



Florida CASE Newsletter

Summer 2021

Florida CASE Board of Directors

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Greetings CASE Members,

On behalf of our CASE Board of Directors, a special thank you to our members and colleagues that attended our CASE Summer Leadership Institute June 7 -9 at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, Bonita Springs, Florida.

This year’s theme, “Building Blocks to Leadership” 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.

At the request of our colleagues, we hosted a “Hybrid” Institute to meet the needs of everyone. It was truly a blessing that we were able to come together during these unprecedented times. The pandemic certainly changed our “way of work” but every cloud has a “silver lining;” As we have continued to be resilient in spite of the circumstances. Our passion and strength is evident as we continue to support our students and families with grace and zeal!

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.

Thank you to our conference partners; FDOE Bureau of Exceptional Education, Victoria Gaitanis, Bureau Chief; Dr. Erin Sampson, Deputy Bureau Chief and Leadership team; Bureau of Student Services, Andrew Weatherhill, Bureau Chief; Alice Schmitges, Institute of Small and Rural Districts; and our wonderful sponsors.

The month of June brings laughter, joy and excitement! I ask that you take care of yourself and your family and have blessed summer filled with relaxation, fun, and rejuvenation!

Warm regards,
Dr. Rosalind Hall



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Happiness is when what you think, what you say,
and what you do are in harmony.*

-Mahatma Gandhi

District Spotlight on ECT in Putnam County



Environmental Communication Teaching (ECT) is a series of trainings designed to increase the implementation of a student's communication system in the classroom environment. The training format is set up to develop the skills set of teachers, SLPs, and paraprofessionals, with a strong school to home- parent connection. Technology and Learning Connections (TLC) and The ACCESS project have partnered together to support a train the trainer model for school districts throughout the state of Florida since 2015. Cheryl Woolwine – Putnam County LATS and Teresa Pinder-RLATS-Levy attended an ECT facilitator's training in 2015 with school-based teams from their counties.

To be cost effective, in 2017-18 ECT was presented in Putnam County in 4- 1/2 day sessions (an AM session and a repeat PM session) for school-based teams of the SLP, the classroom teacher, the paraprofessional (if there was one for the target student) and therapist (DHH, OT, PT, &VI) if necessary. Substitutes were provided for classroom teachers by Mr. Burnett, ESE director, as needed. The parents were invited to join their child's team in May to create summer communication activities for home. Each fall we continued to follow the students from the previous school year and added new students who were beginning communicators. Two times a year, in the fall and spring, an assessment of the student's communication ability was measured using the Communication Matrix with teacher and SLP collaboration. In the 20/21 school year approximately 25 students, from 9 schools throughout Putnam County School District ranging from PreK to 11th grade communication skills were supported using the ECT framework.



When COVID came into our lives, the decision was made to go to a hybrid virtual model. Individual school-based teams met every 4-6 weeks on ZOOM to with facilitators to problem solve for their target student(s). In addition, whole group (multiple schools) met for specific training 2xs virtually. If substitutes were required Mr. Burnett (ESE director) provided as needed. In addition to funding substitutes and equipment, Mr. Burnett also attended meetings when able. Through a process of video reporting, observation, and data sheets the team did an analysis of needs for students on an individual basis. AT Specialist (LATS) and RLATS assisted in providing visual supports, paper-based communication systems, electronic communication devices and training to teachers, SLPs, and Paras and worked with students when necessary. SLPs supported teachers in the classroom by assisting teachers, students and paras in device troubleshooting, modeling of device usage and individual student assistance as needed. Again, an assessment of student communicative ability was measured using the

Communication Matrix in the Fall and in the Spring, with teacher and SLP collaboration. All AAC, paper communication systems and electronic devices, were available to go home with students throughout the school year. Electronic devices were also available to students for checkout during holidays and the summer months. In addition, a paper communication system was made available to all families.

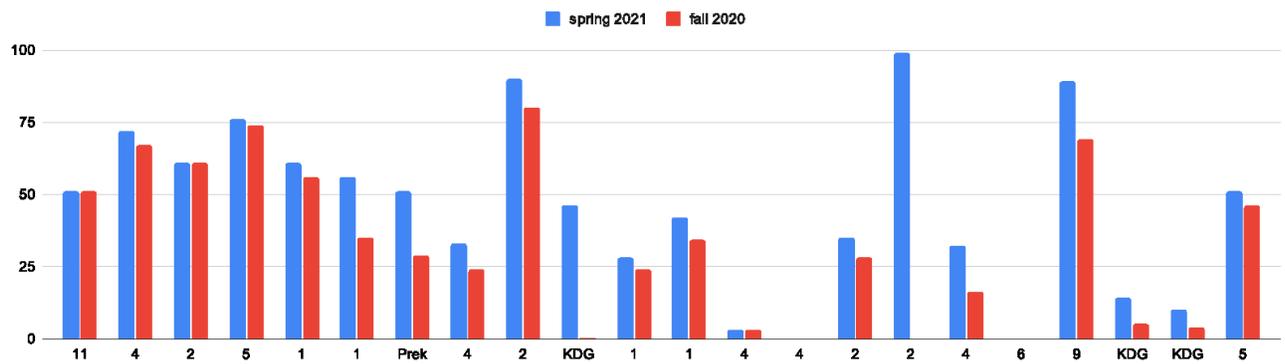
As we strive to be aware of teacher time, and funding, we are going to continue the hybrid model of ECT framework for the 2021 -22 school year! This framework has proven to be successful for teachers, and students. It has been easier on teachers not to be out of the classroom for an extended time, and it allows us to serve a greater number of students with the ECT framework. Staff new to the ECT framework will begin the school year with ECT fundamentals. Mr. Burnett continues to support ECT by funding substitutes, participating in training to better understand the classroom implementation process, requesting all SLPs participate to be familiar with the ECT framework and encouraging school principals to support the school-based teams. TLC and the ACCESS project will offer an ECT facilitator training in the fall of 2021. Districts looking for a proven classroom implementation framework for students who struggle with communication, should consider supporting a school-based team attending.



Communication Matrix Putnam 2018-21

Grade	spring 2021	fall 2020	spring 2020	fall 2019	spring 2019	fall 2018	Spring 2018
11	51	51			50	46	34
4	72	67			34	49	28
2	61	61					
5	76	74			74	72	66
1	61	56					
1	56	35			35	22	12
Prek	51	29					
4	33	24			23		
2	90	80			86		89
KDG	46	0					
1	28	24					
1	42	34			9		
4	3	3					
4	N/A	N/A			76		42
2	35	28			28	47	20
2	99						86
4	32	16					
6	N/A	N/A				40	23
9	89	69			89		
KDG	14	5			9	6	
KDG	10	4					4
5	51	46			37		28

spring 2021 and fall 2020



Honoring Our Retirees

Relax and

Enjoy the ride

Try something new

Imagine the opportunities

Reminder yourself to play

Expect adventures

Make new plans

Entertain a few wild ideas

Nap without guilt

Take time just for you

CAROL APPLE

Hillsborough County Schools
13 years

PAMALA BRUNSON

Marion County School District
37 years

CATHY DOFKA

Hernando County Schools
43 years

LYNNETTE DUPONT

Hillsborough County Schools
23 years

ROBIN FRINK

School District of Lee County
30 years

VICKI JENKINS

Martin School District

DR. BARBARA JONES

Lake Wales Charter Schools

AMY STONNER MCLEAN

School District of Lee County
27 years

MARTHA WEIMORTS

Gulf County Schools
38 years

ESTELLE WOLFMAN

Hillsborough County Schools
38 years

FAYE YONGUE

FDLRS/PAEC
35+ years



*Florida CASE
Rookie of the Year*



Mr. Gary Percy has been serving as the Exceptional Student Education Coordinator for Citrus County Schools since June 2019. Mr. Percy has devoted his career to supporting students with disabilities. As a classroom teacher at our therapeutic day school CREST (Citrus Resource for Exceptional Students in Transition), Mr. Percy quickly learned to adapt to best meet the needs of his students. In the five years as the Curriculum Specialist for CREST, Mr. Percy trained teachers and staff in best practices in instruction and behavior supports. With every encounter, Mr. Percy gained knowledge of the students and worked with his team to consistently deliver quality instruction.

In 2011 Mr. Percy left Citrus County Schools and became the Regional Technology Coordinator and Learning Development Facilitator for the PS/Rtl Project in Tampa. In this role, he collaborated with districts throughout the North Central Florida, provided professional development, and worked to build the capacity of teachers, administrators and staff to support the students in their care.

Upon Mr. Percy's return to Citrus County Schools as the ESE Coordinator, he brought his breadth of knowledge to make a difference for students. He regularly visits schools so that he observes students and teachers firsthand so that he can provide authentic feedback and guidance when seeking solutions. Mr. Percy approaches each observation using the I-C-L-E model (Instruction, Curriculum, Learning, Environment). This approach emphasizes the supports needed for student success. Mr. Percy uses the information gained to provide professional development to parents, teachers, staff and administrators as they work to level the playing field for students.

Mr. Percy's unbounding passion and enthusiasm serves as a motivator to everyone he encounters. He is a problem solver, a collaborator, and a communicator as he persists in striving for the best solution to help students achieve success. Mr. Percy believes that students need three things to be successful in school, that can be summed up with *I can, I want to, and I belong*. When students have these in place they soon become successful learners.



*Florida CASE
Administrator of the Year*



Cathy Dofka is the Director of Exceptional Student Education for Hernando County Schools. Cathy has emboldened families, students, and staff to advocate for inclusive school environments for over 40 years. Through her career as a special education teacher, program staffing specialist, special education supervisor, and ESE Director her vision has been to support our students to ensure success throughout all educational transitions.

Under her leadership as a FLCASE Board member the CASE Summer Institute continued to be a premier event providing essential information and networking for directors and special education leaders. Cathy also participated in national conferences as a Florida CASE Board member and often provided input for policy and legislation. Her connections with other directors and members of CASE enable her to readily know the pulse of special education across the state of Florida.

During her tenure, the Hernando County School District has increased graduation rates for students with disabilities, surpassing the state target. Cathy reaches beyond the limits of a school district and partners with local agencies and discretionary projects to encompass the full spectrum of student needs. She has coordinated the Walk and Roll 5k Disability Awareness event in Hernando County to raise funds for students to attend summer camp. She sits on the St. Petersburg College Advisory Board, and participated on the Early Learning Coalition Board.

To continue her legacy the Hernando County Exceptional Student Education department will strive to push the boundaries in special education while advocating for all students. We have big shoes to fill! Thank you for Cathy for your mentorship, leadership, and friendship. We will see on the porch!

*Florida CASE
Lifetime Achievement Award*



Dr. Jeanne Glidden Prickett has been an educator of blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind students for more than 40 years. At Illinois State University, she earned her bachelor's degree in education with specialization in elementary education and education of students with visual impairments (1973), followed by a master's degree in education of the deaf (1977) and then a doctorate degree in educational administration (1983).

She began her career at the Illinois State University Laboratory Schools, where she taught in resource programs serving blind/visually impaired students, deaf/hard of hearing students, and deafblind students.

Dr. Prickett moved to Washington, DC to serve on a variety of federal projects in vision impairment and deafblindness through the Office of Special Education Programs of the U.S. Department of Education. At Gallaudet University, she was the project director for the federally funded National Information Center on Deaf-Blindness.

Dr. Prickett next relocated to Honolulu, HI, where she served as administrator for the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and the Blind. Subsequently, she became superintendent at the Iowa School for the Deaf. In the spring of 2012, after a national search by the Board of Trustees of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB), Dr. Prickett became the 17th and first female president in the school's history. During her tenure as president of FSDB, Dr. Prickett served as an appointed member of the City of St. Augustine Vision Steering Committee (January 2014-June 2015), which developed the City's new vision and strategic goals for the City Commission's adoption. Dr. Prickett retired from FSDB in July 2020 after eight-plus years of service.

Throughout her professional career, she authored numerous articles and book chapters related to education of children who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind. Dr. Prickett has served as a consultant, as an adjunct faculty member for several college and university programs and has given numerous presentations and training sessions both nationally and internationally. She has also served on various committees and boards on the local, state and national level.

In Case You Missed It!

