



Institute for Small and Rural Districts QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

Summer 2015

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Flagler Palm Coast High's Dusty Sims Named Florida's Outstanding Assistant Principal for 2015

Submitted by Dr. Tracy Umphenour, Director of ESE
Flagler County Schools

Florida Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality Brian Dassler presented the Outstanding Assistant Principal Achievement Award to Dustin Sims at the Summit for Principals in Orlando in February.

The award recognizes assistant principals for their exceptional contributions to their schools and communities.



Deputy Chancellor Brian Dassler (left) & Florida Assistant Principal of the Year Dustin Sims

As FPC's assistant principal, Sims' primary responsibility is to lead Flagler Palm Coast High School on matters of curriculum. But he also leads academic progress monitoring, supports teachers and students and incentivized student achievement, helping raise the school's grade from a D to an A.

Although not officially FPC's ESE administrator, Dusty Sims collaborates regularly with the staffing specialist and ESE teachers to ensure curriculum and scheduling needs are being met for our students with disabilities. He promotes a comprehensive educational vision, encompassing the entire school, and ensuring all decisions are made with thought given to all areas of impact. In doing so, he promotes inclusion for our students with disabilities and is a clever problem solver, helping teams develop creative solutions to school-based ESE issues.



THE MAILBOX

If you know about someone or something in ESE that you think would be great to share with the other ISRD districts, let us know.

We want to hear from you!
speismrf@gm.sbac.edu



Resources Recommended by ISRD Communities of Practice and Professional Learning Community Participants

- *Overcoming Dyslexia, A New and Complete Science-Based Program for Teaching Problems at any Level* by Sally Shaywitz, MD
- *Grading Smarter Not Harder, Assessment Strategies That Motivate Kids and Help Them Learn* by Myron Dueck
- *Truancy, Work Refusal and Home Problems: When are Schools Responsible?* by Jose L. Martin, Esq.
- *Assessment and Student Success in a Differentiated Classroom* by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Tonya R. Moon
- *The Grieving Student, A Teacher's Guide* by David Schonfeld and Marcia Quackenbush
- *The RtI Approach to Evaluating Learning Disabilities* by Kovalski, VanDerHeyden and Shapiro

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

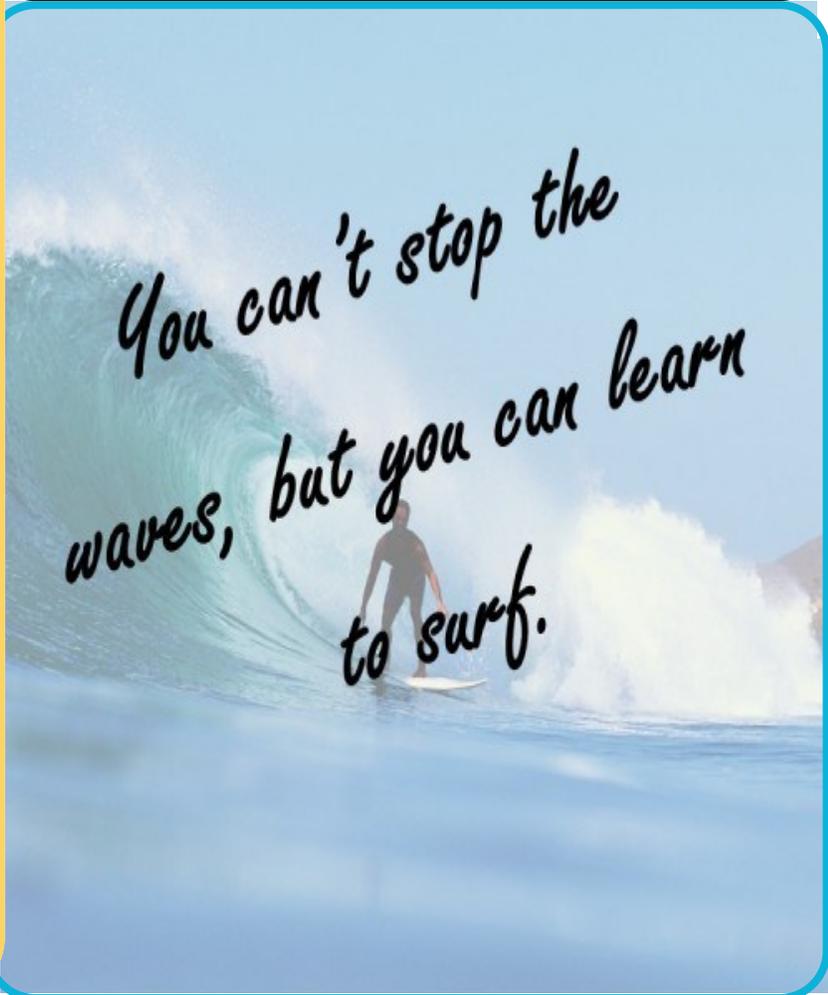


June 2015

- 10-11** - Summer Institute for ESE Administrators, Deerfield Beach
- 24-25** - Principals' Summer Institute, Howey-in-the-Hills

August 2015

- 26** - Legal Issues in ESE for New Principals with Julie Weatherly, Gainesville



