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## **Florida Panthers to Host Hockey Clinic for Special Needs Students At Connections Education Center**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., March 22, 2023 – Florida Panthers staff members will share their love of hockey with local special needs students at Connections Education Center during an interactive clinic Thursday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Panthers staff members will visit Connections in West Palm Beach for this special clinic using floorball equipment tailored for the students, who have autism and related disabilities. Students in various grades will learn more about the game of hockey and see how it can be part of an active lifestyle. There will also be a Super Fan who will motivate and cheer on the children during this fun and educational program.

The Florida Panthers Foundation has been a committed supporter of Connections. In 2018, Connections was the distinguished charity selected for its home game \$25,000 Community Champions Grant Program by the Florida Panthers Foundation. The foundation has also hosted clinics for the students in past years.

“We’re grateful for strong community partners like the Florida Panthers,” says Debra Johnson, Executive Director and Principal of Connections. “By introducing hockey to our students, they give our children another way to stay active and another way to connect with the community.”

### **About the Florida Panthers Foundation**

The Florida Panthers Foundation serves as the team's main charitable beneficiary. The vision of the Florida Panthers Foundation is to make a positive philanthropic impact on the South Florida community and beyond. Through partnerships, grants, and community programs, the Foundation focuses on four priorities, including growing the sport of youth hockey, children's health and education, veterans' affairs and raising awareness for the endangered Florida panther. Through the Foundation, the Florida Panthers organization supports exemplary South Florida nonprofit organizations that help make a positive impact in the local community.

### **About Connections:**

Connections is a nonprofit educational center that delivers high-quality, specialized instruction to students with autism in Palm Beach County. They serve students ages 3-22 years and offer an innovative program for young adults with autism. Learn more at [connectedpb.com](https://connectedpb.com).

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