



Florida CASE Newsletter

Winter 2023

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Greetings CASE Members,

Now that the new year has begun, I want to take this moment to extend my greetings straight from the heart for this festive season. The start of a new year is more than just a calendar shift; it also represents an opportunity to explore, dream, build relationships and continue to be a service to others. I appreciate each of you for the achievements and accomplishments in the last year as we carry out our Mission and Vision for our great organization. I wish you an abundance of inspiration and creativity in all your works, great connections, and progress in our profession.

May all the best things in life come your way this year. Wishing you nothing but the best in 2023; A year filled with happiness, peace, love and self-care. May every wish of yours be fulfilled in the upcoming year. Let's continue our strive to success as we diligently support our students, families, and staff.

Warm regards,

Dr. Rosalind Hall, President



Quote of the Month

“At the end of the day it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished... It’s about who you’ve lifted, who you’ve made better, it’s about what you’ve given back.”

~ *Denzel Washington*



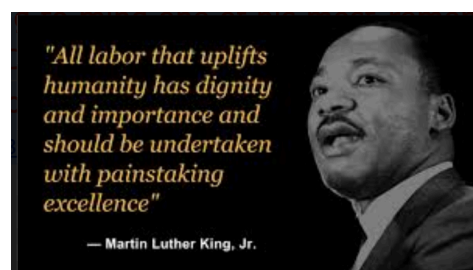
New Florida Department of Education Bureau Chief

Jessica Brattain serves as the Bureau Chief within the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (bureau) at the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). Mrs. Brattain has been with the bureau for seven years and has previously served in several roles, including the Senior Educational Program Director of dispute, resolution and monitoring. Prior to working at FDOE, Mrs. Brattain served as an exceptional student education classroom teacher and holds certifications in educational leadership, exceptional student education and elementary education, along with endorsements in Reading and ESOL.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On January 16th we will celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through reflecting on our history and volunteering our time to help our communities. Google states "we see his enormous contributions and his impact on the fight for equality as reflected in Americans' search interests. He's the most-searched civil rights movement leader to date, and search interest for his "I Have a Dream" speech spikes in the U.S. every January, the month of his birthday." This year, in honor of Dr. King, you are invited to visit "Still Dreaming," a miniature gallery created by Tammie Knight, designer and owner of Small Matters Miniatures, with photography from Google Arts & Culture archives curated by mixed-media artist Adrian Octavius Walker. The gallery takes viewers on a journey through Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. It features rare photos of him taken throughout his lifetime, and you can explore the gallery thanks to footage taken by Nathaniel King. "Dr. King was determined to fulfill his dream of one day being treated as an equal. He continuously took action in service of that dream, even when the outcome was uncertain," Walker says. "These images capture his drive and passion that inspired others to dream of equality in the face of uncertainty, both then and now." Since 2004, the most searched topic in the U.S. for quotations by Dr. King is "love," bringing to mind one of his most-remembered quotations, from his 1963 book, "Strength to Love:" "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Go to https://www.google.com/search?q=activities+in+celebration+of+mlk+2023+florida&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS982US983&ei=cW to learn about the MLK activities in Florida.



District Highlight!

Baker County “It’s Better in Baker Because of You!”

MTSS Process in Baker County School District

Michael D. Green, Jr. – ESE/Student Services Director

Over the past three years, BCSD has worked on developing and refining a district MTSS process and guide. **Superintendent Sherrie Raulerson** made this initiative a priority as the district began to enter a time of growth and adding a new school. She saw the need for continuity in process, procedures, and supports for students across grade levels and schools and devoted the time and resources to make this a reality. The MTSS process and guide has given our district the framework to tackle these challenges with intentionality.

We are grateful to a number of teachers, administrators, district personnel, and other stakeholders who devoted countless hours to create and continually improve this process. At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, a MTSS feedback survey was sent to school employees.

Some highlights from the survey include that eighty-four percent of the respondents said the MTSS Guide is user friendly, and the "forms " section of the MTSS Guide has been extremely helpful to employees this year. Also, more people reference the hard copy of the guide than the electronic version that is posted online. The following are some comments from our schools:

Baker County High School

So many people have supported the MTSS efforts at Baker County High School and have taken a serious interest in providing effective interventions for their students. There is also more clarity as to what is involved in MTSS and how to implement it in the classroom. Thank you all for your hard work this year!

Macclenny Elementary School

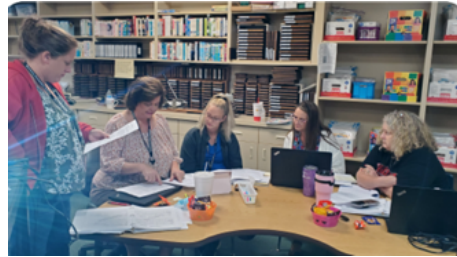
The staff at Macclenny Elementary School is thankful for the following aspects of MTSS: the availability of the MTSS Guide online; all the MTSS forms are accessible in one place the sample forms; MTSS professional development opportunities the availability of staff members to assist with MTSS documentation; the many resources that are available in the MTSS Guide

Baker County Middle School

We all know it is Better in Baker, but at Baker County Middle School, we feel Blessed in Baker. Yes, MTSS is a blessing (sometimes heavily disguised). We are blessed because we have the opportunity to impact and change children ' s lives for the better. We are blessed because we have attentive and committed teachers and staff who identify students with math, reading, behavior, social, and emotional needs and interventionists who spend hours designing and implementing the plans to meet those needs. We are blessed because we have administrators and district-level personnel who support our efforts by providing the resources necessary to nurture growth. It hasn't all been rainbows and butterflies; BCMS still has MTSS hurdles to jump. But this year, more than ever, we have learned and lived that successfully running this particular

race is possible with BCMS teamwork.

I highlight these testimonials because any MTSS process is a living, breathing document and a continual work in progress. We have by no means perfected the product but having a process has helped all schools to improve continuity and hopefully improve student achievement. Our ultimate goal is to meet as many academic, behavioral, and mental health needs of our students as possible!



Legislative Updates ~ Chair, Anna Jensen



The 2023 legislative session officially begins on March 7. Many are hard at work preparing for a primary focus on several areas.

1. Critical ESE educator and service provider shortages.

Based on the Summary of Critical Teacher Shortage Ranking for 2022-23. The ESE educator shortage ranks first for percentage of courses taught by teachers not certified in the appropriate field for the course and second for projected vacancies. ESE only makes up 10.21% of certifications in Florida. In the 2021-22 school year, ESE accounted for 29.43% and Speech-Language Pathologists accounted for 6.06% of the vacancies in Florida schools.

2. Changing the negative public perception of educators.

Negative perception of the teaching profession and a viewed lack of support for current teachers are cited as leading causes of poor teacher retention and drawing others to the field of education.

3. The impact of the Family Empowerment Scholarship on public schools.

The Family Empowerment Scholarship, which absorbed the McKay Scholarship Program as of July 1, 2022, provides families with access to a personal Education Savings Account (ESA). McKay previously only paid for tuition at an approved private school. Now funds go into a government-authorized savings account, which can pay for school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses, and other approved customized learning service and materials.

4. The FAST assessment impact and information/resources for parents and educators.

- Third grade retention, high school graduation, school grades, and VAM will continue.
- FAST will be given three times per year: at the beginning, midyear, and the end of year comprehensive.
- More time is spent in testing

5. Cameras in self-contained ESE classrooms HB 149 and new HB 1055 cameras in ALL classrooms.

- HB 149 provides for placement of video cameras in specified classrooms; provides requirements for such placement.
- HB 1055 authorizes school districts to adopt policy to place video cameras in public school classrooms; provides requirements for such policy; provides for viewing video recordings; provides DOE, school district, school, and certain employee responsibilities. *Note: This bill's last action was 3/14/22 in the House – Died in Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee. However, it does continue to be a concern.

Committee Week January 16 – January 20: Educational Highlights

January 17, 2023 - Presentations by the Department of Education on student outcomes, the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system, an overview of ESSR fund investments, quality math instruction, and the science of reading in Florida.

Strategic Plan

Please see attached our 2022-2024 **Strategic Plan** that serves as our road map as we continue to align our mission and vision and be of service to you.





Membership Update ~ Chair, Kelly Downey

National CASE membership is the second highest in their 75 year history. I think Florida can put this year at the top of the standings. So this will take all of us! Speak up to your colleagues about your role in the lives of students and families impacted by disabilities. Speak up to your colleagues in all aspects of education. We all work with fabulous leaders across disciplines that shape the work we do and the impact that we make. Speak up about the benefits of our membership including access to national newsletters, webinars, and representation at the legislative level. Speak up about the benefits of attending our Summer Institute in beautiful Bonita Springs. Together we will beat the membership record! As our membership grows so does our voice and our advocacy for specialized programming to support our students, families, and communities for generations to come! ~

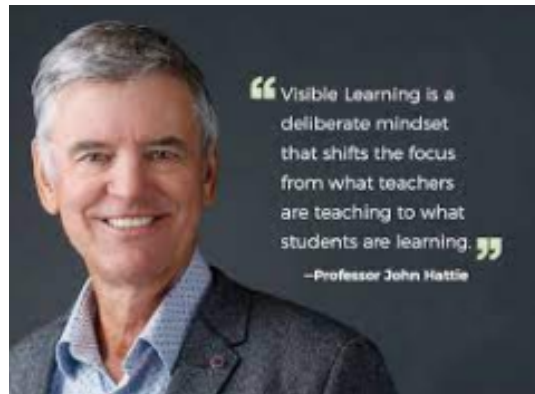
Our Children are our future



**150 ways to show our students that we care! Check it out!
Click on the link below**

<https://www.search-institute.org/product/150-ways-to-show-kids-you-care-poster-rev-2019/>

"In Case You Missed It"



John Hattie "Visible Learning" "Accelerating Student Learning Institute"

World-renowned, award-winning education researcher and best-selling author, Professor John Hattie has been closely examining what works best in student learning.

"Accelerating Student Learning Institute"

Florida CASE had the pleasure of sponsoring four (4) FDLRS Regions, FDLRS Springs, Mr. Jim Husted; Emerald Coast, Ms. Georgana Gordon; FDLRS NEFEC, Ms. Ashley Lundy and Ms. Toyka Holden, FDLRS PAEC to host John Hattie's Virtual Visible Learning which represented 31 districts!

Visible Learning means an enhanced role for teachers as they become evaluators of their own teaching. According to John Hattie Visible Learning and Teaching occurs when teachers see learning through the eyes of students and help them become their own teachers. To learn more click on the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wW32vWqOC8

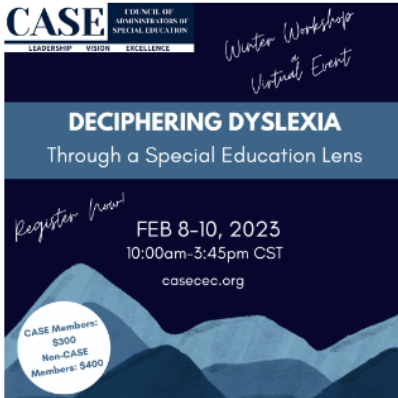


Your Board would like to recognize our members for their accomplishments throughout the year. If you receive an award, promotion, special recognition etc... Please send me the information along with a picture so that we can **highlight** you in the upcoming newsletter.



Winter Workshop

"Deciphering Dyslexia Through a Special Education Lens"



Featured Speakers and Sessions:

Jack M. Fletcher, PhD.

"Dyslexia: A Scientific Understanding"

"Comprehensive Evaluations for Special Education: Best Practices for Identifying SLD"

Mitzi Brammer, PhD.

"Structured Literacy Intervention that Addresses Dyslexia"

Betsy Hill

"The Science of Teaching Meets the Science of Learning"

Matthew K. Burns, PhD

"Implementing Science-Based Practice in Schools for Screening and Treating Dyslexia"

[REGISTER HERE](#)

A Virtual Event

As sweeping changes in reading instruction have been occurring nationally, CASE has assembled LEADING EXPERTS in the field of dyslexia and special education to provide content special education administrators NEED to lead their teams!

FEBRUARY 8-10, 2023
10:00am-3:45pm (CST)

CASE Members: \$300
Non-CASE Members: \$400

[LEARN MORE ABOUT
EXPERT SPEAKERS](#)

Stay Up-to-Date on all CASE Events!

Visit

casecec.org



Don't Miss This Opportunity for ALL ADMINISTRATORS!

CASE

A Virtual Event



**April 14, 2023
9:00 am- 4 pm (CT)**

Register Today!
\$350 - CASE MEMBERS
\$450 - Non-CASE MEMBERS

***Don't forget to invite your
principals, assistant
principals,
superintendents, and 504
coordinators!***

Discipline Boot Camp

General rules regarding discipline of students with disabilities under IDEA and Section 504

Practical application of the general rules of discipline regarding removals (i.e. bus suspension, in-school suspension, and other "informal exclusions")

Defensible manifestation determinations

Application of the 45-day "special circumstances" provision to incidents involving dangerous weapons, illegal drugs, and serious bodily injury

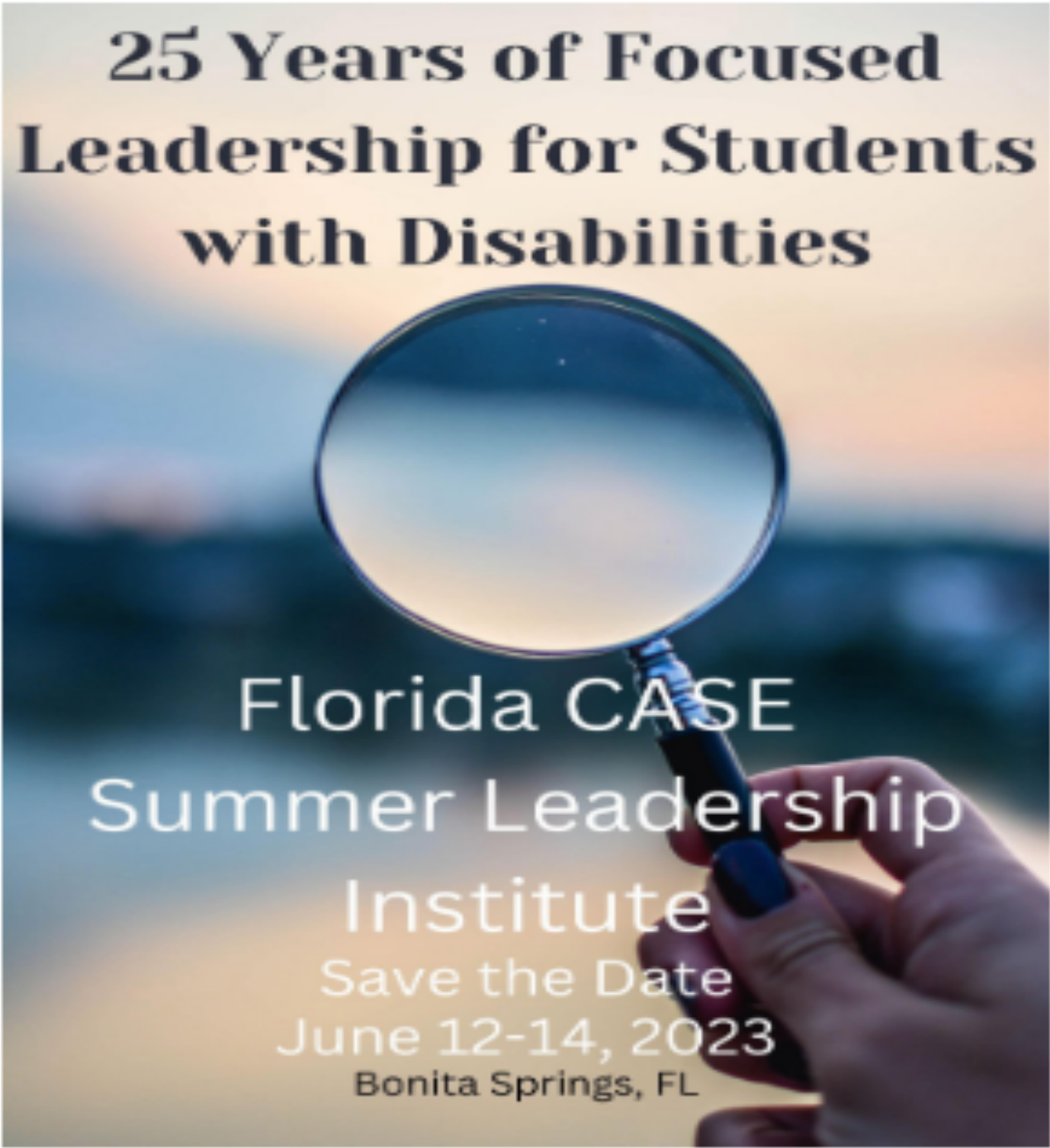


Featuring Julie Weatherly, Esq.

REGISTER NOW

Save the Date!

**25 Years of Focused
Leadership for Students
with Disabilities**



Florida CASE
Summer Leadership
Institute
Save the Date
June 12-14, 2023
Bonita Springs, FL

Additional information will be forthcoming! Please plan to attend 😊 It will be a fun time once again! See attached flier in the event it did not transmit within the email.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Council of Administrators of Special Education, Inc. is to provide leadership and support to members by shaping policies and practices to improve the quality of education for all students by being committed to providing support, advocacy and leadership to our members.

We believe:

- Equity, inclusion, respect, unity, dignity, and collaboration brings better outcomes.
- The community should celebrate human diversity as enriching the whole society.
- All students across all communities have a right to a quality education which will enable them to develop to their maximum potential.
- Local administrators are critical change agents who affect the quality and future of special education and the education of students with exceptionalities.
- Educational benefits, measured by individual achievements relative to ability and circumstances should be documented and promoted.
- CASE produces an international, collegial network and opportunities for professional growths.
- Special Education is an interdisciplinary student support system committed to innovation in education.
- Local administrators make a difference in the quality and future of the lives of individuals with exceptionalities and their families within the educational system and the community.
- CASE is an integral part of the Council for Exceptional Children and provides a unique vehicle to accomplish our respective missions.

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FLORIDA



COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS

OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

VISION • LEADERSHIP • EXCELLENCE

A DIVISION OF THE COUNCIL FOR
EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN



STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2024



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STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024