Gilchrist County Receives Second Year of Funding From Florida Disabilities Council

Submitted by Lisa Rowland, Director of Special Programs, Gilchrist County Schools

Gilchrist County is proud to have received a competitive grant totaling \$50,000.00 for the 2014-15 school year, and has been offered a continuation of the grant for 2015-16 to broaden the scope of the project totaling over \$100,000.00... all benefiting students with disabilities. This project ultimately engages teachers and students in inclusive practices, while promoting the use of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles within the district and giving students technology tools to access the curriculum. The grant included surveying students, parents and teachers (Pre and Post), measuring current LRE and AMO data, identifying students, teachers and grade levels that would participate in the grant, and providing a match from district and school staff that allocate time and effort to ensure that the project succeeds. Selected teachers were paid to attend after school UDL and technology training that was attended and/or conducted by FDLRS, our Regional Technology Specialist, USF Region 2 Technology Coordinator Gary Percy, and specific trainers from vendors of technology.

Currently, 29 - 7th grade students with disabilities at Trenton Middle School, and 27 - 8th grade students with disabilities at Bell Middle School, and 5 students with significant Intellectual Impairments or Autism are participating in the grant. This summer, a three day summer camp will be held for selected upcoming 5th grade, and 6th through 8th grade students with disabilities and their grade level teachers. FLDOE agency support personnel will be assisting with the camp. Through this project, our students and their teachers will be "front loaded" with specific technology programs installed on student laptops or tablets for reading and writing. Our participants will get to keep their tablet or laptop to use in their classroom in the fall. On "day one of school", our students will be ready to tackle the curriculum, and a plan for access will be in place for each student that participated in the camp. Next year, the scope of the project will expand to every grade level in Gilchrist County's Middle Schools, with UDL training offered for teachers at the elementary and high school levels.

Gilchrist County is a small and rural district in Florida. Its inclusion rate of 87% is significantly higher than the state average of 71%, however through this grant, Gilchrist County is hoping to facilitate a broader change toward serving more students with significant disabilities in general education classroom.



“Wildcat Works” is Working at Baker County High School

Submitted by Lara Manalo, Staffing Specialist, Baker County Schools

Baker County High School has initiated a school-based enterprise for intellectually disabled (InD) 18-22 year old students. Wildcat Works is providing vocational experience where program participants will use the school greenhouse to grow and sell houseplants and seasonal/holiday crafts. With support from the community, raised beds were built for additional planting. During April and May program participants manned booths at the farmers market and area festivals.

In the first year, they made a profit of \$800. For the coming year, plans are in place to grow and provide vegetables to sell in a local health food store as a continuing source.



Is Updating District Forms on Your Summer “To Do” List?

Check out the ISRD Documents Kiosk at isrd.nefec.org/documents.

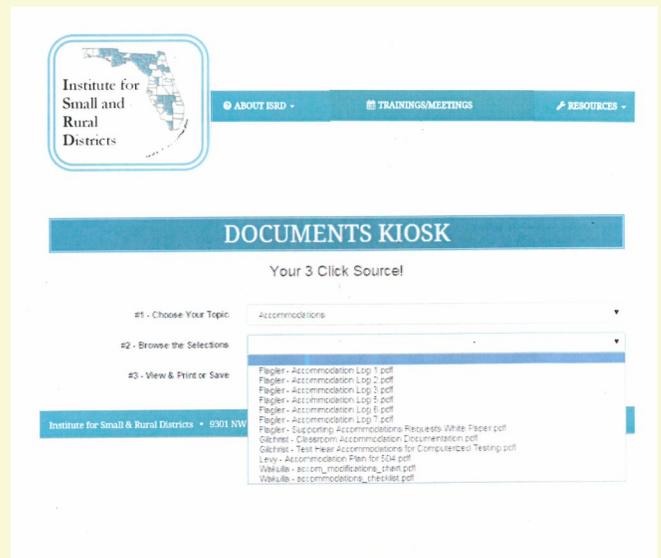
We’re your “3 Click” documents source!

Click 1—Use the first drop-down to choose your topic

Click 2—Select a form from the list of those currently in use in other ISRD districts.

Click 3—Click the link to the document to view and/or print your selection.

It’s that easy!





Special Diploma Recipients Benefit from Project ACCESS

Submitted by Dr. Leslie Salinero, Director of ESE, Monroe County

Located at the Florida Keys Community College, *Project Accessing Community College Educational experiences, Social experiences and Skills for careers* or Project ACCESS is a partnership program with the Monroe County School District specifically for special needs students who are between the ages of 18-22 years old and who have earned a special diploma.

The comprehensive transition and postsecondary program is designed to support students with intellectual disabilities who are seeking to continue academic, career, technical, and/or independent living at an institution of higher education in order to prepare them for gainful employment. We recently had our first graduate, a young lady who earned her child care certification and now works in a preschool facility.

Project A.C.C.E.S.S.

Florida Keys Community College Main Campus
5901 College Road
Key West, FL 33040

Web site: <http://www.fkcc.edu>

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Click [HERE](#) to view the Project ACCESS brochure