

### CASE Board of Directors

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## FLORIDA CASE CONNECTIONS



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## GREETINGS FLORIDA CASE MEMBERS!

Lily of the Valley is this month's flower, and it symbolizes happiness, humility and sweetness. I am always reminded of that special place in each of our hearts where we hold a strong conviction in supporting our children and youth with disabilities. We are truly blessed to be of service to others.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. ~ *Nelson Mandela*

**To Maintain A  
Healthy Level  
Of Insanity**

**Skip** down the  
hall **Rather**  
**Than Walk** and  
**see** how many  
**looks** you get..

**When The  
Money Comes  
Out The ATM,  
Scream 'I  
Won! I Won!'**

**At Lunch Time,  
Sit In Your  
Parked Car With  
Sunglasses on and  
point a Hair  
Dryer At Passing  
Cars. See If  
They Slow  
Down.**

**PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEW CASE  
MEMBERS:**



**Vivian Bennett**– TATS Regional Facilitator

**Pamela Bostick**– Transition Coordinator, Pinellas County Schools

**Frederick Brooks**– Orange County Schools

**Alexis Cash**– Santa Rosa Schools

**Deborah Caudill**-Coordinator of Health Services and Medicaid, Seminole County Public Schools

**Lisa Estevez**– ESE Coordinator, Martin County School District

**Nora Janvier**- ISS/District ESE Administrator, Miami Dade Schools

**Elizabeth Jarzynka**– ESE Special Assignment Seminole County Public Schools

**Christine Kirkreit**– ESE Administrator, Seminole County Public Schools

**Melissa Lyford**– ESE Coordinator, Lake County Schools

**Kimberli Perry**- ESE Director, Jefferson School District

**Alice Schmitges**– Institute of Small and Rural Districts (ISRD) Specialist

**Lesley Thompson**– ESE Director, Monroe County Schools

**Deidre Wright**– ESE Specialist, Polk County Schools

We are delighted that you have joined your professional organization!

Please visit our website at [www.flocase.org](http://www.flocase.org)

And register for our upcoming 19th Annual CASE Summer Institute

June 13-15th

# EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)



## Florida Department of Education Every Student Succeeds Act Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

**Q-1. How will the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) impact Local Educational Agency's allocations and requirements?**

A-1. Under ESSA transition provisions, clarified by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2016-2017 formula funds will be awarded and administered in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), No Child Left Behind (NCLB) provisions. Specifically, 2016-2017 formula funds will be allocated using the same methodology used to award funds in the 2015-2016 school year.

**Q-2. When will ESSA components be implemented?**

A-2. In accordance with ESSA's orderly transition provision, ESSA components will be fully implemented at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. However, the ESSA provisions related to federally awarded competitive grant programs will become effective October 1, 2016.

ESSA amended several requirements across multiple programs that states may not need to comply with during the 2016-2017 school year because those provisions will not continue under ESSA. Specifically, Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives (specific accountability measures for English language learners [ELLs]) are no longer required, but accountability for ELL progress must now be included in the state's school accountability system.

**Q-3. What percent will the state reserve under ESSA provisions?**

A-3. The Title I, Part A formula remains the same and ESSA sustains the existing one percent reservation for state administration of the Title I, Part A program. Additionally, states must reserve seven percent of the Title I, Part A funds to carry out school improvement interventions and technical assistance. Ninety-five percent of that amount must be awarded to districts for comprehensive support authorized under ESSA.

# Florida CASE Connections

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## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) continues...

**Q-4. Is FDOE considering implementing the Direct Student Services component in ESSA?**

A-4. It has not been determined if FDOE will implement the Direct Student Services option. Florida will consult with LEAs to determine the best course of action relative to the Direct Student Services option.

**Q-5. Will the Parents Right to Know (Title I, Part A) provisions be expected for the 2016-2017 school year?**

A-5. Yes. For the 2016-2017 school year, districts are expected to continue compliance with the program requirements of NCLB.

**Q-6. Under what guidance do districts operate for 2016-2017? What is the implementation plan for 2016-2017 after NCLB waivers expire?**

A-6. ESEA Flexibility waivers end August 1, 2016. Florida will maintain its current list of priority and focus schools and will continue to implement approved interventions through the 2016-2017 school year. Florida elected to “freeze” its current list of priority and focus schools and is not exiting schools from the current approved list resulting in those schools continuing to implement approved interventions through the remaining months of the 2015-2016 school year and in the 2016-2017 school year.

