Calling all Student Services Directors!

We are looking forward to celebrating Student Services Week, February 6-10, 2017. This week is designed to celebrate the good work student services personnel do in schools every day providing necessary learning supports to students, including the work of school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists and school social workers. We would love to celebrate your district during Student Services Week by highlighting your district in the next quarterly newsletter!

Please share kudos, congratulations and examples of great work from your school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists and school social workers. We would also like to know how you are celebrating Student Services Week in your district.

Email your contributions for the next quarterly newsletter to Jayna Jenkins, Coordinator, Student Support Services Project, at jayna@usf.edu. Let us know!

Jayna Jenkins

CASE/FOIL/FASSA Collaborative 2017

“Reinventing Special Education with a Growth Mindset!”

The Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), in collaboration with the Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders (FOIL) and the Florida Association of Student Services Administrators (FASSA), will hold a collaborative meeting on February 16 and 17, 2017.

This collaborative meeting will feature Keynote Speaker Tawana Williams, Hope Coach, author and motivational speaker. Tawana has a story of relentless struggle and ultimate victory! Also featured will be Dr. Jacob Williams, Senior Advisor at Education Northwest in Portland, OR. His current work focuses on providing technical assistance and support to states, districts and schools to improve outcomes for ALL students, and research into methods for learning disability identification.

The target audience will include superintendents, deputy superintendents, regional superintendents, district curriculum and instructional staff, exceptional student education directors, student services directors, district learning support staff, school administrators, and educators. Districts are encouraged to send both special and general education staff to the meeting together.

For more information, contact:
Poinsetta Tillman, President-elect, Florida CASE
poinsetta.tillman@polk-fl.net
863-647-4258
Stories From the Field

A School Health Nurse Saves a Student’s Eyesight

Theresa Greenfield, a school health nurse for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Leon County, was recently recognized by her leadership for the work she is doing conducting health screenings with children. Theresa recently helped save the sight of a kindergartener during a mandatory elementary health screening. She noticed a big discrepancy between the child’s vision in the right and left eyes. The discrepancy was brought to the attention of the child’s parent and an eye doctor, who confirmed that severe muscle weakness in the left eye was causing the right eye to do all the work. The student was referred to an eye therapist and is now receiving eye patch and vision therapy.

“The service that our school nurses provide is so important,” Coco Murray, Manager for DOH’s/Leon’s School Health Program wrote. “Careful screening from a registered nurse caught what the pediatrician did not catch during the child’s wellness visit.” Coco added, “The grateful parent left the nicest message thanking us for discovering and notifying them in such a quick manner. Our nurses all work very hard screening all the kindergarteners and first-, third- and sixth-graders in Leon County and these ‘happy ending’ stories are not uncommon. Good to hear that our hard work pays to enhance the wellness of our kids!”

Did you know...

Mandated school health screenings are provided every year by school health staff at specific grade levels. These screenings include:

◊ Vision
◊ Hearing
◊ Scoliosis
◊ Growth and Development with Body Mass Index

Florida Standards: Parent Guides

All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains, but we know today’s workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills than ever before.

The Florida Department of Education’s (FDOE) Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) website provides parents with Parent Guides (resources based on content standards) at http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/parent-resources.shtml. The standards are designed to ensure that ALL students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be. Included are parent guides for English Language Arts, mathematics, science and social studies, with more to come including Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry.

For additional information, please visit the BSIS Staff Contact web page at http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/staff-contacts.shtml.
The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), a division of FDOE, provides outreach services in the form of financial aid awareness, financial literacy education and student loan default prevention. The main goal is to provide supportive assistance to students, families, high school counselors, postsecondary institutions and community-based groups.

While outreach services may appear to be one of the best kept secrets in OSFA, the reality is that our team of seven regional outreach representatives works diligently “behind the scenes” to provide individual financial aid counseling, present workshops at local schools, train the trainers for local agencies, as well as maintain a web-based presence for those who cannot attend our events in person. Outreach team members are stationed across the state and serve as points of contact for OSFA. You may locate your regional outreach representative by visiting the Contact Us page of the NyFF website.

