

BCI

Florida Department of
Education

Teresa D. Sweet
Bureau Chief

Office of
Healthy Schools
Director

Penny Detscher
Ksena Zipperer
Nichole Wilder
Michelle Gaines

Office of
Humanities

Director,
Ann Whitney

Carol Bailey
John LeTellier
Susan Watt
Connie Wildeman

Office of
Instructional
Materials

Director
David Sikes

Ritu Badaya
Genevive English-
Charles

Office of
Math and Science

Director
Karol Yeatts

Jackie Speake
Debra Willacey

Office of
School Libraries &
Information Services

Director
Katrina Figgett

Kelsey Terhune
Lakeesha Parker
Petricia Sailor

Pupil Progression &
Guidance Services

Specialist
Helen Lancashire

Standards & Course
Development

Manager,
Nakia Bradv

Bureau of Curriculum & Instruction

CPALMS

Florida teachers making the transition to the Common Core State Standards have a great ally at the ready — CPALMS.

CPALMS is an online toolbox that helps teachers effectively implement teaching standards. It is also the State of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions.

Access to CPALMS is free and offers teachers:

- All the information related to the standards and course descriptions.
- Thousands of ready-to-use teaching resources and original content.
- Trusted, workable resources for the classroom — each has been recommended, created, and reviewed by teachers and experts.
- Interactive and easy-to-use planning tools — with a free iCPALMS account, teachers can streamline their lesson and curriculum planning and be confident that all their activities are aligned with the new standards.
- Free online or face-to-face training at your site — request your customized session at <http://www.cpalms.org/CPALMS/pd.aspx>.

The Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics designed CPALMS to support teachers. As Florida educators adopt the new Common Core standards, CPALMS is ready to help: www.cpalms.org.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognize outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Nominations for mathematics and science teachers of **grades 7-12** are open until April 1, 2013. The applications are due by May 1, 2013. For additional information please visit: <https://www.paemst.org>.

National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America

Eleven Florida students were selected to be members of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute National Youth Orchestra. The orchestra consists of 120 members between the ages 16 and 19 that were selected through an application and video audition that included applicants from across forty-two states. That of course means that almost ten percent of this prestigious national orchestra is comprised of Florida students. Congratulations to our hardworking and talented students for this impressive accomplishment!

The orchestra members participate in a tuition-free summer program that includes touring to different parts of the world, where they will be artistic ambassadors for the United States. This inaugural season, the group will be concertizing in Washington D.C., Moscow, St. Petersburg and London with renowned violinist, Joshua Bell. For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/National-Youth-Orchestra-of-the-United-States-of-America/>

Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation Art Illustration Contest

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation is writing a book about growing up and following your dreams in Florida, and they want students to help illustrate the book! Please provide the contest information packet (Contest Description, Contest Rules, Entry Form and Release Form) to 2nd-4th grade classes in your district (link provided below). Entries are due to the DBPR Office of Communications postmarked by April 19, 2013. Instructions for submitting entries are located within the Contest Rules form.

“One overall winner will be selected to be featured as the cover design for the proposed DBPR Children’s Book. Twenty-nine additional winners will be selected to be featured – one illustration for each page of the book.”

Contest Information:

http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/os/communications_office/documents/ArtContest.html

For questions regarding the contest, please e-mail: Communications@myfloridalicense.com

Division of Cultural Affairs State Touring Program

Applications for the Division of Cultural Affairs’ State Touring Program are being accepted from now until May 1st. The purpose of the State Touring Program is to bring live performance by the finest of Florida's performing and visual artists to every corner of the state.

For more information including guidelines and official application, please visit: <http://www.florida-arts.org/programs/touring/>

For any questions regarding the program, please contact Gaylen Phillips, Associate Director of Arts Resources and Services by phone at (850) 245-6482 or via e-mail at gaylen.phillips@dos.myflorida.com

Toward a Metric America

Attention Teachers! Did you know that you can obtain a free set of metric education resources for use in your classroom? Please contact the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Metric Program at TheSI@nist.gov and include your name, school, subject, grade level, phone number, and mailing address. The Teacher Kit included a classroom set of metric rulers, laminated metric conversion cards, SI Education CD, and other measurement resources. Please visit: <http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/metric/si-teacher-kit-for-educators.cfm>

For information on the United States and the Metric System, a Capsule History please read: <http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/metric/upload/1136a.pdf>

