



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION  
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[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/ESE)

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Information Only

**TO:** All Principals

**FROM:** Cheryl C. Alligood, Chief Academic Officer *CCA*

**SUBJECT:** **DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS - OCTOBER 1-14, 2013**

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, The Department of Exceptional Student Education has set up a new webpage, <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/ese/>, where schools and community members can access resources to promote awareness, classroom activities, and historical timeline. 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 Media Specialist do a book exhibit to expand staff, students, and community understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities and the 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 Fartun Mohamud, FIN Specialist at 434-8627.

EWG/CCA/KO/WJG:fm/jb

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*E. Wayne Gent*  
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent