

2016-2017

Florida Department of Education (FDOE)

**Bureau of Exceptional Education and
Student Services (BEESS)**

**BEESS
Discretionary
Projects**

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BEES Discretionary Projects

Access Project

Website: <http://accesstofls.weebly.com/>

The Access Project focuses on evidence-based instructional strategies and supports that align with the Florida Standards access points. The Access Project continues to support statewide professional development for teachers to ensure a greater understanding of Florida Standards access points, resources and supports, as they apply to more effective instructional planning, teaching and learning of academic content, and providing appropriate supports and strategies for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The project understands the critical need for identification and development of communication strategies for this population of students and supports training for communicative competence. The project also supports alternate assessment activities, as needed, that align instruction with assessment.

Fiscal Agency: Brevard County School District

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FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Fabio Vargas, fabio.vargas@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Randy LaRusso, larusso.randy@brevardschools.org

Auditory-Oral Education Grant (Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech)

Website: <http://www.clarkeschools.org/>

The Clarke School Auditory-Oral Education project provides funding assistance at the Clarke School for an attending student's services. The Clarke School serves children with implants or assistive hearing devices from birth to age seven in multiple counties, including rural and underserved areas. The Clarke School solely offers an auditory-oral education program, as defined in section 1002.391 Florida Statutes (F.S.), and has a supervisor and faculty members who are credentialed as certified listening and spoken language specialists. The project facilitates the provision of appropriate services for students who meet eligibility for programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) (Rule 6A-6.03013, Florida Administrative Code [F.A.C.]) or programs for students who are dual sensory impaired (Rule 6A-6.03022, F.A.C.), and have a current individual educational plan or individualized family support plan. The project provides funding for service at auditory-oral education programs, as defined in s. 1002.391, F.S., to attending Florida students who are DHH or dual sensory impaired.

Fiscal Agency: Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech

BEES Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Cynthia Robinson, crobinson@clarkeschools.org

Auditory-Oral Education Grant (Debbie School)

Website: <http://pediatrics.med.miami.edu/debbie-school>

The Debbie School Auditory/Oral Education project provides funding assistance at the Debbie School for an attending student's services. The Debbie School serves children in multiple counties, from birth to age seven, including rural and underserved areas. The Debbie School solely offers an auditory-oral education program, as defined in s. 1002.391, F.S., and has a supervisor and faculty members who are credentialed as certified listening and spoken language specialists. The project facilitates the provision of appropriate services for students who meet eligibility for programs for students who are DHH (Rule 6A-6.03013, F.A.C.) or programs for students who are dual sensory impaired (Rule 6A-6.03022,

F.A.C.). The project provides funding for service at auditory-oral education programs, as defined in s. 1002.391, F.S., to attending Florida students who are DHH or dual sensory impaired.

Fiscal Agency: University of Miami (UM)

BEES Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Kathleen C. Vergara, kvergara@med.miami.edu

Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)

Website: <http://florida-card.org/>

In accordance with s. 1004.55, F.S., and Rule 6A-7.0335, F.A.C., the seven regional autism centers provide nonresidential resource and training services for persons of all ages and of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism, a pervasive developmental disorder, an autistic-like disability, a dual sensory impairment, or a sensory impairment with other disabling conditions. Each center provides services within its geographical region of the state. Service delivery shall be consistent for all centers. Each center is expected to coordinate services within and between state and local agencies and school districts but may not duplicate services provided by those agencies and school districts.

Fiscal Agencies:

- Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
- Florida State University (FSU)
- University of Central Florida (UCF)
- University of Florida (UF) (Gainesville)
- UF (Jacksonville)
- UM/Nova Southeastern University
- University of South Florida (USF)
-

BEES Project Liaison: Diana McLendon, diana.mclendon@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Fabio Vargas, fabio.vargas@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: <http://florida-card.org/map.htm>

CARD – Missing Persons with Special Needs Pilot Program

Website: N/A

Section 937.041, F.S. creates pilot projects in specified counties to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs.

Fiscal Agencies:

- FAU
- UF (Gainesville)
- USF

BEES Project Liaison: Diana McLendon, diana.mclendon@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Fabio Vargas, fabio.vargas@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: <http://florida-card.org/map.htm>

Children's Registry and Information System (CHRIS)

Website: <http://www.chris.miami.edu/>

The purpose of CHRIS is to expand and improve the capability and use of the CHRIS database as a tracking, reporting, case management, and planning tool for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) child find activities. Information stored in CHRIS is used to project the needs of the service delivery system to ensure adequate capacity to meet the needs of children with disabilities entering the public school system during preschool. CHRIS is also used to create reports for BEESS and to provide information to service providers.

Fiscal Agency: UM

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FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Christine Delgado, cdelgado@umiami.edu

Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR) Center

Website: <https://cedar.education.ufl.edu/>

The purpose of the CEEDAR Center and institutes of higher education (IHEs) is to ensure that teachers and leaders are educated to implement evidence-based practices for effectively educating prekindergarten (Pre-K) through Grade 12 students with disabilities to achieve college- and career-ready standards. The focus is on revising or reforming state policy and practice (including certification and licensure standards and educator preparation program approval and evaluation) and teacher and leader preparation practice.

The CEEDAR project provides a 20-hour online leadership course related to instruction, support systems and data-based decision making to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Fiscal Agency: FSU

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FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Traci Jones, traci@fcim.org

Communication/Autism Navigator

Website: <http://www.med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=autismInstitute.autismNavigator>

Autism Navigator is a collection of web-based courses and tools to bridge the gap between science and community practice. Each component is designed to increase the capacity of healthcare providers, early intervention providers, educators and families to improve outcomes of young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using extensive video footage to illustrate effective evidence-based practice. The primary short-term aim is to improve early detection of autism and communication disorders and increase access to early intervention. The long-term aim is to increase the number of students with autism, communication disorders and language-learning problems who are ready to learn and can succeed in mastering the State Standards in General Education Kindergarten.

Fiscal Agency: FSU

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FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Fabio Vargas, fabio.vargas@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Amy M. Wetherby, amy.wetherby@med.fsu.edu

Critical Initiatives in Visual Impairment (CIVI)

Website: N/A

The CIVI project is located at FSU, which is the sole provider in the state of teacher preparation courses for teachers of the visually impaired (TVIs) and orientation and mobility specialists (O&Ms). This project is comprised of the Personnel Preparation Initiative and the Low Vision Initiative. The Personnel Preparation initiative addresses the statewide critical shortage in TVIs and O&Ms by making courses more accessible to individuals who are not able to enroll at the main campus. The Low Vision Initiative provides clinical low-vision evaluations for eligible students with visual impairments as well as training in the use of these devices for the students and their teachers and parents. The project addresses the following initiatives: Personnel Preparation Initiative (Teacher Preparation – prepares teachers of the visually impaired and Orientation and Mobility – supports preservice and inservice orientation and mobility specialists) and Low Vision Initiative – provides clinical low-vision evaluations and low-vision devices to students with visual impairments.

Fiscal Agency: FSU

BEESS Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Sandra Lewis, slewis@fsu.edu

Educational Interpreters Project (EIP)

Website: <http://www.unf.edu/interpreterproject/>

Florida's EIP is a state-funded initiative to improve the skills of K-12 interpreters working with students who are DHH or dual sensory impaired.

Fiscal Agency: University of North Florida (UNF)

BEESS Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Len Roberson, len.roberson@unf.edu

Electronic Medicaid Administrative Claiming System (EMACS) Data Management

Website: N/A

The EMACS Data Management Project provides a sole data management school district to perform functions surrounding the random moment sampling methodology required by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for Florida school districts to participate in the Florida School District Medicaid Administrative Claiming (SDAC) program. Any Florida school district may be part of EMACS at no cost to the district. The Seminole County School District and participating school districts use the FDOE EMACS that was approved by AHCA to generate and manage the required quarterly random-moment sample. The data management school district performs the following:

- Collects school calendars and schedules work hours for relevant staff positions in each participating school district;
- Collects quarterly personnel rosters;
- Generates the quarterly random-moment sample;
- Packages and mails forms to school districts as required;
- Calculates all required data and returns statistics to FDOE, AHCA and school districts; and
- Conducts quarterly reviews on all completed random-moment descriptions (currently 1,000 moments) for the purpose of quality control and advising school districts of possible errors in coding the sample moments in accordance with AHCA requirements.