[CEC Endorses Legislation to End Corporal Punishment in Schools](#)

[President Biden Releases Full Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal](#)



Do you know John C. Maxwell? 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 and personally.

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! - Dr. Rosalind Hall

<https://johnmaxwellteam.com/minute/>

Florida CASE Board Positions

The Florida CASE Board of Directors is calling for nominations for the office of Treasurer and Membership Chair. The candidate seeking the treasurer office must have served on the CASE Board at least 1 term and fulfilled all their roles and responsibilities during that term in another capacity to have an understanding of the inner workings of the board or CASE members may be eligible to run for those positions with demonstrated knowledge in the area being sought, either through job related experience or working on other professional boards in similar roles. Please review the details below and consider nominating yourself or a colleague. A two (2) year commitment commence on July 1, 2021. All officers of the Board must be a National CEC/CASE member in good standing.

Membership Chair:

1. Maintain an active record of members.
2. Maintain an active program for the recruitment of new members.
3. Increase awareness for the organization.

Treasurer:

1. Be custodian of the funds of the organization.
2. Disburse money for expenses incurred.
3. Submit a treasurer’s report at all Board meetings

Please email nominations by **Wednesday, June 23, 2022** to Barbara Johns, CASE secretary at bjohnse27@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

CASE has proven to be an effective influential organization which provides powerful support to its membership. The mission of The Council of Administrators of Special Education, Inc. is to provide leadership and support to members by shaping policies and practices which impact the quality of education.

Now, more than ever, your membership in the CASE organization can assist you as you grow professionally and develop services at the state, province and local level for students with disabilities. It is our hope that CASE can assist in being your springboard to excellence.

To be a CASE member you do have to pay for membership in CEC and CASE. Depending on which level you choose, that could be as little as \$135 for the Basic including CASE and CEC membership, which breaks down to \$60 CASE and \$75 for CEC. No matter which level you choose, your CEC membership will provide you with information to broaden your knowledge and keep you current, open discourse to stimulate your thinking in the CECCommunity, connections to expand your relationships through Special Interest Divisions and state/provincial unit membership, and paths to advance your career and practice.

To renew or join your membership please go to the following website for the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC): <https://www.cec.sped.org/>

- Click on Membership and join CEC
- Add CASE on as a division

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

Please note there are district memberships which can offer discounts if you have 5 or more district staff that wish to join their professional organization.

Contact customer service at 1-888-232-7733 or service@cec.sped.org for assistance or additional information.

Contact Dr. Rosalind Hall, President for additional information regarding your membership in Florida CASE: rosalind.hall@levy12.org

Fun in the Sun Activities

Although most of us work during the summer, it's also a time to enjoy, relax, and recharge for next school year. Take the opportunity to unwind and unplug this summer. Use the time to become more balanced and recharge your physical and spiritual batteries.



- Take some time to spend outdoors. (go to the beach, take a hike, watch the sunset or rise)
- Unplug from technology. Even if you only do it once a week, take the time.
- Spend time with friends and family. (set up family fun nights, go on a kayaking adventure)
- Use some personal time from work and have free time with no expectations!! Great time for a road trip to visit some of the beautiful springs that we have in Florida.
- Create some “me time.” Take 10-15 minutes just for you.
- Take a nap each day. Sleep late. Stay up late. The choice is yours. Do what's best for you this summer.

Save the Date

October 21-23, 2021

Florida CEC Conference
Daytona Beach

November 16-18, 2021

Educational Strategies and Student Engagement
Institute (ESSEI)
Orlando

December 13, 2021

Florida Association of Student Services
Administrators (FASSA)
Vinoy Renaissance
St. Petersburg

December 14-16, 2021

Administrators Management Meeting (AMM)
Vinoy Renaissance
St. Petersburg



FLORIDA CASE
SUMMER
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE

SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 6-8, 2022
@ HYATT REGENCY
COCONUT POINT
RESORT AND SPA



Register for the Virtual 2021 Special Education Legislative Summit by July 9!



Join us **virtually July 19 - 23, 2021**, for the Special Education Legislative Summit (**SELS**). This is an opportunity for special education professionals from across the country to make a difference by advocating for change with Members of Congress.

In addition, this experience is being offered at no cost! This is your opportunity to get engaged and make a difference for your community.

