



Institute for Small and Rural Districts QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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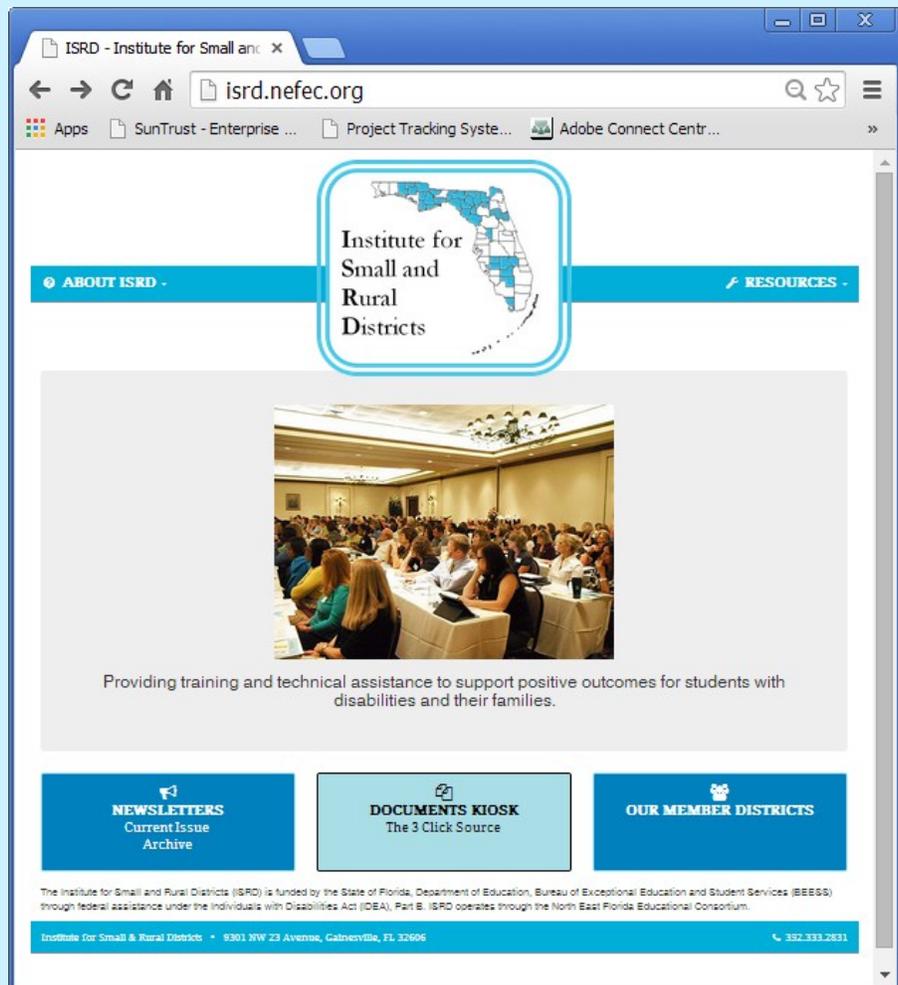
ISRD 2014-2015 Training/Event Calendar

And more!

A New Year, A New Look, and A New Address!

ISRD is pleased to announce the re-launch of our website with a new address and a new format. Check out our user friendly Documents Kiosk where you can find forms and templates in three easy clicks; the trainings and meetings calendar under the resources tab; the current ISRD newsletter; and links to our member districts' websites!

<http://isrd.nefec.org> **Bookmark it today!**



THE MAILBOX



Send us an email including your thoughts and ideas about the newsletter. If you know of someone or something that you think would be great to share with the ISRD districts, let us know.



FIN and PAEC Assist Wakulla Teachers With Kagan Training

Wakulla County sends a huge shout out of appreciation to Florida Inclusion Network and Panhandle Area Educational Consortium for their assistance in sending thirteen of their elementary teachers to Kagan trainings held in the Panhandle this summer. The teachers from Crawfordville Elementary, Riversink Elementary and Medart Elementary schools as well as a district resource teacher gave a week of their summer to learn cooperative strategies aimed at engaging all students in learning activities. They will participate in collaborative monthly follow-ups to share how they have incorporated targeted strategies from the workshop into classroom instruction.