Fiscal Agency: Seminole County School District
BEES Project Liaison: Anne Glass, anne.glass@fldoe.org
FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org
Discretionary Project Contact: Michelle Walsh, michelle_walsh@scps.k12.fl.us

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent Survey

Website: N/A

The ESE Parent Survey Project supports the collection of data for Indicator 8 of Florida's State Performance Plan (SPP). Florida uses the National Center for Special Education Accountability and Monitoring survey instrument to measure the parent's perception of the schools' efforts to facilitate their involvement. The ESE parent survey is conducted each year beginning February 1 through June 30. The survey is available to parents in three languages: English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Parents are provided with a paper survey but also have the option to complete the web-based survey. Once the survey window closes, the data collected are analyzed and the parent survey results (i.e., number and percentage of parents responding to the survey and number and percentage of respondents who met the Indicator 8 standard indicating that schools facilitated their involvement as a means of improving services and results for students with disabilities) are reported to BEES for inclusion in the Annual Performance Report. Using these data, the project seeks to gain further insight into factors that may lead to improving or impeding schools' efforts to facilitate parent involvement by examining the relationship of various district-level activities, which may impact performance on Indicator 8 of the SPP. Further analysis of these data provides the basis for developing strategies that encourage parent involvement and strengthen parent and family relationships with schools in their communities.

Fiscal Agency: UM
BEES Project Liaison: Aimee Kowalczyk, aimee.kowalczyk@fldoe.org
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Discretionary Project Contact: Batya Elbaum, elbaum@miami.edu

ESE Tuition Support

Website: <http://www.florida-ese.org/tuitionsupport/>

The ESE Tuition Support project provides financial support to paraprofessionals enrolled in special education preservice training programs, to ESE teachers earning an endorsement in autism, Pre-K disabilities, or severe/profound disabilities, and to speech-language teachers earning a master's degree in speech/language pathology.

Fiscal Agencies:

- Florida International University (FIU)
- FSU
- University of West Florida (UWF)

BEES Project Liaison: Mary Walsh, mary.walsh@fldoe.org
FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org
Discretionary Project Contacts:

- FIU – Melanie Morales, melanie.morales@fiu.edu
- FSU – Juliann Woods, jwoods@fsu.edu
- WF – Robert Markowitz, rmarkowitz@uwf.edu; Russell Gremillion, rgremillion@uwf.edu

Family Café (Cooperation, Advocacy, Friendship, and Empowerment)

Website: <http://www.familycafe.net/>

The purpose of this project is to support Family C.A.F.E, Incorporated, as an organization by providing the funding for materials, speakers, travel and per diem for the staff of this program to host one statewide conference for persons with disabilities, or other health care needs, and their families.

The purpose of the annual conference is to:

- Promote effective family involvement with their children's education as a way to improve student achievement during K-12 and increase successful transition from public school to postsecondary education, community living and employment
- Increase awareness of families, teachers and typical peers of the abilities of students with disabilities and special health care needs
- Increase abilities of families and students to effectively problem solve and self-advocate concerning educational issues at the local level.

Fiscal Agency: Family C.A.F.E., Inc.

BEES Project Liaison: Aimee Kowalczyk, aimee.kowalczyk@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Lori Fahey, lfahey@familycafe.net

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Centers (FDLRS ACs)

Website: <http://www.fdlrs.org>

The purpose of the 19 FDLRS ACs is to provide the following programs and services for individuals working with ESE students, families and support agencies:

- Assist in the location, identification, evaluation and initiation of appropriate education or other needed services for children and youth, birth through 21 years of age who have, or who are at risk of developing, special or unique needs and are not enrolled in public school.
- Plan collaboratively with school districts, ESE departments, staff development offices, and other professional development entities to provide information, professional development, and technical assistance and follow-up related to effective instructional strategies and service delivery models for the education of children and youth who are exceptional or have unique needs.
- Assist school districts and families who have children who are exceptional or have special or unique needs to develop effective partnerships allowing shared responsibility to improve the education of all children and youth.
- Assist and support school district professional staff and families of students with disabilities in the appropriate use of assistive and instructional technology, assistive technology related services, universal design principles, and technology that enhances learning and communication.
- Assist schools and school districts in the implementation of inclusive educational practices through a partnership with the Florida Inclusion Network.