Sunshine State Scholars Recognition Program

The Sunshine State Scholars program recognized Florida's top STEM students and introduced them to the vast postsecondary and career opportunities available right here in Florida. The 2-day program was held in February 2013 in Orlando. Keynote speakers included Stacy Carlson, Vice President & Director of Helios Education Foundation; Commissioner Tony Bennett from the Florida Department of Education; Assistant Chancellor Kasongo Butler from the Florida College System; Kathleen Shanahan, State Board of Education; Chancellor Frank T. Brogan from the State University System of Florida; Marshall Criser, III, President AT&T Florida; Jim Thompson, President State Farm Florida; Florida Senator David Simmons; and Adam Dalton, Research Associate at Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. Scholars received a plaque, tickets to Universal, and an *iPad mini* from AT&T. Teachers who attended also have an opportunity to apply for a \$1000 State-Farm STEM Service Learning Grant for their school. For more information visit: <http://www.floridaeducationfoundation.org/>.

2013 Student Astronaut Challenge

The second annual Student Astronaut Challenge took place March 8-10, 2013. Eight high school teams participated in this unique opportunity that offered students a chance to compete in aerospace science, which involved team demonstrations of knowledge and understanding in the field as well as demonstrations of problem solving and performance within a flight simulator.

State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida

The 58th State Science and Engineering fair was held March 26-27, 2013 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. The exhibit hall opens to the public on March 27 from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM. For more information please visit: <http://www.floridasef.net/>.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) will be in Phoenix, Arizona, May 12-17, 2013. For more information on Intel ISEF please visit: <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef>.

Florida Engineering Education Conference (FEEC)

On **April 26, 2013**, the University of Central Florida's College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS), is hosting the Eighth Annual Florida Engineering Education Conference (FEEC) at the UCF's FAIRWINDS Alumni Center. In recognition of the importance of DoD to our national security and their many contributions to STEM education, this year's conference is focusing on "DoD engineering education programs". There is no cost for attending this event. Registration is open at: <http://partner.cecs.ucf.edu/FEE/Profile/login.asp>.

The NSTA Reader's Guide to the Framework

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Past President, Harold Pratt, gives his insights and ideas in the [NSTA Reader's Guide](#). The *Guide* assists science educators in the study of the [Framework for K–12 Science Education](#). For each chapter of the *Framework*, the *Guide* provides a brief overview, an analysis of what's new and different from previous standards and benchmarks, and suggested actions science educators can take to learn more about the concepts and ideas. You can download the free PDF from the NSTA Science Store.

Summer 2013 Teacher Fellowship with Kennedy Space Center

Kennedy Space Center is offering a High School Teacher Fellowship for summer 2013. The purpose of this fellowship opportunity is to help develop a plan/curriculum to grow students from High School to a Post-Doc in the field of Space Biology. Teachers will work side-by-side with a College Faculty as well as students and NASA technical experts to develop course materials and curriculum for use at KSC during the 2014-2018 summer terms. Questions may be directed to Jose Nunez, PhD, PE jose.l.nunez@nasa.gov

Summer 2013 Professional Development at Florida State University

Science teachers in grades k-12 and pre-service teachers interested in summer professional development should consider participating in the Research Experience for Teacher programs (RET) hosted by Florida State University. Teachers will work at the National High Magnetic Field Lab (NHMFL),

which is home to the world's most powerful magnet. Teachers work alongside world renowned scientists using state of the art technology and materials and also learn new innovative teaching tactics while learning Nature of Science through scientific inquiry.

Application and information is available at <http://www.magnet.fsu.edu/education/ret/>. Applications must be submitted by **April 26, 2013**. For more information please contact Jose Sanchez at 850-645-0033 or sanchez@magnet.fsu.edu.

Sunshine State Young Readers Awards (SSYRA)

Voting for SSYRA 2012-13 has started and goes through April 26th!

SSYRA began in the fall of 1983 and was originally for students in grades 4-8 with only a few districts participating. Over the years it has grown to be a state wide program that now has two categories, grades 3-5 and 6-8, and last year impacted over 300,000 students in the state. SSYRA gives students the chance to read for pleasure and vote for their favorite book. Many schools work with their local elections office to have students use actual voting machines to cast their ballots and use the opportunity to tie in to civics lessons on the democratic process.

Very soon the lists for SSYRA 2013-14 will be released. Twenty librarians from across the state have spent the last 9 months reading the 300 books on this year's reading list and met at the beginning of March to whittle that list down to 15 books for each grade range. Keep checking the FAME (Florida Association for Media in Education) [SSYRA](#) webpage for the new lists and more information on SSYRA!

Active Schools Acceleration Project Grant Opportunity

ChildObesity180's Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) launched a grant program in collaboration with First Lady Michelle Obama's new '*Let's Move! Active Schools*' campaign, designed to boost quality physical activity programming in America's schools. This effort is designed to empower teachers, parents, and other community champions to impact real change in student health and access to exercise and movement. ASAP's new grant opportunity draws on the findings of last year's Physical Activity Innovation Competition.

ASAP's Innovation Competition discovered innovative physical activity programs happening in schools all across the country spearheaded by grassroots champions – teachers, parents, coaches, administrators – who were passionate about children's health. Now ASAP is sharing these fun, flexible, and creative programs with schools across the nation.

ASAP is awarding 1,000 elementary schools each with \$1,000 Acceleration Grants to kick start one of three award-winning programs recognized in the Innovation Competition. The three programs that schools can choose from are included below:

- [100 Mile Club](#)
- [Boks](#)
- [CHALK/Just Move](#)

This \$1 million investment will get America's kids moving and active at school again. Winning schools will receive the necessary resources to get started, including \$1,000 in seed funding, a game plan to follow, and a support network of champions across the country embarking on the same path.

Full details about the ASAP grant opportunity and the programs available to schools may be found at <http://www.activeschoolsasap.org/acceleration-grants>. **Please note the application deadline is April 22, 2013.**

If any schools would like assistance with the submission of an ASAP grant application, the Florida Department of Health has offered the services of their part-time grant writer. Ms. Deborah Saulsbury is available to assist schools in the development and submission of an ASAP grant on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in Ms. Saulsbury's grant writing assistance, please email her at deborah.saulsbury@med.fsu.edu.

Florida Action for Healthy Kids

Since 2009, Florida's Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids have had the honor of recognizing twenty-seven Florida districts as Healthy School Districts. Recognition is based on submission of the completed Florida Healthy School District (FHSD) Self-Assessment. This instrument is designed to assess the status of policies and practices that support the highest levels of health and academic achievement for students and staff.

The self-assessment is based on the eight component areas of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Coordinated School Health (CSH) model. It focuses on district infrastructure, policy, programs, and practices identified from national and state guidelines, best practices, and Florida statutes. We all know that health and academic success are interrelated. This tool provides a method for districts to assess areas of success and opportunities for improvement.

District infrastructure is critical to sustainability and overall success. Infrastructure strengths across the recognized districts are very similar. These include regular communication with school board and superintendent on health issues; wellness policies containing all eight components of CSH; budget commitment to health and wellness; school level wellness teams; an active, well established, School Health Advisory Committee with equal representation from school district, local health department, and community.

Recognition is awarded for a period of two years. If a bronze, silver, or gold level score is achieved, your district will be featured on the Florida Healthy District Web Site at <http://www.healthydistrict.com/best-practices/profiles/>. Additionally, your district will be eligible to participate in the Healthy District Collaborative supported by the Florida Departments of Health and Education.

Regardless of whether your district applies for recognition, Florida's Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids encourages your district team to complete the tool and use the self-assessment as an internal guide. Teams that completed the tool reported that the process improved their knowledge of standards, legislation, and best practices; and enhanced their ability to maximize resources and eliminate duplication.

The following districts are currently recognized through June 2014, but may reapply for a higher level of recognition. **Gold Level:** Nassau, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa, **Silver Level:** Brevard, Broward, Highlands, Lee, Leon, Okaloosa, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, St. Lucie, **Bronze Level:** Indian River, Manatee.

This year, a new online version of the self-assessment tool has been launched. Each member of the district team will need to request a password to log-in to the online system. The new system allows team members to complete, edit and update their district assessment on an ongoing basis. Multiple team members can view and work on the tool simultaneously, and see the updates as they occur. Users from other districts are not able to view your assessment. The tool automatically tracks progress toward completion and tabulates points toward recognition. Applications will be downloaded by the Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids on June 1 annually to be evaluated for recognition as a Florida Healthy School District. The self-assessment tool and instructions are available online at <http://www.safehealthyschoolsfl.org/Home.aspx/Index>.

Achieving designation as a Florida Healthy School District demonstrates the commitment of district leadership to their primary mission of educating students by providing supportive environments that nurture physical, social, and psychological health.

To learn more about Florida's Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids go to <http://www.healthydistrict.com>.

If you have questions or comments, please send them to cshpmailbox2@gmail.com.