

F PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FOCUS

Connecting Communities and Classroom

FLORIDA NEWSLETTER

September/October 2005

New Law Has Far Reaching Implications

President's Message



Dear FAPE Members,

One of the laws enacted during the 2005 legislative session is the Jessica Lunsford Act (HB 1877). Clearly, the bill's intent was to enhance the penalties, restrictions and monitoring of sexual predators and offenders. Yet, the language of the bill broadens the definition of persons who are required to complete Level 2 background screen to include all individuals or employees of any firm under contract with the school board (including Governor's Mentoring Agencies such as Take Stock in Children, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Club) who provide services on school grounds while students are present.

Safety of our students is of critical importance to all of us. However, this well intended legislation has created a tremendous amount of concern and confusion as school districts across the state struggle through the implementation process. It appears that this bill, signed into law by Governor Bush on May 2, 2005, will become effective September 1, 2005 before a special session can be held. Therefore, it is very important that you understand the implications because parts of the Act specifically relate to school volunteers and mentors.

The Department of Education has issued a Technical Assistance Paper on the Jessica Lunsford Act to assist school districts and contractual personnel in

implementation. The memorandum may be viewed at: <http://info.fl DOE.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-3150/k12>. Costs of this mandate are substantial and will be borne by the district school board, the charter school, the employee, the contractor or a person subject to this subsection. Several organizations such as FSBA, FASA and FADSS have been working with legislators, legislative staff, FDLE and vendors to clarify the intent of this legislation and revise its provisions accordingly. These organizations have proposed revisions to the law that would uphold the rigor and intent of the Act, while attempting to limit implementation hurdles for school districts.

Proposed revisions would replace the requirement for Level 2 screening with a requirement that individuals be checked against the sexual offender/sexual predator registration lists maintained by FDLE. These databases are available at no cost through the internet and does not require fees or subscription to a private company. However, these revisions, if successful, would not take place until after a special session.

Please consider asking your school district to share its input regarding the impact of this Act with your local legislative delegation, the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President. They can be reached by phone, letter or email with your comments. Legislators and addresses can be found at www.myfloridahouse.gov and www.flsenate.gov, and the Governor at www.myflorida.com. If districts need further assistance, please call Marian Lambeth at (850) 245-0438.

Sincerely,
Judi
Judi Miller, FAPE Chair

Florida Outstanding School Volunteers

The Florida Department of Education honored fifteen exemplary school volunteers at their annual Outstanding School Volunteer Awards luncheon on April 15 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. The Commissioner of Education was present to personally congratulate each volunteer. The event was sponsored by Dairy Farmers Inc./Dairy Council of Florida and Publix Super Markets. Within the past two newsletters we highlighted the senior and adult category winners. Here are the five recipients in the youth category.

2005 Winners—Youth Category

JESSICA STEIN

Region I Winner from Escambia County

For the past 2 1/2 years, Jessica Stein, a student at Bailey Middle School in Pensacola, has volunteered in the kindergarten classrooms at Blue Angels Elementary School. Volunteering one hour every morning and on teacher preplanning days, Jessica has donated over 1,400 hours of service. Though she helps the entire class, Jessica has made a very positive impact on one particular student, helping him learn very basic kindergarten skills. Her influence on this child was clearly apparent when, late in the school year, he rewarded her by reading his very first book. Jessica would like to be a teacher in the future, and considering the impact she has made on the lives of the kindergarten students at Blue Angels, we know she will be an excellent one.

DALLAS FLINT

Region II Winner from St. Johns County

“I spent six years trying to find my voice, and I found it using my hands.” This statement by Dallas Flint summarizes why she reaches out to so many, helping them to communicate and make their world a better place. Dallas, who was language delayed until she was six years old, has a very large place in her heart for those who cannot hear. Now a student at Allen D. Nease High School in St. Augustine, she volunteers at camps for deaf children and teaches American Sign Language to people of all ages, including fifth graders at a nearby elementary school, the developmentally disabled, and people of all ages at her local library. Her service leadership has changed the lives of many individuals, and she will continue to make a difference throughout her life. Dallas has been accepted to Maryville College in Tennessee where she will major in deaf studies and American Sign Language. It will be exciting to see how she continues to share her voice to touch the lives of others in the future.