Fiscal Agencies:

- Brevard County School District
- Broward County School District
- Miami-Dade County School District
- Duval County School District
- Escambia County School District
- Hamilton County School District
- Highlands County School District

- Hillsborough County School District
- Lee County School District
- Leon County School District
- Marion County School District
- Orange County School District
- Palm Beach County School District
- Pinellas County School District
- Polk County School District
- Putnam County School District
- St. Lucie County School District
- Sarasota County School District
- Washington County School District

BEESS Project Liaison: April Katine, april.katine@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Tresa McCloud, tresa.mccloud@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contacts:

http://www.fdlrs.org/images/pdf/contactlists/Managers_Contact_List_10.24.16.pdf

FDLRS Administration

Website: <http://www2.nefec.org/fdlrs/>

The FDLRS Administration/Human Resources Development (HRD) Project provides overall management of, technical support and professional development for the 19 FDLRS AC managers. Project personnel also provide technical assistance, regional and statewide professional development, and coordination related to the HRD project priorities that are implemented by the HRD specialists that make up the statewide FDLRS HRD Network. Through support and leadership provided by the FDLRS Administration/HRD Project, the objectives of the FDLRS ACs are implemented and professional developers are provided with opportunities to maintain and enhance their skills. The FDLRS Administration/HRD Project aligns its activities with BEESS' initiatives. In addition, this project coordinates the statewide professional development alternatives online training program, which currently includes 14 modules. Work is done in collaboration with the 19 FDLRS ACs to ensure local implementation. The project also coordinates the statewide Middle Grade 5-9 Online Content Review Module and the Elementary K-6 Online Content Review Module. The project is responsible for statewide coordination of Florida's Strategic Instruction Model.

Fiscal Agency: Putnam County School District

BEESS Project Liaison: April Katine, april.katine@fldoe.org

DOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Marixcia Chrishon, marixcia.chrison@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Mary Ann Ahearn, ahearnm@nefec.org

FDLRS Multidisciplinary Educational Service Centers (FDLRS MDCs)

Websites:

- FDLRS FSU – <http://mdc.fsu.edu/>
- FDLRS Keiser University – <http://kumc.keiseruniversity.edu/>
- FDLRS UF (Gainesville) – <http://www.peds.ufl.edu/mdtp/>
- DLRS UF (Jacksonville) – <http://www.hscj.ufl.edu/pediatrics/diagnostic-and-learning-resources/>
- FDLRS UM – <http://www.fdlrs-um.org/>
- FDLRS USF – <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/news-events/detail.cfm?id=637>

The FDLRS MDCs are a network of six centers established around the state to provide diagnostic evaluation services for children and youth identified as having complex medical, educational, emotional, and/or behavioral problems. The MDCs also provide consultation, technical assistance, and preservice and in-service trainings for families, teachers and school district personnel concerning children and youth with complex medical, emotional, and/or behavior problems.

Fiscal Agencies:

- FSU
- Keiser University
- UF (Gainesville)
- UF (Jacksonville)
- UM
- USF

BEES Project Liaison: Diana McLendon, diana.mclendon@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contacts:

- FSU – Anne Selvey, aselvey@fsu.edu
- Keiser University – Heidi Hyche, hhyche@keiseruniversity.edu
- UF (Gainesville) – Anne-Marie Slinger, slingam@peds.ufl.edu
- UF (Jacksonville) – Jeannie Bowles, bowles@jax.ufl.edu
- UM – Lynne Sue Katz, lkatz@miami.edu
- USF – Rose Iovannone, lovannone@usf.edu

Florida Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE)

Website: <http://www.samhsa.gov/nitt-ta/project-aware-grant-information>

Florida AWARE is committed to assisting school districts in developing safer schools, improving school climate, increasing awareness of mental health issues, and developing a continuum of social, emotional and behavioral supports that ensures improved outcomes for all students. Florida AWARE facilitates the development, implementation and evaluation of the Florida AWARE Coordination and Integration Plan developed by the Project AWARE State Management Team and three Florida AWARE local education agencies ([LEAs] Pinellas, Polk and Duval). The project coordinates technical assistance to support the Florida AWARE State Management Team and three Florida AWARE LEAs in developing and sustaining integrated, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSSs) that promote the mental health of, and advance wellness and resilience of, students within family, educational and community settings. The project also implements the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training component of the “Now is the Time” Project AWARE state education agency (NITT AWARE SEA) grant by coordinating mental health literacy and response training for adults serving youth within the three Florida AWARE LEAs. Florida AWARE coordinates with the SEA Florida School Climate Transformation (SCT) and expands current BEES initiatives focused on integrating social and emotional supports within an MTSS.

Fiscal Agencies – Discretionary Project Contacts:

- Duval County School District – Michele Johnson, johnsm16@duvalschools.org
- Pinellas County School District – Vicki Koller, kollerv@pcsb.org
- Polk County School District – Deborah Badertscher, deborah.badertscher@polk-fl.net
- USF – Don Kincaid, kincaid@usf.edu

BEES Project Liaison: Curtis Williams, curtis.williams@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) Administration

Website: <http://www.floridainclusionnetwork.com/>

FIN provides learning opportunities, consultation, information and support to educators, families and community members resulting in the inclusion of all students.

