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Student Services Personnel Evaluation Model and Guide (SSPEM)

As reported in the January Newsletter, the Student Support Services Project/ University of South Florida has been collaborating with the Bureau of Educator Recruitment and Retention, student services professionals, and other stakeholders to develop an evaluation model for student services personnel. We are pleased to announce the product of these collaborative efforts, the Student Services Personnel Evaluation Model and Guide, was disseminated to District Superintendents and Race to the Top Contacts in a memo from Chancellor Pam Stewart on June 15th. The SSPEM is posted on the Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) District Performance Evaluation Systems website at <http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/pa.asp> under Resources and Technical Assistance, and on the Student Services Project website at <http://sss.usf.edu> under What's New.

The SSPEM provides districts with a state model evaluation for Student Support Services Personnel (i.e., school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and school nurses) that meets the requirements of the Student Success Act and aligns with professional standards for each of the student services professions. The model was designed to reflect the functions and practices of student services professionals that positively impact student achievement, behavior, and health AND to promote the critical role of student services in a multi-tiered system of support. The model may be adopted, adapted, or used as a guide in developing a district performance evaluation system for student services personnel. Districts must submit evaluation systems for student services personnel by August 30, 2012.



Courtesy of Digital Vision/Thinkstock

A special thanks to the student services professionals who contributed to developing the evaluation model!



Legislative Changes to FACTS.org and ePEP

The 2012 Florida Legislature passed two bills that affect the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support (FCAAS), which operates FACTS.org.

HB 7059 amends section 1003.4156, Florida Statute, (F.S.), *General requirements for middle grades promotion* to:

- ◆ Remove the statutory references to Florida CHOICES and FACTS.org.
- ◆ Add “career-themed courses” to the content requirement for the personalized academic and career plan.
- ◆ Add grade 6 to the grades in which the career and education planning course may be offered.
- ◆ Require that the course:
 - ◇ Result in a personalized academic career plan
 - ◇ Stress technology or the application of technology in careers
 - ◇ Include information from the Department of Economic Opportunity’s security report as of the 2014–15 school year.

Districts will be able to choose the type of personalized academic and career plan that best suits student needs. Consequently:

- ◆ The ePEP was discontinued as of July 1, 2012. Students can view existing ePEPs until January 2013.
- ◆ A new, easy access College and Career Planner in PDF format will replace the ePEP on July 1, 2012.
- ◆ The Student Activity System school counselors use to manage ePEPs will be discontinued as of July 1, 2012.
- ◆ Bright Futures Scholarships and High School Graduation Evaluation will continue.
- ◆ The CHOICES career planning program will continue through <http://www.flchoices.org>.

HB 5201 created the Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) by combining the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support (FCAAS), the Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC), the Florida College Library Automation (FCLA), and the College Center for Library Automation (CCLA).



FLVC provides a variety of online services for students from Florida’s public high schools, colleges, and universities. FLVC’s academic advising services make it easy for high school students to prepare for college or a career after graduation. Students can monitor their progress by running evaluations against their transcript information and the requirements for high school graduation, college and career readiness, and Bright Futures Scholarships. In addition, they can explore Florida’s college and university offerings (both traditional and distance learning programs), learn about financial aid, and apply for admission. Dual enrolled high school students and those in accelerated education programs can even access online library resources used within Florida’s colleges and universities. For more information, visit <http://www.flvc.org>.

General Records Schedule GS7 for Public Schools PreK-12 and Adult and Career Education

The General Records Schedule GS7 specifies minimum retention requirements of records commonly created or maintained by public education facilities in accordance with federal and state law and regulations, general administrative practices, and fiscal management principles. The Florida Department of State Division of Library and Information Services issued an updated GS7 dated June 1, 2012, available in PDF, Word, and Excel formats.

Go to http://info.florida.gov/recordsmgmt/gen_records_schedules.cfm to download a copy.

504 TIP

It is important to provide sub summaries and training to make sure substitute teachers are aware of and properly implement students' 504 plans and individual educational plans (IEP).

It's unrealistic to expect substitutes to read a lengthy IEP or multipage 504 plan. Thus, summaries of students' IEPs or 504 plans are one way to help substitute teachers get adjusted more quickly.

Each student's IEP team or 504 team could draft the sub summary. Depending on the individual student, the summary should highlight the student's accommodations, health concerns, IEP goals, related services, and behavior plan. Although the summary shouldn't be too lengthy, it should give the substitute enough detail to know how to work with and what to expect of the student.

