

Summer
2023

FLORIDA
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COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
VISION • LEADERSHIP • EXCELLENCE

Summer
2023

Florida CASE Newsletter

Florida CASE Board of Directors

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Greetings CASE Members and Happy New School Year!

It is hard to believe that the opening of a new school year is in full swing! I trust you had a fabulous summer, enjoying time with family, relaxing, and rejuvenating as you “Kick-off” a new school year. I hope that the opening of school was a smooth transition for you and your students remembering the three (3) Rs; Reasoning, Resilience and Responsibility which researchers share has an impact on student learning and efficacy as well as teacher self-efficacy. It is equally important to remember that school leaders play a large role in defining school culture, and that both administrators and teachers play a role in making all adults and children feel safe, included, and respected.

I value and applaud your positive energy, passion, and dedication to excellence in education as you support our students with vigor and aspiration! This new school year is certainly filled with promise and opportunities for our students with disabilities. I wish all your students a successful, exciting, productive school year!

Congratulations To Our New CASE Board Member and Board members who were elected to a new position.

Dr. Melanie Sanders- Member at Large, ESE Director, Clay County District Schools

Cathy Dofka- Treasurer, Retired ESE Director

Debra Giacolone- Membership Chair, Director of Student Services, Sarasota School Board

I look forward to continuing working collaboratively with our Board as we support our mission and be of service to you!

Warm regards,

Dr. Rosalind Hall, President



Quote of the Month

Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. ~Mattie Stepanek



PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEW Florida CASE Members

**Adams, Sheenah
Allen, Tarah
Behringer, Lucas
Bennett, Jennifer
Boglin, Meltrice
Braithwaite, Lisa
Brown, Kesandra
Brymer, Geoffrey
Cantees, Stephen
Clark, Lynn
Daniels, Shavonna
Davis, Samuel
Doran, Stephanie
Gerlits, Kendra
Harley, Kacie
Hickman, Antoine
Hughes, Cheryl
Illari, Julie
Ivery, Nakitha
Lee, Chastity
Lesperance, Shannon
Lopez, Melanie
MacGregor, Andrew
McClelland, Heather
Merchant, Sarah
O'Rourke, Dan
Payton, Kecia
Perry, Donna
Redding, Kristen
Renouf, Chris
Reynolds, Katie
Saavedra, Natasha
Sands, Kamryn
Shellabarger, Debi
Siringo, Gina
Sweeney, Julie
Thro, Cynthia
Treibal, Scott
Valdes, Jaclyn**

**Polk County Public Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Dixie District Schools
FDLRS Suncoast
Hernando County Schools
Gadsden District Schools
Clay County District Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Franklin County Schools
Polk County Public Schools
Orange County Public Schools
Polk County Public Schools
Pasco County Schools
Putnam County School District
Hillsborough County Public Schools
School District of Manatee County
Hillsborough County Public Schools
Columbia County School District
Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISR) Florida Department of Education
Hillsborough County Public Schools
University of Central Florida
Hernando County Schools
School Board of Highlands County
SEDNET
Hernando County Schools
Gadsden District Schools
Santa Rosa County District Schools
Pinellas County Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Hernando County Schools
Hernando County Schools
Taylor County School District
Hillsborough County Public Schools
Palm Beach County Charter Schools
Hernando County Schools
Sarasota County Schools
Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind
KIPP MIAMI**



On behalf of our CASE Board of Directors, a special thank you to our members and colleagues that attended our 25th Silver Anniversary CASE Summer Leadership Institute June 12-14th at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, Bonita Springs, Florida. This year's theme, "25 Years of Focused Leadership for Students with Disabilities" supports the commitment and mission of the Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education to promote proactive leadership by influencing policies and practices to improve the quality of education for students with disabilities. Our Board worked diligently to provide a comprehensive conference that offered a wealth of information across various domains that provided many opportunities for us to learn, grow professionally and network. The planning of the "The Milestone Walk" display capturing the history and growth both at the Federal and State level for the last 25 years was exciting and well received, especially from our former Florida CASE Presidents; It was a joy to have them and their spouse present! We do miss our Past Presidents who were unable to attend and in memory of the late Bill Fink and Michael McHugh. A special thank you to our awesome conference partners; **Institute of Small and Rural districts (ISRD) Staff, Ms. Chastity Lee, ISRD Administrator; Ms. Kacie Harley, Support Specialist; and Ms. Kelly Guilfoyle, Program Specialist** for providing an exemplary service! To our wonderful sponsors who made this event extraordinarily special! Please click on the Live Binder and the Program link below for the complete 25th celebration!

