Conference with the parent and a School District (the Local Education Agency—LEA) representative to explore options, explain the process and plan for transition. This conference is held when the child is between two years three months and two years nine months of age.
- An Early Steps Referral to a School District includes the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP), recent evaluations/assessments and other related information.
- Early Steps will notify families of various activities to prepare the child and family for transition to school.
- Early Steps provides documentation to the School District which will include Vision and Hearing Screening, Student Health Form, Immunization Record, certified Birth Certificate and Social Security card.
- A complete speech-language and psychological evaluation is required. Other evaluations will be completed as necessary and will be done by Early Steps or the School District.
- The Early Steps Coordinator is invited by the School District to attend an Eligibility Staffing and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting; the IEP must be written to be implemented on the child's third birthday.

Guidelines for Postsecondary College/ University Transition

Governing Legislation

When students transition from high school to college/ university there is a change in the law which governs services to students with disabilities.

- Grades K-12 receive services under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)**.
- Postsecondary students receive services under the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** and **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504)**. Once graduated from high school, students are no longer entitled to provisions under **IDEIA**.

IDEIA vs. ADA and Section 504

Under IDEIA:

- Schools are responsible for finding and identifying students
- Staff members must identify services and accommodations needed for students to be successful.

The school system is responsible for conducting assessments to determine eligibility, continued eligibility, and needs in the educational setting.

- The IEP/Transition IEP (Individual Education Plan) specifies and drives services needed.

US Social Security Administration
800-772-1213
TTY
1-800-325-0778
Disability
1-866-763-0786

United Way
Escambia
850-434-3157
Santa Rosa
850-623-4507
Okaloosa
850-243-0315

Transportation Services

Bus Service
Escambia Co. Area Transit/ECAT
850-595-3228
TTY
850-595-3227

Community/Medicaid Transportation
Okaloosa
850-833-9168

Mercy Medical Airlift
1-800-296-1191

Miles for Kids in Need Program
1-817-963-8118

National Patient Air Travel Helpline
1-800-296-1217

Vision Services

Bureau of Braille and Talking Books Library
1-800-226-6075

Division of Blind Services
850-595-5282

Lion's Club Eye Clinic
Escambia
850-438-8989

Speech and Hearing Services

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service

850-433-7128 Voice/TY

Ft. Walton Beach Development Center

850-862-0108

Pearl Nelson Child Development Center

850-434-7755

Speech and Neuro Rehab Center

850-484-9292

Social Services

Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Tallahassee

1-866-273-2273

Children's Home Society (Western Division)

Escambia
850-266-2700
Okaloosa
850-833-3872

Escarosa Career Centers

Escambia
850-595-5200
Santa Rosa
850-983-5325

First Call for Help

850-595-5905

Guardian Ad Litem

Escambia
850-595-3728
Santa Rosa
850-981-3227
S. Okaloosa
850-609-5467
N. Okaloosa
850-689-5060

Healthy Start Coalitions

Escambia
850-595-6641
Santa Rosa
850-626-6751
Okaloosa
850-833-9284

Okaloosa/Ft. Walton Beach Developmental Center

850-862-0108

Ronald McDonald House

850-477-2273

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pensacola

850-477-6498

SED Network

850-983-5158

US Military Family Service Centers

Escambia
850-452-5990
Santa Rosa
850-623-7177

Under IDEIA: *continued:*

- Accommodations that students need to be successful are provided.
- Teacher(s) are required to ensure that services and accommodations are provided.

Under ADA and 504:

- The student is required to self-declare his/her disability, college does not find/identify students (*or ask if there is a disability present prior to admission*).
- The burden of proof for need of services lies with the student.
- At the postsecondary level, ADA and 504 do not include the proactive protections of IDEIA.
- The student is required to provide a current assessment of disability which meets the school's guidelines.
- Accommodations are based on current testing requirements. (Transition IEPs/504 plans do not usually qualify the student for services).
- Reasonable accommodations are provided to offer equal access (not to guarantee success) and protect from discrimination.
- The student is required to initiate a request for services and is encouraged to take responsibility for working with professors/instructors.

Documentation Requirements for Accessing Postsecondary Disabilities Services

Documentation must be presented in four areas:

1. Qualifications of evaluator (check with postsecondary school to confirm requirements)
2. Recency of documentation (check with postsecondary school to confirm requirements—usually within 3 years, except for medical, which varies.
3. Appropriate clinical documentation to substantiate the disability (usually testing done in high school for reevaluations does not meet this requirement).
4. Evidence to establish a rationale supporting the need for accommodations (listing an accommodation on the Transition IEP does not qualify students).

Documentation Guidelines:

- LD guidelines are specified by the Association for Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD).
- ADD/ADHD guidelines are based on professional standards needed to validate this disability.
- Psychiatric disability guidelines (bipolar disorder, panic disorder, behavioral dysfunction, etc.) are based on professional standards needed to validate this disability.

Mental Health Services

Escambia-Lakeview Center
850-432-1222

Okaloosa-Mental Health Assoc.
850-244-1040

Morning Star Program Sacred Heart School

850-436-6442

Multiple Sclerosis Society

1-800-344-4867

Muscular Dystrophy Association

1-850-681-6763

NAMI—National Alliance on Mental Illness

1-800-950-6264

New Horizons of NW Florida, Inc.

850-474-0866

Pavilion: Behavioral Health

850-494-3953

Shriner's Hospital for Crippled or Burned Children

Escambia & Okaloosa
850-476-1926

Sickle Cell Foundation

850-434-6092

The Wellness Center

Okaloosa
850-729-9460

West Florida Rehabilitation Institute

850-494-6100

[Physical Therapy Services](#)

Pearl Nelson Child Development Center

850-434-7755

[Recreational Services](#)

Northwest Florida Regional Library

Escambia 850-436-5060

TDD Line 850-595-1274

Okaloosa 850 833-9590

Parks and Recreation Dept

Escambia
850-436-5670

Santa Rosa
850-983-1940

Okaloosa
850-833-9576

Special Olympics

850-435-2999

[Residential Services](#)

Center for Independent Living Disability and Resource Center
850-595-5566

Eckerd Wilderness Education System Camping
850-675-4512

New Horizons of NW Florida, Inc./Northview Community
850-474-0866

Medical and Health Services

American Cancer Society

Escambia
850-475-0850

Okaloosa
850-244-3813

American Diabetes Association

850-492-6100

American Lung Association

850-386-2065

American Red Cross

800-773-7620
850-432-7601

Arthritis Foundation

850-471-1541

Children's Medical Services

Florida Dept. of Health

Escambia/Santa Rosa
800-381-3685

Okaloosa
850-833-9240

COPE Center: DeFuniak Springs

850-892-8045

County Public Health Departments

Escambia
850-595-6500

Santa Rosa
850-983-5200

Okaloosa
850-833-9240

Division of Blind Services

850-595-5282

Epilepsy Society of NW Florida

850-433-1395

Family Life Center and Life Connection

850-243-5800

First Call for Help

Escambia & Okaloosa
850-595-5905

Santa Rosa
850-983-7200

Florida Spinal Cord Injury

1-800-995-8544

Fresenius Medical Care

Escambia
850-475-9102

Santa Rosa
850-623-4771

Okaloosa
850-862-2385

Hospice of NW Florida, Inc.

1-800-541-3072

Leukemia Society

1-800-955-4572

Lion's Club Eye Clinic

Escambia
850-438-8989

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

813-287-2600

Documentation Guidelines, *continued*:

- Medical guidelines (visual impairment, speech/language disabilities, hearing impairment, physical disabilities) are based on medical documentation needed to validate a medical condition.
- Postsecondary institutions may vary regarding specific documentation guidelines.
- Students must check with individual institutions to ensure proper documentation.

Provisional Coverage:

- Some colleges/universities will provide provisional coverage during the first semester to allow students to obtain the required assessments/documentation.
- Some colleges/universities do not provide provisional coverage.
- Students and parents need to check with the college/university for processes or policies specific to that institution.

For Additional Information, contact:

**The Office of Disabilities at the Postsecondary School or
The District/School ESE Transition Specialist**

Educational Services

Association for Retarded Citizens

Escambia
850-434-2638

Okaloosa
850-689-3663

Santa Rosa
850-623-9320

Ability Center of Northwest FL
850-689-3663

Airman and Family Readiness Center
850-882-9060

Autism Pensacola
850-450-0656

Autism Society of Florida
1-954-349-2820

Child Find
(see FDLRS)

Child Development Education Center-NWFSC
850-729-5341

Children's Services Center
850-595-5888

Choice High School and Technical Center (serving Okaloosa)
850-833-3500

Community Action Program
850-438-4021

Community Drug and Alcohol Council
850-434-2724

Early Steps
850-416-7656

Eglin Child Development Center
850-882-5519
850-882-3861

Exceptional Student Education Directors
Escambia
850-469-5518

Santa Rosa
850-983-5167

Okaloosa
850-833-3164

Family Care Council
850-723-6959

Family Network on Disabilities
800-825-5736

FDLRS—Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (Includes Child Find)
850-469-5423 or 1-888-445-9662

Florida Inclusion Network
850-439-2621

Head Start
850-432-2992

Horizon Of Okaloosa County
850-863-1530

Learn to Read of NW FL
850-432-4347

Morning Star Program
Sacred Heart Cathedral Schools
850-436-6440

Emotional Support Services

Airman and Family Readiness Center
850-882-9060

Behavioral Medicine Center (impatient) - crisis line
850-434-4866

Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Center
850-436-6412

Compassionate Friends of Pensacola
850-438-4404

Domestic Violence Center Favor House
Escambia
850-434-1177
Santa Rosa
850-626-5600

Lakeview Center
850-432-1222

Lakeview Mental Health Helpline
850-435-1617

Multiple Sclerosis Society
800-344-4867

Parent Helpline of the Family Source of Florida
800-352-5683

Tourette Syndrome
800-237-0717

Okaloosa-Walton Child Care
Ft. Walton Beach
850-833-9330

Crestview
850-689-7885

DeFuniak Springs
850-892-8560

Pearl Nelson Child Development Center
850-434-7755

Pensacola State College Disability Support Services
850-484-1637

Pyramid, Inc.
Escambia
850-453-3341

Okaloosa
850-862-7139

Southeastern Vocational Services
850-595-1330

United Cerebral Palsy of NW Florida
850-432-1596

Vocational Rehabilitation
Escambia
850-595-8444

Santa Rosa
850-626-2124 or 850-983-5340

Okaloosa
850-833-9114