

Florida CASE Newsletter

Fall 2020

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Greetings from the President

It is hard to believe that we are launching a new school year! May the New Year bring you great anticipation, love, grace and patience as we work diligently to support our students, families, teachers, and support staff. With the opening of a New School Year, which may look different because of CORVID-19, I am confident that we will continue to rise to the occasion as we continue to be committed to providing and achieving the best for all students. The education of our children is a fundamental value of our great nation. We will face this new school year filled with promise and opportunities for our students with disabilities. Wishing you a successful school year!

Dr. Rosalind Hall



Strategic Plan

Please see attached our Florida CASE Strategic Plan that your Board has worked diligently to create. It includes our mission and areas of focus including goals and objectives. Formal brochures will be printed and available to you at AMM, Membership Drives and CASE Summer Institute.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A GREAT LEADER'S COURAGE TO FULFILL HIS VISION COMES FROM PASSION, NOT POSITION ~ *John Maxwell.*

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 equity, 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 paperwork are you responsible for: MTSS, Section 504, Staffings, Mental Health, curriculum, Assessment etc...
3. Meet with 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 Teachers and Paraprofessionals
3. With General Education Teachers
4. 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*



ABILITY + MOTIVATION
+ ATTITUDE = SUCCESS

Welcome

New Members

Please Join Me In Welcoming Our New and Rejoin CASE Members:

Jennifer Hykes

Belinda McElroy

Angela Saunders

Lonnie Steiert

April Sumner

Dana Thomson

Stephanie West

We are so delighted that you have joined your professional organization!

Please visit our new website at <https://www.floridacase.org/>




CASE and CEC Special Education Legislative Virtual Summit

This year for the first time due to the Coronavirus, CASE and CEC offered a virtual platform to continue our very important work! Over seventy (70) members of Florida CEC and CASE participated in the virtual platform led by our Florida Chair, Dr. Jennifer Lesh, CEC National President. There were daily webinars provided in the areas of Education Appropriations, Mental Health, Shortages of Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention providers, and COVID-19 Pandemic presented by great presenters in the field. The four (4) Briefs named above were our focal point for this year's summit. We spent the week of July 20 meeting virtually with our Senators and Congressmen to share our stories, data and passion in support to our students, teachers, practioners and families. We met with both Senators, Marco Rubio and Rick Scott and thirteen (13) of our twenty-seven (27) representatives. Our Florida team who shares the same Congressman is in the planning stages of creating a letter to be sent to our state Legislatures and Senators in support of an increase in the CARES Act budget that will decrease the reduction in school staff, special education teachers, related service providers and early intervention providers in the midst of COVID-19. In addition, support letters were sent to our Senators in the areas of additional relief for schools in a COVID-19 Relief Bill, Mental Health, and keep public funds in public schools. It was a busy and energized (2) weeks!

Our CEC and CASE informational brief included the following statement as a friendly reminder to us all.

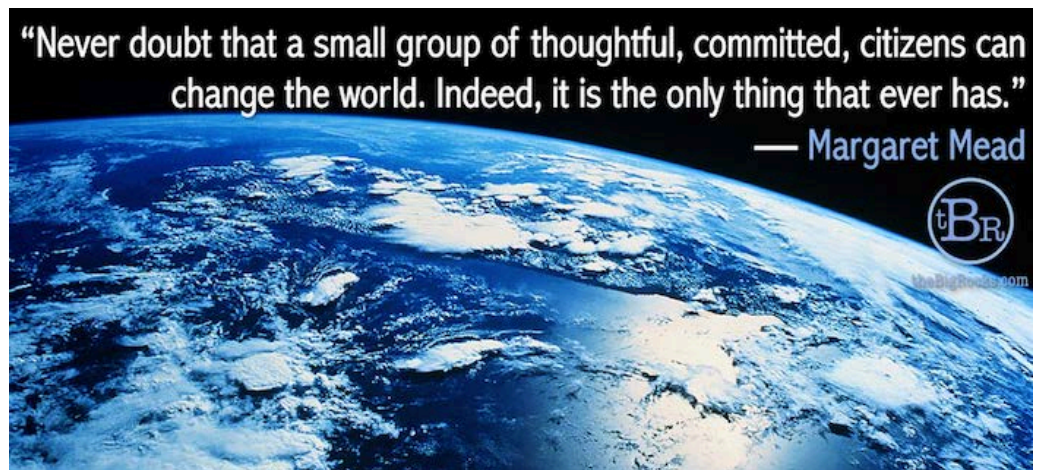
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act For over 45 years, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Education have partnered with state and local governments, teachers and other service providers, higher education, researchers, families, and others to ensure the successful implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA guarantees the civil rights of all children and youth with disabilities and their families, ensuring high quality, evidence based practices including individualized specialized services to support children in their development and education and assist them in achieving positive educational and developmental outcomes and results.

