

# Florida CASE Newsletter

Spring 2024

## Florida CASE Board of Directors

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Anna Jensen



## Welcome Florida CASE Members! Spring is in the air!

It's a time of renewal, new beginnings and growth! In my conversation with colleagues and friends across the country I am reminded of the positive, tireless and relentless efforts and contributions that each of you provide to your students and families. As a retiree, I continue to be humbled by the extraordinary commitment and dedication to the field of education and the love and support of each other as you support our teachers, staff and students.

As we continue to support others, may we also remember that spring is also a time of the year when the azaleas and dogwoods begin to bloom. Let us see the beauty that surrounds us as we continue to be a service to others and a voice for our students. It is equally important that you exercise "self-care." It is simply giving the same kindness to ourselves that we would give to others."  
~ Christopher Germer.

In closing, this year's CASE Summer Leadership Institute theme " Building Pathways to students' success" continues to represent our unwavering and relentless support and dedication to the field of Special Education, advocating for funding to further support a quality education to our students with unique abilities and enables every student to gain a high level of independence.

**Warm Regards,**

**Dr. Rosalind Hall**



### Quote of the Month

*"Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flow charts.  
It is about one life influencing another."*

*~John C. Maxwell*



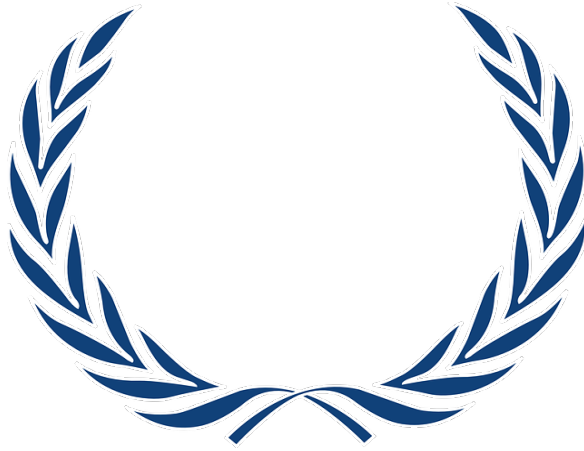
## **A Special Welcome to Our New and Rejoining CASE Members**

<b>Alicia Scott</b>	<b>School Psychologist, Alachua County School Board</b>
<b>Amy Yeater</b>	<b>Program Specialist, Martin County School District</b>
<b>Michael Cardwell</b>	<b>Florida Virtual School</b>
<b>Kristina Devine</b>	<b>Florida Virtual School</b>
<b>Denise Lam</b>	<b>St. Kevin Catholic School- Special Ed. Director</b>
<b>Keri Meredith</b>	<b>Pensacola Catholic High School</b>

**We are delighted that you have joined your professional organization! Please see attached our National CASE Membership Brochure and share this information with your colleagues.**

**Lastly, I am very pleased with the increase in Florida CASE membership over the years. As a result, Florida CASE received the "Membership Growth Badge" for 2023.**





## National CEC Legacy Proclamation

**At the CEC Convention and Expo 2024 held in San Antonio, Texas, a Luncheon Awards was held and the initial recipients of the CEC Legacy Proclamation were announced.**

**Dr. Landis M. Stetler was one of those recognized having been nominated posthumously for the honor by the Florida CEC unit and the Florida CASE subdivision. Dr. Stetler was committed to CEC at the local, state, and national levels and significantly impacted the field of exceptional student education. His career embraced teaching, administration, advocacy, collaborative planning and implementation, mentoring, and program development including delivery of services, instructional strategies, resources and support, finance, parent involvement and accountability.**



**CEC Legacy Proclamation** honors outstanding CEC members who have led and contributed to The Council's various units, divisions, and national governing bodies and have significantly influenced the field throughout a lifelong career. The Proclamation recognizes members while associating that member's contributions to the history of CEC and the advancements in the special education field, accruing benefits to children and youth with exceptionalities. More than one Legacy Proclamation may be awarded each year. 2024 will be the first year for this type of honor recognition.



Research demonstrates that strong relationships between schools, families, and community members can positively affect student achievement and outcomes. Increased family engagement in schools is strongly associated with faster rates of literacy acquisition among children, increased rates of going on to secondary education, and decreased rates of school dropout.

Pasco County Schools promising practice that we have implemented within our organization involves surveying parents of children with disabilities after Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 meetings, particularly when compliance/resolution staff are present. We believe that this practice has significantly enhanced our efforts to ensure the effectiveness of our programs and services for students with disabilities.

Recognizing the critical role that parental input plays in shaping the educational experiences of children, we have initiated a post-meeting survey process aimed at gauging the satisfaction, understanding, and overall experience of parents involved in the IEP or 504 planning sessions. This survey is distributed shortly after the meeting, allowing us to capture timely feedback while the details are fresh in parents' minds.

Key elements of our survey include:

**Meeting Effectiveness:** We inquire about the perceived effectiveness of the meeting process. This provides valuable insights into how well our team engages with parents during these critical planning sessions.