OSFA’s outreach team also offers free resources directly to students and families, and supplemental resources for those providing this information at the local level.

Website: NavigatingYourFinancialFuture.org
◊ Resources
◊ Online Trainings
◊ Contact Information

Publications offered monthly:
◊ News To Know (for postsecondary institutions)
◊ News To Know for Counselors (for secondary and community-based mentors)
◊ E-News for Postsecondary Students
◊ E-News for High School Students

Presentations:
◊ Downloadable
◊ Audio
◊ In-Person

Collateral Materials:
◊ Brochures
◊ Bookmarks
◊ Posters

Online order form main topics:
◊ Seeking Financial Aid
◊ The Bright Futures Scholarship Program
◊ Managing Your Budget
◊ Managing Your Credit
◊ School and Life Management
◊ Career Planning
◊ Repayment of Your Student Loan Debt

Special topics of interest:
◊ Counseling Undocumented Students
◊ Counseling Foster and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
◊ Payday Lending

Toolkits:
◊ How To Host a Financial Aid Night
◊ How To Host a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Lab

According to Lori Auxier, Director of Outreach Services, “What we do is such a valuable free service for the state of Florida. There are many expensive fee-based options competing for the attention of students and families who may be confused by the financial aid process. Making a wrong choice can impact someone’s financial future dramatically. Our goal is to direct students to free resources for aid and help them make affordable choices to strengthen their financial future.”
New and Updated Resources

Updated School Guide for Assisting Students with Diabetes

Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel

This comprehensive resource is intended to provide guidance to school personnel to ensure a safe learning environment for students with diabetes.

The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), a program of the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has released an update of its school guide entitled, “Helping the Student with Diabetes Succeed: A Guide for School Personnel.” A writing group comprised of diabetes, pediatric and education experts developed the school guide, which is supported by more than 12 other diabetes, pediatric medicine, school health and education organizations.

The school guide helps school personnel, including bus drivers, teachers, food service staff and coaches, understand the needs of students with diabetes and how school staff members play an important role in providing a safe learning environment for students with diabetes. Updates to the guide include information on topics such as effective diabetes management for children with type 2 diabetes; diabetes equipment and supplies for blood glucose monitoring and administering insulin; meal planning and carbohydrate counting; and psychosocial issues affecting students with diabetes. The guide also contains information about federal laws that apply to a school’s responsibility to help students manage their diabetes.

This 2016 version aligns with the diabetes guidelines for Florida schools to provide a set of best practices and tools that enable schools to ensure a safe learning environment for students with diabetes. To obtain NDEP’s updated guide, visit http://www.ndep.nih.gov/SchoolGuide. To learn more about the diabetes guidelines for Florida schools, visit http://sss.usf.edu/resources/topic/health/index.html.

A new website, http://www.floridastudentsachieve.org, has been created for Florida families. The website, a collaboration between the Florida Education Foundation and FDOE, offers information and resources that will help parents choose the best schools for their children and understand what things students should be learning. As a result, the information learned will help parents work with their child’s teachers to ensure the best possible outcomes.

At the top of the website are links to information on the K-12 Florida Standards, Florida School Choices and a blog with helpful articles. The School Performance search tool provides parents with the option to search by district, zip code, city or other geographic data, and then view and compare school and district data. In addition to English, the website can also be viewed in Spanish and Haitian-Creole languages.

At the bottom of the website, parents can link to parent guides, videos and other resources based on their child’s age or grade level. The age-specific categories are Newborn and PreK, Elementary, Middle School, High School and Higher Education.
New and Updated Resources

continued...

Florida AWARE

In our October 2016 newsletter, Stories From the Field article, we shared information on Florida Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE), highlighting Youth Mental Health Awareness training for adults serving youth across the state.

Florida AWARE defines complete mental health as the presence of social, behavioral and emotional well-being and resilience factors, as well as minimal social, behavioral and emotional problems, and the reduction of risk factors.