LIVE BINDER INFORMATION ACCESS KEY: Success
www.livebinders.com/b/3265543

CASE Summer Leadership Institute "25th Silver Anniversary" Program
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oqUzmwwFs0U4kQc3OEGoiidUAe7SfHmY/view?usp=drive_link



TOP TEN TIPS FOR ESE DIRECTORS TO KEEP IN MIND AS SCHOOLS OPEN FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR by Julie J. Weatherly, Attorney and Consultant Resolutions in Special Education, Inc.

As school districts across the state are preparing for the 2023-2024 school year, the focus is to continue providing FAPE to students with disabilities in consultation with ESE Directors. The following ten tips are designed primarily as reminders as you continue to move forward with plans for the new school year. Most of these tips are not legal—rather, they are designed to remind you of things that you may have forgotten as we all continue our efforts to stay out of “legal hot water” in these trying times.

- 1. Demonstrate empathy and actively listen when interacting with parents.**
- 2. Use your best PR and “customer service” skills with parents and continue to engage them as much as possible. Encourage and work closely with your local school administrators to do the same. Parents who feel involved and valued typically do not seek the assistance of advocates and attorneys.**
- 3. Ensure that ESE and regular education personnel are not working with a silo mentality in planning for services to our ESE students.**
- 4. Continue to closely monitor all service providers and their efforts to provide appropriate services and request and review progress monitoring data from all of them.**
- 5. Ensure that your local school administrators are just as interested in the services provided and progress made by their students with disabilities as they are in other students.**
- 6. In cases where it has been difficult to provide services, ascertain what you and your staff might do to address the reasons for such difficulty.**
- 7. Continue to encourage consistent efforts to contact parents/students who are disengaged and document those efforts.**
- 8. Fight for the equitable distribution of funds to benefit ESE students. Parent advocates are and will continue to be watching.**
- 9. Ensure that your ESE and General Education personnel including administrators both at the school and district level are informed on ESE state and federal legislation.**
- 10. Let go of being right and be kind to and take care of yourself. You are an excellent educator who is doing your best and, in times like these, your best is good enough. The Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education are here to assist you.**



A Special Message to Our New Administrators: Welcome to your new position!

As an administrator, whether it is school based or district, you play a critical role in improving the learning environment and are charged with the responsibilities of shaping a vision of resilience, academic and behavioral success for all students. As a new ESE administrator, how do you survive? Former educators Peggy Romshek and Jenny Piening also recognize the recommendations below.

A. Inquire as to what is expected of you; do not assume, as every district is different:

- 1. What staff are you responsible for?**
- 2. What areas are you responsible for: Safety, Mental Health Plan, MTSS, Section 504, Staffings, Required Instruction including Resiliency curriculum, Assessments etc...**
- 3. If possible, meet with the former Director/Supervisor and inquire.**

B. Establish rapport:

- 1. With other administrators that you will be working with (Schools and District Staff)**
- 2. With ESE, General Education Teachers and Paraprofessionals**
- 3. With parents**

C. Organization: Find a system that works for you! (This area is so important)

- 1. Start a list of contacts**
- 2. Find a filing system that works for you**
- 3. Get a calendar system (District and School meetings, BEESS, Professional Organizations and other essential appointments)**
- 4. Be punctual on all reports *You cannot do it all. Delegate what you can but consider the skillset of the person in which you are delegating the task to.**

**** It is important to network with new and veteran administrators and know where to find the information that you are seeking***

Have a great school year and remember!