**Meaningfully Participate:** We seek feedback on the level of communication and collaboration experienced during the meeting. This includes assessing the parents' perception of their involvement in the decision-making process and the extent to which their concerns and preferences were considered.

**Positive Comments:** Parents are invited to provide feedback specifically on the comments made about their child during the meeting.

**Who to Contact:** We encourage parents to share suggestions for improvement, fostering a culture of continuous enhancement in our special education programs. This includes knowing who to contact if the parent has questions or concerns about their child after the meeting.

The data collected through these surveys have been instrumental in shaping our ongoing efforts to refine our processes, enhance communication strategies, and improve overall parental satisfaction with our services for students with disabilities.

We believe that this practice aligns with our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures that the voices of parents are heard and valued in the decision-making process.

~ **Melissa Musselwhite**

**Director, Student Support Programs and Services**

# Florida Legislative Updates



**Greetings to all! This legislative session has been a busy one, with deregulation of public schools at the forefront. Below is a summary of enrolled bills that may impact Student Services and Exceptional Student Education.**

<b>CS/CS/HB 883: Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools</b>	<b>Authorizes certain public &amp; private school students to carry short-acting bronchodilators &amp; components; provides school district, public school, private school, and parental requirements.</b>
<b>HB 931: School Chaplains</b>	<b>Authorizes school districts &amp; charter schools to adopt policy to allow volunteer school chaplains; requires district school boards &amp; charter school governing boards to assign specified duties to such volunteer school chaplains; requires volunteer school chaplains to meet certain background screening requirements; requires school districts and charter schools to publish specified information under certain circumstances.</b>
<b>HB 1403: Family Empowerment Scholarship and Unique Abilities Scholarship</b>	<b>Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, the FES-UA scholarship program cap will increase by 5 percent of the state's total exceptional student education enrollment, annually, with an additional 1 percent growth available based on FES-UA participation. The bill also authorizes FES-UA scholarship funds to be used at a private school that offers a prekindergarten program.</b>
<b>HB 1758: APD</b>	<b>Within available resources, the agency shall offer to clients and</b>

their caregivers care navigation services for voluntary participation at the time of application and as part of any eligibility or renewal review. The goals of care navigation are to create a seamless network of community resources and supports for the client and the client's family as a whole to support a client in daily living, community integration, and achievement of individual goals. Care navigation services must involve assessing client needs and developing and implementing care plans, including, but not limited to, connecting a client to resources and supports. At a minimum, a care plan must address immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs and goals to promote and increase well-being and opportunities for education, employment, social engagement, community integration, and caregiver support. For a client who is a public school student entitled to a free appropriate public education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, I.D.E.A., as amended, the care plan must be integrated with the student's individual education plan (IEP). The care plan and IEP must be implemented to maximize the attainment of educational and habilitation goals

**SB 7000: ESE Teacher Certification,  
Performance of Students, Transportation**

**ESE Teacher Certification:** A teacher who holds an educator certificate in exceptional student education is considered in-field if he or she is teaching in a self-contained classroom. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "self-contained classroom" means a classroom of exceptional students as defined in s. 1003.01 747 taught by an educator who holds a certificate in exceptional student education and who is responsible for instruction of all academic subjects.

**Performance of students:** At least one-half (previously one-third) of a performance evaluation must be based upon data and indicators of student performance, as determined by each school district.

**Transportation:** Each district school board shall require that school bus drivers and school bus attendants complete a certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation course and first aid training before being employed as a school bus driver or a school bus attendant. The school district shall maintain documentation of the completion of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation course and first aid training. Each district school board must also provide training to school bus drivers and school bus attendants for students with disabilities under s. 1003.57.

Please continue to talk with your representatives regarding national legislation. Our continued focus should be on fully funding IDEA, addressing the growing educator shortage, especially in the area of exceptional student education, and ensuring school-based mental health services to address this critical area of need.

**~Anna Jensen**





**The Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) has created a professional training program called " Reframing Behavior." Reframing Behavior is a program designed to help us better understand how our bodies respond to stress and anxiety, which can affect how we teach and learn. Based on principles of modern neuroscience, the program teaches all educators how to regulate their own emotions while helping students exit fight, flight, or freeze mode and enter learning mode. The training program is built on four (4) key elements:**

**Reframe Your Perspective, Reframe your awareness, Reframe your actions and Reframe your relationships. The Crisis Prevention Institute will be ready to roll-out this new PD June 2024. For more information click on this link <https://www.crisisprevention.com/our-programs/reframing-behavior/> and see attachment.**



The Great Florida Teach-In (GFTI) is an annual job fair organized by the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention. It provides a great opportunity for educator candidates seeking employment in Florida to obtain interviews with Florida school districts and Florida charter school personnel responsible for hiring teachers.