For your information, we have added a new page to the Student Support Services Project website to capture information and resources related to Florida AWARE as they become available. See the new resource, “Florida AWARE’s Approach to Complete Mental Health” flyer at http://sss.usf.edu/resources/floridaaware/index.html.

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors School Health Project

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors School Health Project provides the following school health resources at http://www.chronicdisease.org/?SchoolHealthPubs. Issues include:

◊ Opportunities for School and Hospital Partnership in the Management of Chronic Health Conditions
◊ School Attendance, Chronic Health Conditions and Leveraging Data for Improvement
◊ A Guide for Incorporating Health and Wellness into School Improvement Plans

Updated Guidance on Homeless Children and Youth

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act has been re-authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A number of the changes that ESSA made to the McKinney-Vento Act address the needs of homeless children and youth across the educational spectrum.

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has issued revised nonregulatory guidance to focus on the amendments, which took effect on October 1, 2016, and provided new technical assistance on promising practices for implementing homeless education requirements at http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160240ehcyguidance072716.pdf. The USDOE has also developed a fact sheet for teachers, principals, counselors and school personnel to assist with implementation at http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/160315ehcyfactsheet072716.pdf, and issued policy guidance at http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/160726.html.

State University System (SUS) Admissions Tour Resources

We are pleased to announce that the resources from the SUS tour are available on the Board of Governors website at http://www.flbog.edu/about/cod/asa/admissionstour.php.
Encouraging Positive School Attendance during the Holiday Season

Winter break is fast approaching and many families may try to extend the holidays by allowing their students to take a few days off before or after winter break. Many parents are under the false impression that students are not learning any new academic content before or after winter break so it is permissible for students to miss school during this time.

However, results of a parent survey conducted by Attendance Works indicate that parents will be willing to shorten vacations if they think the absences will affect their student’s academic success. With this in mind, school personnel have an opportunity to decrease holiday absences by providing information to parents and students about the impact of absences on student learning.

Attendance Works has developed a Holiday Messaging Toolkit to assist schools on spreading the word about the importance of attending school during the holiday season. Attendance Works also made the following recommendations:

◊ Encourage teachers to remind students about the importance of attending class before and after winter break.
◊ Send an email to parents before the break stressing that teachers will be providing instruction every day and their child will miss important content if the student is absent.
◊ Plan a special activity before or after the winter break that recognizes good attendance.

For more information, please visit www.attendanceworks.org.

Did you know...

Attendance Works Tools & T. A. web page provides resources that may be implemented at the school, district and state levels.
Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training for K-12 Instructional Personnel

On October 14, 2016, FDOE released a memo (DPS: 2016-157) listing approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials for K-12 instructional personnel. The memo, which addresses implementation of 2016 legislation (House Bill 7029) codified in section 1012.583, Florida Statutes (F.S.), was disseminated to superintendents, student services directors, staff development coordinators, and school principals. The list of approved trainings was developed in collaboration with the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and youth suicide prevention experts in Florida (including district- and state-level student services professionals).

The following two-hour trainings are on the FDOE approved list:

◊ At-Risk for Middle School Educators, https://www.kognito.com/products/pk12/
◊ Making Educators Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention, http://www.sptsusa.org/training-programs/

A link to the list of approved trainings is posted on the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention website at http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/professional-dev/professional-learning-programs.stml.

The memo also includes information on requirements for in-service credit and three attachments that provide a description of each of the approved trainings, a sample Master Inservice Plan, and a form to submit district-developed or district-adopted trainings for approval. The list and accompanying attachments are posted on the Student Support Services Project website at http://sss.usf.edu/resources/topic/suicide/index.html.

FDOE is in the process of initiating rule development activities for implementation of s. 1012.583, F.S., including procedures for consideration as a “Suicide Prevention Certified School.” Schools that incorporate two hours of youth suicide and awareness training for all instructional personnel and additional criteria established through State Board of Education rules will receive the designation of “Suicide Prevention Certified School.” For questions about youth suicide awareness training implementation, please contact Dr. David Wheeler at wheeler@usf.edu or 850-245-7847.
FloridaShines’ First Virtual College Night A Successful Statewide Event!