Adequate training for substitutes is primary for working with students with disabilities.

State University System (SUS) Admissions Tour

Registration is still open for the 2012 State University System Admissions Tour; however, space availability is limited at certain institutions. Counselors must go to the website of choice to register. If they received a previous email, they must still go to the website. If they printed their ticket off of the previous email without going to the registration site, it will show an old tour date. They will not be registered for the 2012 event due to a glitch in the email noticing. The universities will have the list of names so a ticket is not required. Thanks!

Florida CHOICES Planner

The CHOICES Team will be offering training webinars this fall on the CHOICES Planner program. CHOICES Planner is the career-planning program that the FDOE provides free of charge to all middle, high, and postsecondary schools, as well as other organizations that need a career-planning tool.

Below is the schedule for August and September. Additional trainings will be added to the training calendar once the dates are set.

The "Introduction to CHOICES Planner" webinar is for users who are new to CHOICES Planner or who have not accessed the program in some time and need a refresher. The "CHOICES Planner – Professional Tools" webinar covers the various features found in this part of CHOICES. You will need a professional account to participate in this webinar to fully benefit from the training. If you do not have a professional account or do not remember your log-in information, contact the CHOICES Team prior to the day of the training for assistance.

- ◆ Wednesday, August 15th
 - ◇ 10:00 AM–11:00 AM: CHOICES Planner - Professional Tools
 - ◇ 3:00 PM–4:00 PM: Introduction to CHOICES Planner
- ◆ Wednesday, August 22nd
 - ◇ 10:00 AM–11:00 AM: Introduction to CHOICES Planner
 - ◇ 3:00 PM–4:00 PM: CHOICES Planner - Professional Tools
- ◆ Wednesday, September 5th
 - ◇ 10:00 AM–11:00 AM: CHOICES Planner - Professional Tools
 - ◇ 3:00 PM–4:00 PM: Introduction to CHOICES Planner
- ◆ Wednesday, September 12th
 - ◇ 10:00 AM–11:00 AM: Introduction to CHOICES Planner
 - ◇ 3:00 PM–4:00 PM: CHOICES Planner - Professional Tools

To register for a webinar, go to the CHOICES Planner Training Schedule at <http://calendarwiz.com/flchoices>, select the date and time of the training you would like to attend, and then follow the registration directions on the screen. For more information, contact the CHOICES Team at (800) 342-9271 or by email at choices@fldoe.org. (Note: All times are EDT.)

Mother credits school defibrillator and staff with saving her life

By Jeffrey S. Solochek, Tampa Bay Times, Staff Writer

In Print: Thursday, January 26, 2012

HUDSON — Open house at Northwest Elementary School had all but ended.

A couple of parents milled about in the hallways. Teachers were shutting down their classrooms. And Rhonda Smith, who came to the school that September evening to recruit Cub Scouts to her troop, was packing up materials.

Then Smith collapsed.

Two friends — J.R. and Tracy Hatfield — realized Smith, a 47-year-old mother of three, had experienced a heart attack. They began CPR and called the school's staff into action.

"We did what my registered nurse trained us to do," principal Tracy Graziplene recalled.

They grabbed the school's automatic external defibrillator, made sure someone had contacted 911, and got to work.

"That wonderful machine started talking to us," Graziplene said, referring to the AED's robotic instructions. "It has everything there."

Northwest was the first elementary school in Pasco County to get a defibrillator, about a year earlier. Last fall, it became the first Pasco school to record a "save" using one.

"People were on campus ready to respond," district nursing supervisor Lisa Kern said. "It was a wonderful thing."

After four months of recovery, Smith visited the School Board on Tuesday to offer her thanks.

"Without that machine in the school, I wouldn't have even been alive to get into the ambulance," Smith, who "coded" at least seven times on the way to the hospital, said after the meeting. "I'm grateful for the taxpayers paying their taxes ... to keep (the defibrillators) up to do the job. I'm so grateful for everyone."

With the help of a federal grant, the Pasco school district is placing at least one defibrillator in every school, plus in several district buildings. They cost \$1,000 to \$1,500 each.

The district separately covers the cost of training employees to use the machines, and to maintain them regularly.

Smith, who now has an internal defibrillator, says the district expense is worth it if it saves another life.

