



Important Changes to ePEP and FACTS.org

During the 2012 Legislative Session, two bills were passed that significantly affect the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support (FCAAS), which operates the FACTS.org student advising website.

First, the Center will become part of the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) effective July 1, 2012. [HB 5201](#) created the Florida Virtual Campus by combining FCAAS, the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC), the Florida College Library Automation (FCLA), and the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA).

Second, [HB 7059](#) amends [s.1003.4156, F.S.](#), General requirements for middle grades promotion, to:

- Add 6th grade to the levels in which the career and education planning course may be offered.
- Specify that the course must:
 - Result in a completed personalized academic career plan
 - Emphasize technology or the application of technology in career fields
 - Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, include information from the Department of Economic Opportunity's security report as described in s.445.07, F.S.
- Removes statutory references to Florida CHOICES and FACTS.org.
- Add "career-themed courses" to the information requirement in the personalized academic and career plan.

The Florida Virtual Campus will provide an array of online student support and library services for e-learning. However, it will not support the ePersonal Education Planner (ePEP) which was struck from the middle grades promotion statute. Districts will now have greater flexibility to choose the type of personalized academic and career plan that best suits student needs, which may or may not be an online system. Accordingly, the following actions will be taken:

- **The ePEP will be discontinued effective July 1, 2012; no new ePEPs can be created after this date.** Students with an existing ePEP may view it in a "read-only" format until January 2013; no changes will be possible.
- In place of the ePEP, a new College and Career Planner will be available in a PDF format; no ID or Passwords will be required to access it.
- The Student Activity System, a tool used by counselors to manage student ePEPs, will also be discontinued effective July 1, 2012; all counselor/educator account access will be removed.
- The ePEP Course File will be discontinued; the last file will be available at NWRDC by July 15, 2012.
- The Bright Futures Scholarship and High School Graduation Evaluations will continue to be available to students. The evaluations will have a new, easier-to-read format and incorporate college and career readiness criteria.
- The CHOICES career planning program will continue to be available for use through FACTS.org and www.flchoices.org.

The changes outlined above will provide school districts with greater flexibility to choose the type of personalized academic and career plan that best suits student needs and provide an alternative if needed. The new College and Career Planner on FACTS.org will contain access to the information and resources required by legislation including: high school graduation requirements and assessments, college and university admission requirements, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements, and accelerated programs such as AP, IB, AICE, dual enrollment, career academy opportunities, and courses that lead to national industry certification. The new College and Career Planner will be available July 1, 2012.

We anticipate the transition to the Florida Virtual Campus will be a smooth one and we remain committed to supporting you during this transition. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact the [FACTS Helpdesk](#).

Thank you for your continued support.