LENA GOSIK

Region III Winner from Martin County

Since her own elementary school days, 17-year old Lena Gosik has been a dedicated Jensen Beach Elementary School volunteer. Though she is a very active Honors student at Martin County High School, she has managed to accumulate nearly 700 volunteer hours as an after-school tutor, teachers' aide and PTA volunteer. Her effectiveness as a tutor is evident in the students Lena helps.

One student in particular enhanced her mathematics skills and increased her reading comprehension level to above 85%. Lena's effectiveness as a teacher's aide is summed up by one of the fourth grade teachers she regularly helps, "Lena consistently shows her love for helping others, especially children, which is the true sign of a successful future teacher."

LAYMON HICKS

Region IV Winner from Hillsborough County

This dynamic and energetic young man is an integral part of the cross-age tutoring and academic mentoring program at Roland Park K-8 in Tampa. He facilitates the partnering of schools, maintains the documentation and recruits volunteers who regularly visit. The "Helping A Student Out" program has resulted in more than 100 second graders receiving a full hour of one-on-one and small group assistance in reading and math. His volunteer service extends to both a recycling program and a hurricane relief effort that ships donated goods to Haiti. Laymon has fully committed his wealth of integrity, energy and talents to bringing strong role models into the lives of young African-American males. He is a trueborn leader and deserves recognition for his selflessness.

Ang Li

Region V Winner from Miami Dade County

Every day after school, a young teenager appears in the Miami Palmetto Senior High library. Ang Li never sits alone for long. Soon, students who need his expert advice and assistance on math assignments surround him. Freeing fellow students from a "math quagmire" is the motivation behind this young man's outstanding volunteer service. Arriving in the US only four years ago, Ang relied on his exceptional mathematical skills as a way to compensate for his weaker grasp of the English language. Casual assistance to classmates with their geometry or algebra soon led Ang to become the tutoring coordinator. As he became hooked on service to others, he later held the position as vice president, then president of the Math Honor Society. Because Ang wanted to continue the tutoring program over the summer, he established "Tutoring for Success." He designed and distributed flyers; recruited student tutors from his AP and honors classes; organized the schedule; and trained all the tutors. Having contributed more than 250 hours to summer tutoring and involving more than thirty student volunteers, "Tutoring for Success" has become a fully functioning program.

District Coordinators Take Note!

- September 2005
- 26 Family Day
- 29/30 Leadership Training—Tallahassee**
- October 2005
- 22 National Make A Difference Day
- November 2005
- 13-19 American Education Week
- 20-26 National Family Week
- December 2005
- 2 Outstanding School Volunteer Nominations Due
- January 2006
- NATIONAL MENTOR MONTH**
- 13 Commissioner's Business Recognition Award Nominations Due
- February 2006
- FLORIDA SCHOOL VOLUNTEER MONTH**
- 12-18 School Volunteer Week
- 27-28 **FCAT TESTING WINDOW**
- March 2006
- 1-10 **FCAT TESTING WINDOW**
- 17 Parent Involvement Award Nominations Due
- 22-25 National Service Learning Conference
- April 2006
- TBA FL Learn & Serve Applications Due
- 19-21 FAPE Conference—Daytona Beach
- 20 Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards Event
- 23-29 National Volunteer Week
- 21 Golden & Silver School Award Nominations Due
- May 2006
- 7-13 National Teacher Appreciation Week
- 19 Annual School Volunteer Program Survey Due
- June 2006
- 23 Five Star School Award Nominations Due
- July 2006
- 14-16 PTA Leadership Conference/Parent Involvement Awards Event



2005-2006 Board of Directors:

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Become a FAPE Member!

Individual membership: \$25.
Institutional membership (10 members): \$200
Visit www.flpie.net or contact Pam Lastowski:
850-514-FAPE (3273)
pamlastowski@comcast.net.



