

## **ALL LOCATIONS: People First Language**

*Category: For Your Information*



**Audience:** All Principals/APs, Cabinet, All Administrative Offices , All Teachers , Student Services, Media Specialists

**Post Date:** Oct 02, 2008

**Due Date:** n/a

**Meeting Date:** n/a

**Master Calendar:** n/a

**Attachment(s):**  [People First Language Board Item.pdf](#)  
 [People First Language Sample Poster.pdf](#)

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Information regarding People First Language which emphasizes efforts to portray students with disabilities in a positive and productive manner in all written and spoken methods of communication.

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- At the Board meeting held on March 12, 2008, the School Board of Miami-Dade County approved the use of People First Language for M-DCPS related communications.
- People First Language encourages users to refer to an individual prior to referring to his/her disability in order to avoid defining the person by his/her disability. As an example, it is appropriate to say "a student with a disability", rather than, "a disabled student."
- Documents, publications, reports, videos and other forms of written and media communication should apply People First Language.
- Posters resembling the attached sample will be forwarded to all school sites. We request your assistance in displaying the posters in prominent locations that are visible to students, staff members and parents (contact Deidre Marshall at [dmarshall3@dadeschools.net](mailto:dmarshall3@dadeschools.net) for more information).
- Additional information regarding People First Language is also available at <http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/peoplefirstlanguage.htm>
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**Contact:** Deidre Marshall ( **305-995-2732** Extension: none )

**Department:** Division of Special Education