Fiscal Agency: FSU

BEESS Project Liaison: April Katine, april.katine@fldoe.org

DOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Marixcia Chrishon, marixcia.chrishon@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Sheryl Sandvoss, ssandvoss@fsu.edu

Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMC-VI)

Website: <http://www.fimcvi.org/>

FIMC-VI provides instructional materials, including assessments, as appropriate, for eligible students throughout Florida, administers Federal Quota Funds (for students who are legally blind), maintains a professional loan library for teachers and families of students who are visually impaired or dual sensory impaired, provides statewide and regional trainings, and provides proofreading and transcription services for the statewide assessment program. FIMC-VI also collaborates with statewide and national projects and agencies on a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, statewide assessment, effective and promising practices in braille literacy, and the implementation of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard as outlined in IDEA.

Fiscal Agency: Hillsborough County School District

BEESS Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Suzanne Dalton, sdalton@fimcvi.org

Florida Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (FLPBIS: MTSS)

Website: <http://flpbs.fmhi.usf.edu>

Because significant behavior problems contribute to unsafe school environments and to reductions in student performance, the FLPBIS:MTSS Project is committed to building the capacity of school districts so that they may better assist schools to develop effective discipline, social skills teaching and behavior support strategies for all students.

Fiscal Agency: USF

BEESS Project Liaison: Curtis Williams, curtis.williams@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Donald Kincaid, kincaid@fmhi.usf.edu

Florida School Climate Transformation (Florida SCT)

Website: <http://cfs.cbcs.usf.edu/projects-research/detail.cfm?id=492>

Florida SCT state education agency grant significantly expands Florida's statewide system of behavioral support by providing training and technical assistance to local educational agencies in implementing an evidence-based, multi-tiered behavior framework for improving behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for all students.

Fiscal Agency: USF

BEESS Project Liaison: Curtis Williams, curtis.williams@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Heather George, hgeorge@usf.edu

Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISR D)

Website: <http://isrd.nefec.org/>

While new legislation and initiatives in special education are constantly emerging at the national and state levels, small and rural school districts face multiple challenges to fully implement state and federal requirements. ISR D provides a forum for school district staff to keep abreast of a wide array of topics impacting the delivery of services to students with disabilities and their families, such as curriculum and instructional practices; educational policies, procedures and practices; behavior support; and transition. ISR D's primary purpose is to provide staff development, training and technical support to a network of 35 small and rural school districts, lab schools, the Florida Virtual School and the Department of Corrections. Overall, ISR D's goal is to ensure that service to students with disabilities and their families is enhanced and that positive outcomes for students with disabilities is achieved through increased student performance.

Fiscal Agency: Putnam County School District/North East Florida Educational Consortium

BEESS Project Liaison: Beth Moore (Interim), beth.moore@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Amy Lane, lanea@nefec.org

Lauren's Kids

Website: <http://laurenskids.org>

Lauren's Kids provides awareness and education related to the prevention of childhood sexual abuse through the development of resources and the promotion of these resources to school districts and the public. The project distributes curriculum modules for Pre-K through Grade 12 to Florida educators and schools and creates resources to help children and parents cope with the trauma that is associated with child sexual abuse.

Fiscal Agency: Lauren's Kids, Inc.

BEESS Project Liaison: Iris Williams, iris.williams@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Lauren Book, lauren@laurenskids.org

Learning through Listening (LtL)

Website: <http://www.learningally.org/florida/>

The LtL project facilitates support services and training to administrators, teachers, parents and students on the use of digital audio books provided by Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic). Learning Ally is an accessible media producer (AMP) and is registered with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC). The project coordinates with Florida's appointed National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards (NIMAS) Authorized User to provide digital audio textbooks and equipment to eligible students with print disabilities. Equipment and software is provided at no cost to students or school districts.

Fiscal Agency: Learning Ally

BEESS Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Ed Bray, ebay@learningally.org

Measuring Outcomes for Preschool Children with Disabilities

Website: N/A

Under the requirements of the Part B SPP, Florida is accountable for reporting data on outcomes for preschool children with disabilities. These outcomes include demonstration of positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships), the acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy), and the use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs. The purpose of the project is to design and implement a system to collect and report outcome data for Pre-K students with disabilities served by Florida's public school districts. A critical element of the design of this system is that it is developed as a birth-to-five system, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, and Early Steps Program.

