



GREETINGS CASE MEMBERS!

“No other date on the calendar more potently symbolizes all that our nation stands for than the Fourth of July.”

Mac Thornberry

Let us take time to remember.



PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEW CASE MEMBERS:

TheresaPadro-Morel, Area Coordinator, West Palm Beach County
Schools, Florida CASE

Joyce Austin, Collier School District, National CEC/CASE

Paul Bennett, Dixie School District, Florida CASE

Rick Duggan, Collier School District, Florida CASE

Lucinda Kelly- ESE Director, Florida CASE

Scott Kozlowski, Collier School District, Florida CASE

Alicia Poole, Suwannee School District, Staffing Specialist, Florida
CASE

Elizabeth Simpson, ESE Director, Suwannee School District, Florida
CASE

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



CASE SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

A big thank you to those of you that was able to attend our 17th Annual Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute! Our theme: “Leadership In the 21st Century: Results Driven Accountability,” supports the commitment and mission of CASE to promote proactive leadership by influencing policies and practices to improve the quality of education for students with disabilities. As I reflect on the conference and the array of fabulous speakers, one presentation readily comes to mind as I ponder the impact that SB 850 will have upon us. Dr. Steven Kukic’s, Director, School Transformation, National Center for Learning Disabilities presentation titled “Transformative Leadership for Special Education” speaks to the foundation for change in education begins with the individual. Leaders of organizational change must embrace a growth mindset with respect to the inevitable change that results in a created future that improves the conditions of students, teachers and families.



SENATE BILL 850 SIGNED BY GOVERNOR SCOTT

As we are aware, SB 850 was signed by Governor Scott, which will impact our way of work as educators. I will share a few highlights:

School Improvement Plans:

Amends statute regarding school improvement plans to include Early Warning System for any school that has grades 6, 7 or 8. Includes indicators such as attendance, suspension, course failure in ELA or math, Level 1 score in ELA or Math. If the student exhibits 2 or more early warning indicators, the school-based team must convene to determine appropriate intervention strategies. Parents must receive written notice to participate in such a meeting.

New Voucher- Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts for Parents of Certain Students with Disabilities:

The final version of this issue allows the parents of children with certain specified disabilities to obtain an account funded from the state that the parent can self-direct to specific educational, related services or treatments on behalf of their child. The funds are held by a Scholarship Funding Organization (Step Up for Students) which reimburses parents for allowable expenses. Funding for the first year of the program is on a first come first served basis from an \$18.4 million line item in the budget; however, beginning in 2015-2016, it is believed that the funding would come directly out of the Florida Education Finance Program just as the McKay Scholarship Program. Because the voucher amounts could be significantly higher for these students than what a matrix would show or what they would otherwise generate to a district's FEFP share,

Special Diploma Eliminated / New Pathway to Standard Diploma Created:

Another provision contained in SB 850 would eventually eliminate the special diploma option while creating a pathway for most of the students previously seeking a special diploma to obtain a regular diploma. Provisions in bills that passed during the Session also repealed the Special Diploma while creating a new pathway to a standard diploma with Scholar designation unless parent selects Merit for certain students with developmental disabilities; students with significant cognitive disabilities. The repeal of the law does not apply to SWDs with an IEP in effect on the day the bill becomes law, if the IEP contains a statement of intent to receive a special diploma.

Beginning July 1 SWD entering 9th grade in 2014-15 SY, must declare intent to receive a standard diploma or a certificate of completion; a Special Diploma will no longer be an option.

Please see below the link to SB 850 in its entirety, it is a 140 page document.

<http://www.flstate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0850/BillText/er/PDF>

CASE 12TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT- WASHINGTON, DC JULY 13-16

Each year CASE sponsors a legislative leadership seminar that provides strategies that are designed to assist the attendees in preparation for their visits with their respective congressmen. The strategies and techniques learned will be extremely valuable as we continue this quest at the state and local level. Our top priority will be the Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) which will have a

significant impact in the field of special education; therefore, our voice must be heard! Three (3) of our Board members will attend representing Florida. They are Valerie Scott, Will Gordillo and I. Our talking points will include but not limited to:

~ IDEA Funding

~ Sequestration

~ ESEA

If you have a topic of concern or information on the above topics that you would like for us to articulate as we meet with our congressmen, please send to Valerie Scott, Legislative and Bylaws Chairperson at bjvalerie@att.net no later than Monday, July 7th.



Please remember to cast your vote on our slate of candidates to serve on our CASE Board of Directors. We have reopened the nomination election to encourage more participation! Please see email that was sent Monday, June 30th. It will only take two (2) minutes of your time. The voting process will end on Friday, July 11th. Your participation is important!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way,
and shows the way.

John C. Maxwell



*PLEASE TAKE TIME TO GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OF
THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SACRIFICED SO THAT WE
MIGHT ENJOY THE LIBERTY AND FREEDOM THAT WE HAVE
TRULY BEEN BLESSED WITH EACH AND EVERY DAY.*

Best Regards,

DR. ROSALIND A. HALL

DIRECTOR OF ESE AND STUDENT SERVICES

PRESIDENT, FLORIDA CASE

LEVY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

