



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

WILL GORDILLO
DIRECTOR

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EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
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Contact:
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Information Only

TO: All Principals

FROM: Janis Andrews, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer 

SUBJECT: **DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS, OCTOBER 1-14, 2012**

In 2008 the Florida Legislature passed Section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, Disability History and Awareness Instruction. As a result, district school boards are required to designate the first two weeks in October each year as Disability History and Awareness Weeks. In compliance with this statute, and the Department of Exceptional Student Education has set up a new webpage, <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/eese/>, where schools and community members can access resources to promote awareness, classroom activities, and historical timelines. Following are further suggested activities to promote Disability History and Awareness from the Florida Department of Education:

- Include biographical information on famous people with disabilities in morning announcements.
- Hang banners in schools and/or use school marquee to promote awareness.
- Designate a point person to coordinate disability history and awareness activities.
- Promote the use of *People First Language* by staff and students (<http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/>).
- Have the library do a book exhibit to expand staff, students, and communities understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities. Include history of the disability rights movement.
- Involve parents and other members of the community in planning and implementing activities at the district and school level.

If you would like to share your school's plan in promoting Disability History and Awareness Month or you have any questions, please contact Janice Miller, Manager, ESE Curriculum, at PX 47561 or Fartun Mohamud, FIN Specialist at PX 48627.

EWG:JA:KO:WJG:FM:jb

Approved by: 
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

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