While all involved in implementing and supporting IDEA should be commended, there is a need to build upon these successes and to continue to hold high expectations and pursue improved outcomes for all children and youth with disabilities. This commitment is required for the successful implementation of this essential law. The continued collaboration of special education and early intervention professionals and other IDEA stakeholders is crucial to ensuring that all children and youth with disabilities have access to the necessary supports and services to achieve their educational outcomes and transition successfully to college and career opportunities.

 **A special thank you to our National CASE President, Erin Maguire, CEC National President, Dr. Jennifer Lesh, CASE Executive Director Ms Phyllis Wolfram, CEC Executive Director, Chad Rummel, Kuna Tavalin, Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor CEC, and Dr. Kevin Rubenstein, CASE Chair and all of our colleagues who worked behind the scene to make this event an amazing success!**

In closing, CASE mission continues to be to provide leadership and support to members by shaping policies and practices, which influence the quality of education for students eligible for exceptional student education.

On behalf of our Board of Directors
Dr. Rosalind Hall



TOP TEN TIPS FOR ESE DIRECTORS TO KEEP IN MIND AS SCHOOLS “REOPEN” FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

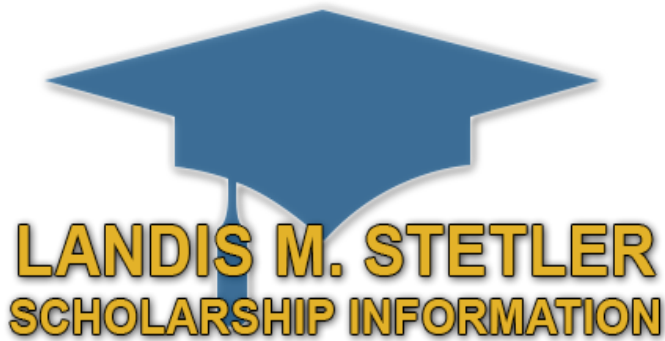
by Julie J. Weatherly, Attorney and Consultant
Resolutions in Special Education, Inc.

As most school districts across the country struggle to develop their final plans for “reopening” school for the 2020-21 school year, decisions about how to provide FAPE to students with disabilities during the current state of health and safety emergency are the most challenging you will make in your career. Since March, you and your staff have been expected to follow provisions of IDEA and Florida law that have not been waived or changed in any way and clearly did not contemplate something like COVID-19 and its impact upon normal school operations. As a result, ESE Directors have found themselves in the only place they can be—that is, one that encourages and supports reasonable, good faith efforts to provide FAPE to all or your students with disabilities in the best way you know how while, at the same time, keeping the health and safety of your students and staff as the top priority.



The following ten tips are designed primarily as reminders as you continue to move forward with plans to reopen schools 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. 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.
2. Consider reaching out to active parent advocates or attorneys in your community to include them in discussions about plans for reopening, revisiting IEPs, providing COVID-impact compensatory services, etc.
3. Demand your seat at all tables where reopening plans are being made and encourage ideas and planning to begin with students with disabilities in mind and move outward.
4. Ensure that ESE and regular education personnel are not working with a silo mentality in planning for reopening schools.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Continue to encourage consistent efforts to contact parents/students who are disengaged and document those efforts.
9. Fight for the equitable distribution of funds to benefit ESE students. Parent advocates are and will continue to be watching.
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.



LANDIS M. STETLER SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has established a scholarship program to award financial scholarships in the name of Dr. Landis Stetler, a pioneer and great leader in exceptional student education (ESE) in the state of Florida and the nation. The award recipient will be recognized at the Florida Department of Education

Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services annual AMM conference in St. Petersburg, Fl. Recipients may apply to continue the scholarship in subsequent years while completing their degree program based on submitting the required renewal application.

Criteria:

The successful applicant must meet all of the following criteria, as determined by the selection committee:

- *Be a Florida resident and currently enrolled in a graduate program leading to certification in ESE and or major in exceptional student education. (a focus on administration of exceptional student education will be given special consideration)

- *Sign an affidavit that the applicant intends to teach or work in a school district in ESE in the state of Florida.

- *Provide two letters of recommendation, with one from the university or college major professor.

- *Complete the application form online. A major part of the application is the narrative including the reason the applicant believes he/she would be assisted by the scholarship.

Procedures for application:

- *Applications will be mailed to the colleges and universities and are to be emailed to Kimberly Edwards, Member-at- Large at edwarkf@bay.k12.fl. Deadline for submission is close of business **Monday, November 30, 2020**

- *All applications must be received by the deadline in order to be considered.

Procedures for review and selection:

- *The President of Florida CASE will appoint a committee of FLCASE Board of Directors.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by the committee either in person or electronically, and the score sheets will be sent to the Kimberly Edwards, Member-At- Large.

- *The scholarship will be awarded as part of the annual Florida Department of Education/Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services AMM conference in St. Petersburg, Fl. (Week of December 14, exact date TBD).

Amount of award

- *The number and amounts of the scholarship awards are determined by Florida CASE, and can be modified at the discretion of the FLCASE Board on an annual basis.