What to expect at #SELS2021?

- In-depth learning about key issues including legislation, appropriations, mental health, educator shortages, and more.
- Opportunities to improve your advocacy skills with the experts and learn how to sharpen the message you bring to Capitol Hill.
- The chance to join other special educators in your state and meet with your Members of Congress to make a difference for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with exceptionalities.



COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

**Registration is now open for our 2021 CASE Annual Fall Conference!
Don't miss this opportunity to network with over 400 special education
administrators and leaders from across the country!**

CASE COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

CASE FALL CONFERENCE
November 11-13, 2021
Little Rock Marriott
Little Rock, Arkansas

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE

Focusing on a Future of Success
Sponsored by:



CASE Webinars and Professional Learning



Myrna Mandlawitz is President of MRM Associates, LLC and serves as the CASE Legislative Consultant. She has worked in Washington D.C. for close to 30 years as a consultant/lobbyist on special and general education policy and legislation.

30 Minutes with Myrna

DATE CHANGE!

Last Session for 2020-2021!

Join us for this Federal Update on the latest happenings in Washington D.C., policies and CASE position statements relating to Special Education

June 22, 2021

5-5:30 pm (EST)

4-4:30 pm (CST)

3-3:30 pm (MT)

2-2:30 pm (PT)

This webinar is
FREE and
offered to CASE
members only!

Register at www.casecec.org
"Members Only" tab

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

Speakers:

- Jenni Donohoo
- Lee Ann Jung
- Dominique Smith
- Kristen Anderson

Virtual Summit



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



JULY 12TH

- **Collective Efficacy: How Educator's Beliefs Impact Student Learning**
- **Student Self-Efficacy: Charting the Course to Success**
- **Unleashing Your Personal Power**

JULY 13TH

- **Your Students, My Students, Our Students: Rethinking Equitable and Inclusive Classrooms**
- **Win Time! Merging "What I Need Time" with Models of Co-Teaching**
- **Removing Labels: Disrupting the Negative Effects of Labels and Assumptions**

THE WEATHERLY REVIEW

QUARTERLY LEGAL UPDATE



Sponsored by the Council of Administrators of
Special Education

Join us for the
Second Quarter Update

June 29, 2021

12:00-2:00pm (CST)

Special Education Case Law &
Federal Agency Guidance
(both COVID & Non-COVID
Related)!

"Legal Happenings"
Special Educators Need
to Know!
Questions & Answers

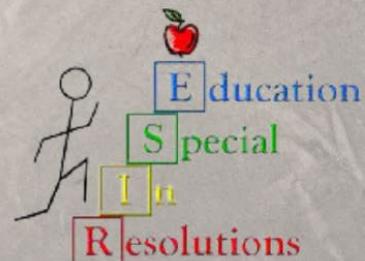
\$75 CASE Members
\$125 Non-CASE Members

Future Dates:
September 23, 2021
December 16, 2021

CASE

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATORS
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP • VISION • EXCELLENCE



Great
Instruction
Great
Achievement

for Students with Disabilities

A Road Map for Special Education Administrators
2nd Edition

John L. O'Connor

*Coming Soon! Check the CASE
Website!*



This highly interactive webinar series is presented by **John O'Connor**, author of *Great Instruction Great Achievement for Students with Disabilities, 2nd Edition!*

Targeted Audience: Special Education Leaders, Principals, Assistant Principals, and curriculum/instruction leaders

\$75 per person, per webinar

\$300 if you register for all 5! (\$75 discount)

visit casecec.org/events for detailed session descriptions and registration!

Back to School Series

All sessions will be held at:

11:30am-1:00 pm (CST)
12:30-2:00pm (EST)
10:30am-12:00pm (MST)
9:30-11am (PST)

August 19: 10 Actions to Increase the Learning and Achievement of Students with Disabilities

September 9: Simplifying and Defining Effective Tier 1 and Specially Designed Instruction

September 30: What to Look for in All Classrooms and Co-Teaching Classes

October 14: Effective Reading Instruction for Struggling Readers

October 28: Being a Change Agent - Truly Impacting Learning and Achievement of Students with Disabilities

Great Way to use ARP Funds!