“Ability is what you’re capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” ~Lou Holtz



Supporting Principals with Special Education Programming - ACCESS by SLP Toolkit

<https://access.slptoolkit.com/supporting-principals-with-special-education-programming/>

Character Strengths- Excellent Resource (Student/Adult Survey)

<https://viacharacter.org/>

Middle School Transition Trail Map for Families (Also applicable to SWD in 5th Grade) Created by our very own BEESS Discretionary Project 10: Transition Education Network Transition Representatives. [Please see attached.](#)

Office of Special Education Programs

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/landing.jhtml?src=pn>



Have you heard of **John Maxwell**? If so, are you a recipient of his daily “Minute with Maxwell?” If not, please consider. I began receiving his daily message in 2018 and I must share it has been a beautiful way to affirm what I know as well as a time to reflect and grow professionally. See below a snippet of what his recipients receive in addition to the daily message and if you miss it, no worries, you will receive at the end of the week a recap of the week to view at your convenience. It is a win- win! And Free!

<https://johnmaxwellteam.com/minute/> **And** <https://www.maxwellleadership.com/about/>



New Directors' Network IS BACK!

CASE

CASE's New Directors' Network will be launching the school year 2023-

24 **monthly series** on Sept. 19, 2023 at 12 p.m. with "You Got the Job... Now What?" Veteran leaders, Dr. Angie Balsley, CASE Policy and Legislative Chair (IN) and Joe Kwisk, CASE Professional Development Committee Member (IN) will share structures and tools administrators can use to have a great start to the school year!



The NDN is a recurring virtual event that provides topical professional learning designed to support new leaders of special education develop leadership practices and a national professional network. NDN is a FREE CASE member benefit. Login to the CASE Members Only Site to register! [Register Now](#)



CASE is proud to partner with **Key2Ed**
and offer
IEP Facilitation Training

Communication and engagement of all participants in the IEP meeting is key and sometimes difficult when in stressful or new situations. The concepts taught in this workshop around shared responsibility and shared understanding promote the skills needed for a successful IEP team meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to train your staff!

Phyllis Wolfram, CASE Executive Director



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CASSIE VELASQUEZ



ROBIN O'SHEA

**FLEXIBLE
ACCESS FROM
HOME OR WORK**

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS FOR CASE MEMBERS

IEP FACILITATION

NEW!

ADVANCED IEP FACILITATION

OVER 5,000 PARTICIPANTS LAST YEAR ALONE!

“

"Best PD I've been to in 30 years!"

"I made a cheat sheet from all the great tools and techniques!"

"I'm excited that I can immediately take what I learned and use it."

”

WWW.KEY2ED.COM
KEY2EDCASE@KEY2ED.COM

KEY2ED IS THE AUTHORITY ON FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

THE WEATHERLY REVIEW

QUARTERLY LEGAL UPDATE

September 28, 2023	12-2pm (CT) 1-3pm (ET)
December 14, 2023	12-2pm (CT) 1-3pm (ET)
March 21, 2024	1-3pm (CT) 2-4pm (ET)
June 27, 2024	12-2pm (CT) 1-3pm (ET)

Legal Happenings Special Educators Need to Know!

Special Education Case Law & Federal Agency Guidance!

Questions & Answers!



Join us !!

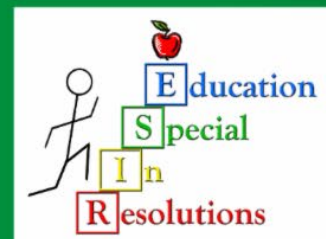
\$75 per session (CASE Members)
\$125 per session (Non-CASE Members)



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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 you can be highlighted in the upcoming newsletter. Also, we would like to continue to highlight districts as we know great things are happening in support of our students with disabilities; Please do not hesitate to submit an article celebrating the success or it could be a new initiative/project that you are trying for the first time! We take great pleasure in honoring you!! And learning from each other!



SAVE THE DATES:

***Florida Council for Exceptional Children (FCEC) Conference**
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
October 5-7, 2023

***Florida CASE Winter Institute Hilton Orlando, Altamonte Springs**
January 30th-February 1, 2024 *Registration will be forthcoming*

*** Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa**
June 10-12, 2024 and ISRD June 12 & 13