Additional details regarding specific Title I, Part A provisions waived under Florida’s flexibility waiver are forthcoming.

**Q-7. What would you say to Superintendents regarding the differences between NCLB and ESSA in regards to Title I, Part A?**

A-7. ESSA modifies federal education law and we are learning together. We caution districts in moving too fast on items that will need to be finalized at the federal level before key decisions can be made at the state level. Given that there is a transition period for implementation, the process and timeline to obtain final information will be an extended one, and we will learn with our partners at the local and federal levels.

We need more information on:

Whether accountability implementation in 2017-2018 means that decisions are based on 2016-2017 results or 2017-2018 results. If 2016-2017, school grades would need to be based on the new federally consistent methodology.

Other accountability requirements in the bill that may affect how school grades are calculated (such as the inclusion of sub-groups, and a new measure of school quality or student success).

Final regulations are expected within a year. In the meantime, to receive more information about Florida’s plan for ESSA implementation, please refer to DPS: 2016-33 ESSA Update memo at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7569/dps-2016-33.pdf>.

**Q-8. With the uncertainty of funding for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 under ESSA (State withholding anywhere from 3-10%), is it recommended that districts hold back some of the increased allocation to roll into Fiscal Year 2018-2019 in an effort to minimize cuts (similar to what was done when sequestration was looming)?**

A-8. It appears that this question pertains to Title I, Part A. Although we cannot predict with certainty what the 2017-2018 federal appropriation for Title I, Part A will be, at this time we are not recommending that districts hold back any portion of the 2016-2017 funding to mitigate any potential reductions in 2017-2018. We will closely monitor the appropriations process and alert districts if there are any indications of potential reductions for 2017-2018.

**Q-9. ESSA allows SEAs or LEAs to transfer all of their funds under Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part A or Section 4202(c)(3) between these provisions, and into (but not out of) Title I, Parts A, C and D; Title III, Part A and Title V, Part B. Does this transferability mean that funds from the grants/programs indicated may be combined (transferred) to the larger program/grants to enable braiding and/or blending of funds?**

A-9a. Title V, Section 5002 expands the transferability flexibility that has been available to SEAs and LEAs under NCLB. It is important to note that this option does not allow funds from the original program to be “combined” or “co-mingled” with the receiving program. It does allow for the funds to be used for the purposes of the receiving program rather than the original program. Funds must continue to be accounted for and expenditures reported in the original award. Blending and braiding may occur regardless of the use of the transferability flexibility. The department plans to issue additional guidance on this provision of ESSA.

**b. What are the benefits of transferring funds from one program to another?**

A-9b. This flexibility may allow LEAs to redirect available funds to identified needs and more closely coordinate activities of the referenced programs. LEAs must continue, however, to carefully account for all of the funds regardless of the use of the flexibility provision.

# Florida CASE Connections

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Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) continues...

- Q-10. Districts are beginning to hear from literacy contacts about infusing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in the K-12 reading plan as written into new ESEA language. Will UDL need to be infused into the School Improvement Plan (SIP) as well?**
- A-10. UDL is referenced several times in ESSA, but we do not yet know the implications. It will not, however, be a requirement of the 2016-2017 SIP template.
- Q-11. Will districts still receive the 1003(a) School Improvement Grant for schools next year?**
- A-11. Yes, but the release date has not yet been determined.
- Q-12. Will the SIP requirements change under ESSA?**
- A-12. We are not anticipating any major changes to the SIP template or requirements for 2016-2017, but we do expect changes in future years. Additional details regarding the specific changes are forthcoming.
- Q-13. Under the new ESSA, is there an opportunity for private entities to provide enrichment services to students of public schools? How will private organizations and citizens be involved in implementing this program?**
- A-13. Yes. Under the Direct Student Services option, private entities will have opportunities to provide enrichment services to students of public schools. However, it has not yet been determined if Florida will implement the Direct Student Services option.



## 2016 EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Many educational Bills have been passed this year that will impact our way of work. From the words of President Barack Obama “ We affirm that fundamentally American ideal– that every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live, deserves the chance to make of their lives what they will.” Please see attached a summary of all educational legislation.



## A TRIBUTE TO DR. RENEE SPEISMAN

DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR SMALL AND RURAL DISTRICTS (ISRD)



Dr. Renee Speisman has served as an educator for over 35 years. Her professional services include Special Education Teacher, School Psychologist, Coordinator of Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS Springs), Director of Exceptional Student Education in Alachua County School District and currently Director of Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISRD) for 13 years, which is one of Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) Discretionary Projects. She holds certification in the areas of Educational Leadership, School Psychology, and School Psychology Licensure.