"You've got to think of the budget cuts. I deal with budget cuts with my own kids," she said. "I know there's people out there who don't feel the AED's are necessary. ... But what is a life worth? It's like love, it's unconditional."

Given a new lease on her life, Smith said she intends to pay it forward. By no means a wealthy woman, she plans to do so with her time and energy, working with people who have handicaps.

"I think that's why God put me here on this earth," she said, listing among her projects the creation of a "special needs" Girl Scout troop.

Smith also works as a personal care assistant and supports her 13-year-old daughter, Katelynn, who's a special needs cheerleader and Special Olympics athlete. She has been spending more time with her husband, Dwight, and their sons Alvin and Matthew.

And she has a new, less stressful outlook on the world.

"I'm closer to God. I'm closer to my children. I'm closer to my husband. I'm closer to the beauty of life," Smith said. "I'm just happy to be alive."

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For more education news, visit the Gradebook at <http://tampabay.com/blogs/gradebook>.

Child Abuse Prevention

"Where there's hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again."

-Anne Frank-

The Cost of Maltreatment

A recently reported 19% decrease in the number of substantiated child abuse and neglect victims gives hope to a daunting reality. However, an impact analysis released by Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) America estimates that, despite this improvement, child abuse and neglect will still cost taxpayers nearly \$80 billion in 2012 alone. The report, *Estimated Annual Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect* (Gelles and Perlman), is the third in a series of economic impact studies.

Florida's total cost is estimated at nearly \$4 billion annually. What's the point? Children still need help; therefore, we still have work to do.

Statewide Parent Helpline Information

As of July 1, 2012, the Statewide Parent Helpline Program is no longer in service. For local information and referrals, please call 2-1-1 or 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

Pinwheels For Prevention 2012

Prevent Child Abuse Florida, the Ounce of Prevention Fund, has launched Pinwheels for Prevention, a national campaign creating a communitywide commitment to make children a priority.

PCA Florida believes all families deserve to live in communities that have resources to support families and provide safe and healthy experiences for children. To draw attention to and encourage involvement in these efforts, communities throughout Florida will display pinwheels promoting individual action to make children a priority.

Florida's implementation of the Pinwheels for Prevention focuses on healthy child development and includes the following:

- ◆ Statewide distribution of community resource packets
- ◆ Broadcast of television and radio public service announcements in English and Spanish
- ◆ Pinwheels and other products
- ◆ A press conference to launch the statewide campaign
- ◆ Coordination and advertisement of community events based on a central statewide theme

For additional information, see The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida at <http://www.ounce.org>.

Materials are still available on a first come, first serve basis. To place an order please visit http://www.ounce.org/Printed_Resources.html

2012 Academic and Career Advisement Presentations

The Student Support Services Project is working with the FDOE to provide video-taped presentations from six different areas of interest. The purpose of these presentations is to update middle and high school counselors on resources, policies, and procedures affecting student advisement. The video-taped PowerPoint presentations will then be posted on the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) website. This will help ensure a more comprehensive information update and will provide all secondary counselors with ready access.

The proposed content would provide updates on policies and procedures that align with the information that we provide in the Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook. The topics would include the following:

- ◆ Student Services
- ◆ Exceptional Education
- ◆ Career and Adult Education
- ◆ Financial Aid
- ◆ Articulation
- ◆ Florida Colleges

The completed set of presentations will be posted in early September. Please contact Curtis Jenkins, School Counseling Consultant, at ctjenkins@usf.edu or (850) 245-7844 with questions regarding these presentations.

Information for the 2012–13 School Year

In order to assist districts with the changes for the 2012-2013 school year, we have posted charts related to high school graduation requirements at <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/studentpro/grad-require.asp>.

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

High schools will administer P.E.R.T. or equivalent tests during the 2012-13 school year to 11th grade students as required by s. 1008.30(3), F.S.

District entitlement grants will be available for purchasing test units in reading, writing, and mathematics. Your district has a P. E. R. T. Contact or designee who was trained and designated last year by McCann Associates, the test vendor, as the Institutional Administrator responsible for ordering, setting up, and overseeing test administration at each high school, DJJ site, and hospital/homebound setting. Each district will be able to set its own testing window between August and May for these computer-based and paper/pencil tests. Testing accommodations are available for students with documentation in their IEP or 504 plans. English Language Learners (ELL) students may use heritage language-to-English or English-to-heritage language dictionaries. Additional information and resources are available at the following links:

<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/CommonPlacementTesting.asp>

<http://www.fldoe.org/cc/pert.asp>

Sample tests in each of the three subject areas are available online to everyone wanting to practice the P.E.R.T. computer-based tests at <https://college.measuredsuccess.com/mscollege>.