VSA Florida Now Accepting Nominations for 2014-2015 Student of the Month Recognition Program



VSA Florida's Annual VSA Florida Student of the Month Recognition Program strives to increase public awareness of the impact arts make on students with disabilities. Students who participate in the arts develop creativity, have increased self-confidence, understand teamwork, have increased language and math skills and are generally more engaged. It's time to endorse this understanding, recognizing students monthly through this statewide program.



Each month VSAFL will select one student in each age category from a pool of students that have been nominated by administrators, educators, teaching artists, community members and parents using our easy-to-navigate, online tool.

For more information please visit:
<http://vsafll.org/programs/student-of-the-month>
or to make a nomination,
<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e7tsf1x3hj1rt10e/start>



Levy County ESE/Student Services New Administrators' Academy

submitted by Marcy Young, ESE Coordinator

Dr. Rosalind Hall, ESE/SS Director, always strives to provide the latest information to the staff of Levy County. She ensures that we offer appropriate professional development in order to address the needs of all students. This summer was no different.

In order to support our new administrators, a full day academy was designed to fit their needs. The expected outcome was to increase the knowledge and skills of our district Local Educational Agency (LEA) representatives in their role and responsibilities for the provision of services for students with disabilities. Initially, our target audience was the new administrators, but as we planned we realized that all administrators could benefit from the professional development and discussion. As a result, the invitation was extended to all principals and assistant principals. We had a good turnout, with representation from many schools and varying degrees of experience.

Our agenda included new Legislation, the Role and Responsibility of the LEA, Section 504, Accommodations, Special Policies and Procedures (SP&P), Specialized Transportation, Discipline and Manifestation, Data Review and Resources. The goal was to provide the administrators with a framework for their work with students with disabilities, provide resources to find answers, and develop open relationships to allow for on-going support.

The New Administrator Academy was a success! Overall, the comments were very positive and our participants felt that it was a good use of their time. An experienced administrator reported that it confirmed what they knew; while at the same time opened their eyes to areas that were previously gray. Another administrator said, "all administrators should have been here and it should be offered every year." We are confident that we have provided the knowledge, resources, and support that our administrators need in order to address the challenges that they face in the ESE world; and as always, they know that the ESE/SS staff is always there to assist, provide guidance and problem-solve with them to meet the diverse needs of our students.

ISR D HOLDS TRAINING FOR NEW ESE SPECIALISTS & SCHOOL COUNSELORS



Based on survey results and input from the ESE Specialists, we are excited to have the opportunity to include new school counselors in some of our trainings.

The first offering is a skill development training: *ESE Practices & Procedures for New ESE Specialists and New School Counselors*.

This event will be held at the Best Western Gateway Grand in Gainesville on August 28th from 8:30am - 3:30pm specifically targeting new or nearly new (second year) ESE Specialists or School Counselors.



Former ESE student Kenny Korchak shared his story of frustration, self advocacy, and success as the keynote speaker at the June 2014 ISR D Summer Institute for School Administrators!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



August 2014

- 27** - The Tough Kid, Principal's Briefcase Training, North East Region, Gainesville
- 28** - ESE Practices and Procedures for New ESE Specialists and School Counselors, Gainesville

September 2014

- 8** - Small District Coalition Community of Practice, St. Petersburg
- 9-11** - FDOE/BEESS Administrators Management Meeting (AMM), St. Pete
- 18** - Community of Practice for School Psychologists, Conference Call
- 23** - Community of Practice for ESE Specialists, North East Regional Meeting, Gainesville
- 25** - Community of Practice for ESE Specialists, Panhandle Regional Meeting, Chipley
- 30** - Community of Practice for ESE Specialists, Heartland Regional Meeting, Lake Placid

October 2014

- 21** - Supporting Students' Mental Health with Dr. Shannon Suldo, Gainesville

November 2014

- 19** - Increasing Graduation Success with Project 10 Staff Federico Valadez and Carly Detlefsen

December 2014

- TBA** - Community of Practice for ESE Specialists, Regional Meetings

January 2015

- 26** - Pre-Institute Mentoring Session for New ESE Administrators
- 27-28** - Mid-Year Institute for ESE Administrators

February 2015

- 25-26** - Winter Institute for ESE Specialists and School Psychologists
- 26** - Post-Institute Session for New ESE Specialists