Renee holds a Bachelor in Special Education and Elementary Education, a Masters in Special Education, a Specialist in School Psychology and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership.

Above all the accomplishments, Renee loves the ISRD family of Directors; always ensuring that we had the latest and greatest information and resources that would enable us to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. She gives tirelessly of her time and words of wisdom to be of support to her colleagues; we could always count on you! Under Renee's leadership, ISRD has become a Professional Learning Community which includes our Directors, Staffing Specialists and Psychologists that cultivates collaboration to support student learning and progress. Your contribution and commitment to ISRD will always be remembered.

Renee, as you retire, remember that you are leaving a legacy of encouragement, achievement and strong work ethic that will always be a part of every life you have touch. You have done so much for everyone else and it is time for you to take time for yourself and family.

**Please see next page as we express our admiration...**





## EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE TO OUR DEAR FRIEND RENEE

You have been so much more than an ISRD Director to me. You have also been a great friend. As the director, you have connected me to others you had answers to my numerous questions, you have listened to me whine and you have celebrated with me on my district's successes. Your shoes will be hard to fill!! But above all, I have appreciated your friendship. We just hit it off and from there we have had great long walks on beautiful Sanibel, swam with manatees (even if you wouldn't get in the water until I confirmed the large dark spots were indeed manatees), learned to gamble at the best casino in South Florida, and shared many many meals and great laughs together. I will miss you terribly but wish you a healthy, restful and joy filled retirement!! Love you!!!

Elizabeth "Beth" Arnold  
Director of ESE and Student Services  
Washington County

Renee was very instrumental in my decision to apply for the position as ESE Director. She gave me so much support and assured me that she was there for me anytime I needed her. I so appreciated her encouragement and support!

Nancy Crews  
Director of ESE and Student Services  
Baker County

Dear Renee,

You are such a gem! You have always made sure that the smaller districts have a voice. We appreciate all that you have done for our districts and know that you have the best of your life yet to come!

Visit us in the Keys anytime!

Sincerely,  
Lesley, ESE Director  
Monroe County

Renee has welcomed me to ISRD since day one. As a new ESE director, I truly appreciate her positive attitude with me and the fact that she made me feel like any question I had was a good question. She always had plenty of time to listen to my concerns, answer my questions, and to assure me that she was available if I needed anything. I also appreciate her encouragement. Renee, I will miss you and I wish you much happiness as you retire.

Sincerely,  
Christie Whitehead - Union County

**Wishing you all the best for your retirement, filled with love and happiness!**

Love,

**Your ISRD Family**



### *One Last Tribute To Our Dear Renee,*

*I will never forget the first time I met you. It was the Spring of 1997 and you were interviewing me for the ESE Supervisor position in Alachua County. You had a panel of district and school administrators and I must admit now, I was very nervous as a teacher. You recognized my potential and made the decision to hire me on the spot.. You believed in me, supported me in all of my initiatives and “out of the box thinking!” and were an amazing mentor! Your guidance, support and allowing me the freedom to learn and grow professionally is most appreciative!*

*You inspired me to apply for the Director’s position in Levy County, and the rest is our 19 year history together; we have had great times together. I will miss the many dinners and walks on the beach in Sanibel. The laughter and pure delight when I attempted to share a joke that was not so funny but you laughed anyway :) It has been said that there are two kinds of people; those who brighten the room when they enter, and those who brighten the room when they leave. You always brighten the room and your presence will be sorely missed!*

*I am not saying “Good-bye” but rather, I will be seeing you around :) Happy Retirement!*

*Rosalind*





## FLORIDA CASE RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION



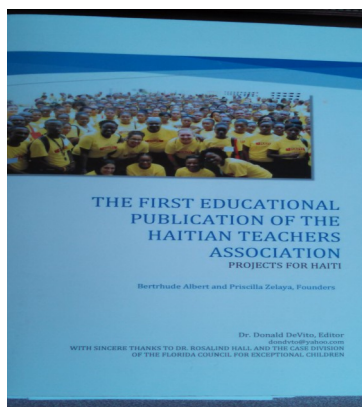
It is with great pleasure that I share with you that Florida CASE received National recognition at National CASE Board of Directors' meeting at the Council of Exceptional Children Conference in St. Louis.

Florida CASE received the National CASE award for having the highest increase in membership of all other states and provinces and the highest percentage of 24%! It is because of you that we have received such recognition. Your unwavering support to our mission is evident and much appreciated!