For questions related to student identification, placement, and course selection, please contact Helen Lancashire at hlancash@usf.edu. For questions related to the P.E.R.T. administration, please submit questions to PERT@fldoe.org.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

College-bound student athletes will need to meet more rigorous academic rules to receive a scholarship at an NCAA Division 1 and 2 college or university. A student who enters an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016 (entered 9th grade 2012–2013), will need to meet new academic rules to receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice, or compete during the first year. The changes include the following:

- ◆ Minimum core-course Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.300 required
- ◆ Change in GPA/test score index (sliding scale)
- ◆ Ten core courses required before the seventh semester of the senior year.

A student who enters an NCAA Division II college or university on or after August 1, 2013 (2012–2013 high school graduates), will be required to complete 16 core courses instead of the current 14.

For more information visit <https://web1.ncaa.org/hportal/exec/links?linksSubmit=ShowActiveLinks>.

Florida's Path to Success

The Department of Education introduced a new website to provide families, citizens, and teachers with information on the following:

- ◆ Florida Education Standards
- ◆ FCAT 2.0 Reading
- ◆ FCAT Writing Test
- ◆ Third Grade State Assessment
- ◆ Common Core State Standards
- ◆ What Teachers Need to Know
- ◆ Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment Questions and Answers
- ◆ School Grades Questions and Answers

For more information related to the above topics, please visit

<http://www.floridapathtosuccess.org>

The Just for Parents web page provides resources and a public forum designed for parents to ask questions and voice ideas at the state level. The portal features a parent blog, discussion board, and announcements page with more education resources coming soon.



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24th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference

The FDOE, in conjunction with the National Dropout Prevention Center, is pleased to announce the 24th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference.

The Conference is a combined effort of four formerly separate conferences: The Effective Strategies Institute on Dropout Prevention, the School Attendance Symposium, the Juvenile Justice Education Institute, and Fall Leadership for School Volunteer Coordinators. The theme for this year is Ignite the Potential Within: Connect, Inspire, Graduate! The Conference will be held October 14–17, 2012, at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida, and will feature over 100 workshops and three nationally renowned keynote speakers.

The event is designed to enhance the leadership skills of all adults who are seeking to strengthen interventions among school, community, and families, especially those in at-risk situations. The program will focus on the areas of attendance (truancy) and engagement; Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS); access to postsecondary, career, and technical education; community partnerships; curriculum and instruction; data quality; effective leadership; exceptional student education (ESE); dropout prevention strategies; helping minority males graduate; juvenile justice education; service-learning, tutoring, mentoring, and volunteer outreach.

Conference Website:

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/conferences/24th-annual-national-dropout-prevention-network-conference>

Schools and Medicaid: A Dynamic Partnership

The 11th annual meeting of Schools and Medicaid: A Dynamic Partnership will be held November 8 and 9, 2012, at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort and Convention Center, in St. Augustine, Florida. This meeting is designed for school district personnel who are actively involved or interested in the implementation and administration of the Medicaid program in schools. For meeting registration visit <http://sss.usf.edu/surveys/medicaid2012.html> to make hotel reservations, please visit https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=9730889

Upcoming Events

- ◆ September 10, 2012, the Florida Association of Student Services Administrators (FASSA) Annual Conference. Renaissance Vinoy Resort, St. Petersburg, Florida. Registration information is available at <http://www.fassaonline.org/>.
- ◆ September 11–13, 2012, Administrators Management Meeting (AMM). Renaissance Vinoy Resort, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- ◆ October 18–19, 2012, the Florida Association of School Social Workers, (FASSW) 66th Annual Conference. Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront. Information and registration are available at <http://www.fassw.org>. Registration deadline is September 30, 2012.
- ◆ October 30–November 3, 2012, the Florida Association of School Psychologists, (FASP) 39th Annual Conference. Omni Orland Resort at Champions Gate. For more information, visit <http://www.fasp.org>.
- ◆ November 1–3, 2012, Florida School Counseling Association, (FSCA) Annual Convention, Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel. For more information, visit <http://www.fl-schoolcounselor.org>.