FloridaShines, Florida's student hub of innovative educational services, hosted its first Virtual College Night on November 16-17. Representatives from the Florida College System, SUS, FDOE and others presented live during the two-day event. By the numbers, this event featured two days, six sessions and over 15 higher education experts on postsecondary opportunities in Florida. A total of 230 schools, districts, counties, institutions and state organizations were represented, and over 1,000 Florida parents, students and counselors registered for the event. The Virtual College Night hosted presentations on preparing for college, including where to go, what degree to earn and how to pay for it without breaking the bank. Recordings of the presentations, along with materials shared, will be posted on the FloridaShines website!

Stay tuned for information on the next Virtual College Night coming in Spring 2017.

ESSA acknowledges the critical role of student services professionals and provides multiple opportunities for implementing integrated student support services in a multi-tiered framework to improve student and school outcomes.

◊ ESSA defines school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists and other qualified professional personnel involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, and other necessary services as specialized instructional support personnel.
◊ ESSA requires the involvement of specialized instructional support personnel in designing school improvement plans to improve school climate, safety and access to comprehensive learning supports.
◊ ESSA includes a state-licensed or state-certified school counselor, school psychologist and school social worker in the definition of school-based mental health providers who support the mental and behavioral health of students.
◊ ESSA authorizes funding streams for schools to implement multi-tiered systems of support, increase access to comprehensive school mental and behavioral health services, and provide mental health first aid and other professional development for school staff.

USDOE publications and resources, are available on the ESSA website at http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/index.html.
Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Services for Children Served by More than One Agency

Since October 2012 the current Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Services for Children Served by More than One Agency has provided the support and infrastructure to help resolve challenging issues of children served by multiple state agencies. Such supports require the state child-serving agencies work together to ensure that policy, service delivery and resource development maximize positive outcomes for these children. The local-, regional- and state-level review teams serve to ensure that difficult cases involving multiple agencies are quickly addressed or escalated to the next level if additional assistance is needed to facilitate resolution.

Some guiding principles underlie the provisions of the agreement.

◊ Services should be family centered, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and be provided in the least restrictive setting
◊ Children with multiple needs require ongoing integration and coordination of services from multiple agencies
◊ Agencies seek to minimize state costs while ensuring appropriate levels of support
◊ Interagency coordination should occur as early as possible to include prevention intervention
◊ Meetings called to address that child-specific cases must convene without delay

The state-level review team is working continuously to raise awareness of the Interagency Agreement, support the timely and efficient operation of the local and regional teams, and work with the Governor’s Children and Youth Cabinet to identify data trends with possible policy implications for the agencies.

To view the agreement and the contact information for individual agency members, visit the Agreement web page at http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/InteragencyAgreement/CoordServices.shtml. For general information on the agreement, please contact Jennifer Prather, Florida Department of Children and Families, at 850-717-4630 or via email at Jennifer.Prather@myflfamilies.com.

Upcoming Events

Florida Association of School Nurses 21st Annual Conference

Student Services Week, February 6-10, 2017

Florida School Health Association Annual Conference and Training
May 17-19, 2017, at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida. For additional information and to register for this conference, visit http://fsha.net/conferences/.
Trivia Questions

Q-1.
What is the meaning of the first letter F in FAFSA?
Application for Federal Student Aid
www.fafsa.gov

Q-2.
True or False
Bus drivers, teachers, food service staff and coaches are all school personnel who can benefit from understanding the needs of students with diabetes.

Q-3.
True or False
Parents are willing to shorten holiday vacations if they think the absences will affect their child’s success.

Q-4.
Multiple Choice
In order for a school to be designated a “Suicide Prevention Certified School” according to s. 1012.583, F.S., they would have to incorporate two hours of approved training for:
 a) 90% of instructional staff
 b) 95% of instructional staff
 c) 100% of instructional staff

Answers
A-1: Free
A-2: True
A-3: True
A-4: c

Special note: some images provided by Thinkstock and Getty Images.