A special thank you to our Membership chair, [Ms Sandra Chambers-Collins](#) for leading the way and our Board for reaching out to our members in a personal way.

## CASE SUPPORTS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ABROAD

We are happy to announce that the Gofundme effort to support a year of inclusive tuition in local schools for 3 children with disabilities at the Notre Maison Orphanage in Port au Prince, Haiti was successful. The pictures below are of the children in their school uniforms (included with tuition). Thanks to everyone who supported one of the 1<sup>st</sup> examples of inclusion in schools in Port au Prince where tuition is only one of several barriers to education for children with disabilities. [Dr.'s Hanna Ehrli and Don DeVito](#) led 9 special education teachers to the orphanage to provide special education training this past October. The inclusive lessons in schools began in January and Hanna returned in March to provide ongoing support training to the inclusion teachers who accepted the children into the school. The work and services that [Dr. Don De Vito](#), Music Teacher at Sidney Lanier School in Alachua County School District and Hanna is providing to the teachers and students is amazing! In an effort to further support this great work, a book was published titled “The First Educational Publication of the Haitian Teachers Association” sponsored by Florida CASE; Dr. De Vito, Editor.





## Florida CASE 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Leadership Institute

Date: June 13-15, 2016

*“Rejuvenating Our Leaders to Provide  
Excellence and Equity for Every Student Every Day”*

### Hotel Location:

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

5001 Coconut Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

1-888-421-1442

(Rooms \$159 per night)

Please visit our website for additional accommodations options

[www.flocase.org](http://www.flocase.org)

### Conference Registration:

National Member - \$275

Florida CASE Member - \$325

Non-Member - \$375

Registration: [www.flocase.org](http://www.flocase.org)

Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISR D)- Registration forthcoming

June 15 (PM) - 16



*We look forward to seeing you!*





From July 10-13, 2016, special educators will attend the **2016 Special Education Legislative Summit** to study the critical issues facing the field, build advocacy knowledge and skills, and prepare for their most important mission: To advocate on behalf of the students back home in their districts and states with members of **Congress on Capitol Hill Day**. Registration will open soon. We will keep you informed.

#### **Hotel Reservations:**

Hilton Alexandria Old Town

1767 King Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

(703) 837-0440

Special Room Rates: from \$155.00 USD/Night

2 Double Beds

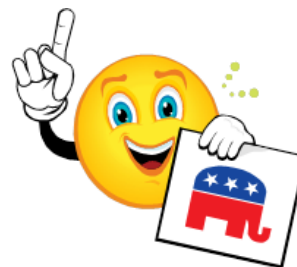
1 King Bed



**Last year we had great participation representing our Florida Sunshine State. We hope that you can join us this year!**



## CASE BOARD POSITIONS



The Florida CASE Board of Directors is calling for nominations for the office of President– Elect, Professional Development, and (2) Member-at-Large Positions. Please review the details below and consider nominating yourself or a colleague:

**President-elect** (6-year commitment, commence on July 1, 2016; 2 year as president-elect, 2 years as president, 2 year as past-president. Responsibilities: The President-elect will serve on committees assigned by the President. Serve in the President's place and with the president's authority in the case of the President's absence and shall be responsible for all committees. Keep current on all decisions and activities, coordinate and ensure that the Annual Unit Report and the Strategic Plan are complete.

**Professional Development Chair**-(2-year commitment commence on July 1, 2016).

Responsibilities: Promote leadership skills within the organization and encourage the utilization of members' leadership potentials and advise on conference programs and professional development activities.

**Member at Large**- (2 year commitment commence on July 1, 2016) Procurement of vendors, Newsletter Editor; a minimum of four (4) per fiscal year, Landis Stetler Scholarship, ensure website is current, Oversee on-site registration for conferences, provide other services as determined by Officers/Board of Directors. \* **Two Positions Available\***

**Candidate Qualifications:** All officers of the Board must be National CEC/CASE members in good standing. Members eligible to be elected to positions on the Board of Directors must be an Administrator of Special Education.

Please email nominations to Catie McRae, CASE secretary at [mcrac28@gmail.com](mailto:mcrac28@gmail.com) **no later than Monday, May 15th** and include position/title, district's name, phone number and email address.





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. We take great pleasure in honoring you!!

**DR. ROSALIND A. HALL, PRESIDENT FLORIDA CASE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Please visit our website at [www.flocase.org](http://www.flocase.org)

## **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**



**“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”**

*~ President John Quincy Adams*