The 2024 Great Florida Teach-In will be held at the [RP Funding Center in Lakeland](#), Florida, on Saturday, April 13, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Please use the following link to register for the event: [2024 Great Florida Teach-In](#). Registration will close on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. During the registration process, we will ask you to identify anticipated vacancies so we can support your recruitment efforts. Providing the most complete answers to our survey questions will ensure that we provide the best possible experience for you and the attending candidates.

[Keep Reading...](#)

[A Florida bill would give high school dropouts a second chance at a college education](#)

The Florida Senate passed a proposal that would create a special grant program that gives high school dropouts in Florida a free ride to any public college or career center in the state...

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[House votes to keep Algebra I, 10th grade English exams intact for graduation requirements in FL](#)

Concerned about lowering standards in Florida's public high schools, the state House voted to stick with the original requirements: Teens must pass statewide Algebra 1 and 10th grade English Language Arts exams to be able to get their diplomas...

[Keep Reading...](#)





### **Florida CASE Award Nominations**

**This is your opportunity to recognize a colleague for their leadership, passion and support of our students with disabilities. The Florida CASE Executive Board announces three awards for ESE administrators in our state.**

#### **Rookie ESE Administrator of the year:**

**This individual is an administrator of special education programs that has worked in this position for 3 years or less. This person should demonstrate vision and leadership skills that have supported children with disabilities and their families. The winner of this award will receive a plaque, monetary award and paid registration for the 2025 Florida Winter CASE Institute or Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute as well as the recognition of their peers at the Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute. Individuals nominated for this award do not need to be a member of CASE but must be a member of National CEC.**

## **Outstanding ESE Administrator of the year:**

**This individual is an administrator of special education programs that has worked in this position for 5 to 20 years. A person who demonstrates consistent, outstanding vision and leadership for children with disabilities and their families and be recognized for the contributions they have made not only to their district but to their community and state. Individuals nominated for this award must be a current member of National CASE. Winner of this award will receive a plaque, paid registration for the 2025 Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute, a monetary gift and recognition at the CASE Summer Leadership Institute. This individual may also be submitted as a nominee for the National CASE award.**

## **Lifetime Achievement Award:**

**This individual is or has been an administrator of special education programs for 20 years or more and has demonstrated consistent and outstanding vision and leadership for children with disabilities and be recognized for the contributions they have made not only to their district but to their community and state. The nominee for this award must be a current member of CASE for a minimum of ten (10) years. Winner of this award will receive a plaque, paid registration to the 2025 Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute, National CASE or National CEC Conference and recognition at the Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute. This individual may also be submitted as a nominee for the National CASE award. Selected by the FLO-CASE Board of Directors.**

**\*\*All nomination forms must be completed in its entirety and be submitted to Melanie Sanders via email  
@ [melanie.sanders@myoneclay.net](mailto:melanie.sanders@myoneclay.net) no later than Monday, April 22, 2024.  
Nomination form is attached\*\***



## **Florida CASE Board Positions**

**The Florida CASE Board of Directors is calling for nominations for the office of President-Elect, Professional Development Chair, Legislative Chair and Member-At- Large. Please review the role and responsibilities of each position below and consider nominating yourself or a colleague. A two (2) year commitment commences on July 1, 2024. All officers of the Board must be a National CEC and CASE member in good standing at the time of the nomination.**

### **President -Elect**

- 1. Serve in the President's place with the president's authority in the case of the President's absence**
- 2. Work closely with the President**
- 3. Assume responsibilities as delegated by the President**
- 4. Ensure that the Annual Unit Report and the Strategic Plan are complete in collaboration with the President and Board**

### **Legislative Chair**

- 1. Responsible for organizing legislative activities and time in Tallahassee during the Legislative Sessions.**
- 2. Develop and recommend timely statements of CASE legislation and regulatory concerns as requested by National CASE/CEC**
- 3. Collect legislative and regulatory information to disseminate to members related to issues concerning special education administrators**
- 4. Provide other services as determined by the Board**

## Professional Development Chair

1. Promote member participation in professional development and other activities related to CASE including conferences.
2. Coordinate professional development activities.
3. Provide other services as determined by the Board

## Member-At- Large

1. Assist with newsletter (reviewing, editing, content etc... a minimum of four (4) per fiscal year
2. Dr. Landis Stetler Scholarship application
3. Provide other services as determined by the Board



**I**s essential for overall well-being.



Here are **five (5)** self-care ideas you can consider:

1. Do something nice for yourself today. Find some quiet, sit in stillness, breathe. Put your problem on pause. You deserve a break" ~ Akiroq Brost"
2. Unplug for part of the day, place your devices in another room and do some meditation, engage in hobbies, or do anything else that soothes your soul. Take regular breaks from social media
3. Take a leisure walk/exercise
4. Start saying no in a nice and respectful way; Set healthy boundaries
5. Focus on positivity

# Florida CASE 2024 Summer Leadership Institute



## Hotel Reservation

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/NAPRN/G-FCSI>

## Registration

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8gbpnug/lp/124a7bbb-dfce-4e41-b03f-440dbae30dc8>

**Please share this information with your colleagues.**

**We look forward to seeing you!!**