Note: For 2020 it has been determined that two (2) scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$3000.00 each for a graduate and/or undergraduate student in exceptional student education



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!



Congratulations!

DR. JEAN PRICKETT

Principal of Florida School
for the Deaf and the Blind
47 years

**MS. LINDA SCHRODER-
KING**

ESE Director
Osceola County
42 years

MS. JUDY EVERETT

Supervisor of ESE
Hernando County Schools
42 years

MS. TERRY D. ROTH

Director of ESE and Student Services
Clay County District Schools
40 years



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 Dr. Rosalind Hall the information along with a picture so that your accomplishments can be highlighted in the upcoming newsletter. We take great pleasure in honoring our members!



CASE Endorsed Products

Pay Close Attention To The Benefits of Being a Member of CASE

Product	Description	Company	Countries	Benefits to Members
Accelerated Reader 360®	Online program to support independent reading and instruction for grades K-12	Renaissance Learning	USA Canada	Subscription volume discounts
Caselite	Web-based system for scheduling, intervention tracking, record-keeping, and workload analysis for related service providers such as SLPs, OTs, PTs, VI, HI, and others	Caselite Software, Inc.	USA	10% Discount
CHAMPS	Program on positive classroom behavior management for K-12 educators (Tier 1)	Safe and Civil Schools Division of Teaching Strategies, Inc.	USA Canada	15% Discount
Classworks	Supplemental instructional software K-8 (e.g., reading, math, science, performance tasks)	Curriculum Advantage, Inc.	USA	10% Discount
Corrective Reading	Develop tightly sequenced, carefully planned lessons to give struggling students the structure and practice necessary to become skilled, fluent readers.	McGraw Hill	USA	
Early Interventions in Reading	Solid research is at the heart of this product. Designed to work comfortably with core reading programs.	McGraw Hill	USA	
EasyIEP	Customizable web-based, special education workflow and data management solution.	Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG)	USA Canada	TBD
eIEP PRO	Customizable web-based software for educators to manage the special education process	Media Net Solutions	USA	30% Discount on initial purchase; 20% Discount on training

Fast ForWord®	Language program that builds foundational skills needed for language, learning, and reading	Scientific Learning	USA Canada	5% Discount on Products
Foundations	Program on positive school-wide behavior management for K-12 educators (Tier 2)	Safe and Civil Schools Division of Teaching Strategies, Inc.	USA Canada	15% Discount
Interventions	Program on positive behavior interventions for K-12 educators (Tier 3)	Safe and Civil Schools Division of Teaching Strategies, Inc.	USA Canada	15% Discount
iStation Reading Curriculum and Assessments	Internet-based assessment and reading intervention program	iStation	USA Canada	20% Discount
Lexia Reading	Technology-based reading program grade level K-4	Lexia Learning Solutions	USA Canada	TBD
MindPlay Virtual Reading Coach	Online, self-paced, mastery-based reading intervention program	Mind Play	USA Canada	6 months use of RAPS360 with purchase of MRC
ParaEducator PD Now	Online modules for use with para-educators	The Master Teacher	USA Canada	10% Discount
Positive Action	Program that improves academics, behavior, and character	Positive Action, Inc.	USA Canada	10% Discount
Project Discovery	Explore, experience, learn and develop real life job skills and tools while reinforcing core academic skills.	Education Associates	USA	
Read 180 New Generation	Curriculum, instructional tools, and assessment intervention for grades 4–12+	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	USA Canada	15-20% Discount
Reading Horizons	Multi-sensory phonics and foundational reading program	Reading Horizons	USA Canada	TBD
Reading Mastery Signature Edition	SRA workbook package for direct instruction of reading.	McGraw Hill	USA	TBD
Robots4Autism	Robot-centric engagement platform for social and behavioral skills development.	Robokind	USA	TBD
Seeing Stars	Program for teaching symbol imagery for phonemic awareness, sight words, and spelling	Lindamood-Bell Gander	USA Canada	10% Discount

Save the Date!

CASE 2020 Virtual Fall Conference



2020 CASE Virtual Fall
Conference

EXCEED THE
VISION
Be the Difference

We're going virtual for 2020!

November 5-7, 2020

Early Bird Registration \$200 - CASE Members
\$260 - Non-CASE Members

Featured Speakers:

Pete Hall, Executive Director, Education Hall
Ben Springer, Ph.D, NCSP, Author of Happy Kids Don't Punch You in the Face
Lee Ann Jung Ph.D., Founder, Lead Inclusion
John O'Connor, Author of Great Instruction, Great Achievement

More Information and
Registration Coming Soon!

www.casecec.org



Save the Date

December 14, 2020

Annual Statewide FASSA Conference
Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club,
St. Petersburg, FL

December 15-17, 2020

Administrators and Management Meeting
(AMM)
Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club,
St. Petersburg, FL

December 15, 2020 5:00-6:00PM

CASE Business Meeting at AMM

December 16, 2020 5:30-7:00PM

CASE and FASSA Reception at AMM