School Volunteer Software

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Our tools are already used to manage thousands of school volunteers. Whether it's the community volunteering in your schools or your students serving with partner agencies, one school or a whole district, when it comes to school volunteer management we have what you need. Call today.

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Paid Advertisement

Check out the **"Call for Presenters"**
following this page of the newsletter!

Rev Up Your Engines ... for Student Achievement

2006
Florida Association of Partners in Education
Annual Conference

April 19-21
Hilton Daytona Beach Ocean Walk Village

Save this date and plan NOW to attend!

Make hotel reservations ... 386.252.8678

Visit www.flpie.net for updates.

See you in Daytona Beach in 2006!

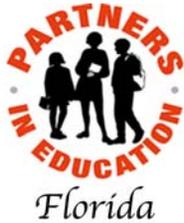
The National PTA has adopted the Three for Me program. Three for me is a promise, a promise from parent to school and a promise from parent to child. By signing a promise card, parents commit to volunteer three hours of their time to the school on behalf of their child. Three for Me will help schools and other volunteer-based organizations reach volunteer hours never thought possible. Learn how to tap into the many talents and skills that parents are happy to offer. To order a brochure contact National PTA at www.pta.org. For more on Three for Me, contact www.three4me.com.



Contributing Editors: Pam Lastowski, Judi Miller, Susan Walton, Marilyn Parcels, Holly Laiben.

Newsletter Layout: Pat Travis

The mission of the Florida Association of PARTNERS IN EDUCATION is to provide leadership in the formation and growth of effective partnerships that ensure success for all students. The Focus Newsletter is published bi-monthly for members of the Florida Association. If you have an article you think is newsworthy, please submit to Pam Lastowski via FAX: 850.514.3273, e-mail: pamlastowski@comcast.net, or mail to 3010 Southshore Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312.



The Florida Association of Partners in Education

In cooperation with

Communities in Schools Florida, Florida Department of Education, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, Florida Parents and Teachers Association and Florida Sunshine State Public Relations Association

Announces the 2006 Partners in Education Conference

“Rev Up Your Engines for Student Achievement”

Hilton Daytona Beach Ocean Walk Village

April 19-21, 2006



You are enthusiastically invited to submit an application to present at the 2006 Florida Partners in Education Conference. We are looking for the best ideas that show how families, communities, businesses and schools can work together to benefit students.

This is an opportunity for you to:

- 🚩 Share program models that can be replicated
- 🚩 Tell success stories and best practices
- 🚩 Give examples of successful collaborations
- 🚩 Showcase your professional talents
- 🚩 Identify ways Community Involvement strategies can impact FCAT skills
- 🚩 Focus on secondary school reform strategies
- 🚩 Present methods for insuring safety and achieving safe schools



Presentation Format

Each breakout session will be 1 hour and 30 minutes with an audience of approximately 30-50 people. Presenters are encouraged to use interactive learning techniques, provide handouts and allow time for participant questions and answers.



Selection Criteria

Proposals that meet the following criteria will be considered:

- 🚩 Timeliness of topic
- 🚩 Practical and widespread application of information
- 🚩 Potential to attract and stimulate conference attendees
- 🚩 Use of interactive format, handouts and audio visuals
- 🚩 Well-defined focus of topic and learning objectives
- 🚩 Presenter expertise, credentials and creative approach



Session Strands

Sessions should relate to:

- 🚩 Building strategies in communication
- 🚩 Building effective school advisory councils
- 🚩 Encouraging family involvement
- 🚩 Expanding business partnerships
- 🚩 Providing fund raising opportunity and development

- 🚗 Developing professionally
- 🚗 Enhancing and developing volunteer/mentor programs

Target Audiences

School/District Volunteer Program Coordinators

- 🚗 School Volunteers/Mentors
- 🚗 Teachers
- 🚗 School/Community Based Mentoring Program Managers
- 🚗 School Administrators
- 🚗 Business Partners
- 🚗 Business Partnerships Program Coordinators, District and School Based
- 🚗 Community Relations Professionals
- 🚗 Curriculum and School Implementation Specialists
- 🚗 Education Foundation Directors and Board
- 🚗 Family Involvement Leaders
- 🚗 Five Star Schools
- 🚗 Parents and Parent Group Leaders
- 🚗 School Advisory Council Members
- 🚗 Public Relations Professionals

Conditions for Presenting

1. Audio Visual — The conference will provide the following audio visual equipment: screen, overhead projector, flipchart package and TV/VCR. Presenters will be responsible for additional equipment, including computers and data projectors.
2. Registration — The conference will provide all presenters with a complimentary registration for the day they are presenting. Presenters must register and pay to attend additional days or special conference events.
3. Expenses — All presenters are responsible for their own travel, meals, lodging and related conference expenses.
4. Handouts — All presenters are responsible for their own handouts, providing 50 copies for each session. Left over copies will be placed on a resource table for people who did not attend the session.

Application Deadline

Applications must be postmarked, email dated or fax-dated by Friday, September 16, 2005

Mail application to:

FAPE Call for Presenters
C/O Meeting Makers Inc.
P.O. Box 15106
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5106

Fax application to: 850.656.6696

Email application to: Barbara@MeetingMakersInc.com

Questions: Phone: 850.385.0380 or Email: pamlastowski@comcast.net

2006 Florida Partners in Education Conference Proposal Application

You may download a Word file to “fill in” and save. Then submit your entire proposal by email. Go to www.flpie.net and email to pamlastowski@comcast.net
(Please type or print clearly. Application must be filled out in its entirety to be eligible.)

Presentation Title: _____

Lead Presenter: (All communication will be sent to this person)

Name (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.): _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County/District: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax :() _____

E-Mail: _____

Co-Presenter

Name (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.): _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County/District: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax :() _____

E-Mail: _____

For additional presenters, use a separate page and provide the above listed information.

Presentation Strands

Identify the presentation strand(s) that fits your session:

- _____ Building strategies in communication
- _____ Building effective school advisory councils
- _____ Encouraging family involvement
- _____ Expanding business partnerships
- _____ Providing fund raising and development
- _____ Developing professional development
- _____ Enhancing and developing volunteer/mentor programs

Target Audience

Indicate who would benefit from your presentation (check all that apply).

- _____ School/District Volunteer Program Coordinators
- _____ School Volunteers/Mentors
- _____ Teachers
- _____ School/Community Based Mentoring Program Managers
- _____ School Administrators
- _____ Business Partners
- _____ Business Partnerships Program Coordinators, District and School Based
- _____ Community Relations Professionals

Target Audience continued

- Curriculum and School Implementation Specialists
- Education Foundation Directors and Board
- Family Involvement Leaders
- Five Star Schools
- Parents and Parent Group Leaders
- School Advisory Council Members
- Public Relations Professionals

Circle grade level: Elementary Middle Secondary All Other _____

Presentation Abstract

Attach one-page typed description of the presentation. Do not exceed one page.

Be sure to include the following information.

- Three benefits (learning outcomes) for session participants
- If you have given this presentation before, when and where
- If you have previously presented at the Florida Partners in Education Conference and when
- Participant level this session will address — Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced or General Interest

Program Copy

In 50 words or less, describe the session as it should appear in the 2006 Conference Program. Be promotion-minded to attract participants. Use racing theme related terms, as appropriate. Attach with abstract.

Are there days/times you are NOT available?

April 19 AM April 19 PM April 20 AM April 20 PM April 21 AM

Are you willing to repeat your presentation? Yes No

Statement of Acceptance

If accepted, I, and my co-presenter(s), if any, agree to participate in the conference by presenting the proposed session. I agree to pay all travel expenses and additional audiovisual costs as well as provide all session materials to participants. I understand that The Florida Association of Partners in Education provides all presenters with complimentary conference registration for the day of their presentation. I acknowledge that registration fees for additional days, events, meals, guests, travel, hotel or related expenses are the responsibility of the presenter(s).

LEAD Presenter Signature: _____

Co-Presenter Signature: _____

Date: _____