Fiscal Agency: UM

BEESS Project Liaison: Chelsea Williams, chelsea.williams@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Batya Elbaum, elbaum@miami.edu

Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional or Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET)

Website: <http://www.sednetfl.info>

SEDNET regional projects provide an intensive integrated educational program to include a continuum of mental health treatment services to enable students with or at risk of emotional or behavioral disabilities (E/BD) to develop appropriate behaviors and demonstrate academic and career education skills. SEDNET is a network of 19 regional projects that are comprised of the major child-serving agencies, community-based service providers, and students and their families. Local school districts serve as fiscal agents for each local regional project. Within this framework, SEDNET focuses on developing interagency collaboration and sustaining partnerships among professionals and families in the education, mental health, substance abuse, child welfare and juvenile justice systems serving children and youth with and at risk of E/BD.

Fiscal Agencies:

- Brevard County School District
- Broward County School District
- Clay County School District
- Columbia County School District
- Miami-Dade County School District
- Escambia County School District
- Hendry County School District
- Hernando County School District
- Hillsborough County School District
- Levy County School District
- Liberty County School District
- Manatee County School District
- Orange County School District
- Palm Beach County School District
- Pinellas County School District

- Polk County School District
- St. Lucie County School District
- Volusia County School District
- Washington County School District

BEESS Project Liaison: Anne Bozik, anne.bozik@fldoe.org

DOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Marixcia Chrishon, marixcia.chrison@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Regional Coordinators: <http://www.sednetfl.info/Regions.aspx>

SEDNET Administration

Website: <http://www.sednetfl.info>

The SEDNET Administration project provides overall management of and technical support and professional development for the 19 local SEDNET projects. Through support and leadership provided by the SEDNET Administration project, the local SEDNET projects, school districts and other stakeholders are better postured to provide intensive, integrated educational programs to include a continuum of mental health treatment services to enable students with or at risk of E/BD to develop appropriate behaviors and demonstrate academic and career education skills.

The SEDNET Administration project is responsible for the following:

- Building capacity of local SEDNET projects
- Providing a more unified structure including evaluation and monitoring of SEDNET to ensure accountability
- Ensuring comprehensive technical assistance and training
- Ensuring local SEDNET projects solicit school district input related to school district needs in order to address these needs
- Increasing collaboration with related discretionary project initiatives and maximizing resources and the delivery of technical assistance
- Building capacity of collaboration with system of care agencies at local and state levels
- Increasing parent involvement, support and education for families of children with and at risk of E/BD

Fiscal Agency: University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP)

BEESS Project Liaison: Anne Bozik, anne.bozik@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Tresa McCloud, tresa.mccloud@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Nickie Zenn, nzenn@usfsp.edu

Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA)

Website: <http://doepartnership.usf.edu/>

The statewide CARD staff join together in partnership with Florida educators to provide training and technical assistance in developing a plan for implementing innovative and effective practices in the school environment.

Fiscal Agency: USF

BEESS Project Liaison: Diana McLendon, diana.mclendon@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Donna Casella, dcasella@fmhi.usf.edu

Personnel Development Support Project (PDSP)

Website: <http://www.florida-ese.org/>

This project develops and provides technical support for multimedia products, including databases, websites, online courses, and other electronic and print materials that support the implementation of BEESS' initiatives. Additionally, the project provides support to BEESS in the areas of specific learning disabilities, secondary transition, speech/language, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Fiscal Agency: FSU

BEESS Project Liaison: Beth Moore, beth.moore@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Judy White, judy@fcim.org

Problem Solving and Response to Intervention (PS/Rtl) and PS/Rtl – Technology

Website: PS/Rtl: <http://www.floridarti.usf.edu/index.html>

The PS-Rtl project results in the high-quality implementation of statewide training, technical assistance and building sustainable capacity for the problem-solving and response to instruction/intervention framework in Florida school districts. The project provides training and support to professionals in Florida, provides technical assistance and service support to professionals, and delivers products to project stakeholders. Each year, the project conducts a comprehensive needs assessment with each of the school districts in Florida to determine district-driven priorities for the project. The project conducts program evaluations to inform policies and practices at the district and state levels.

The project collaborates with the FLPBIS: MTSS project to provide direct support to districts to implement an MTSS. The project facilitates regional professional learning communities for the MTSS contacts in every school district and provides intensive supports to districts to accelerate the performance of struggling students.

The project provides training and technical assistance to discretionary projects, school districts and the FDOE to implement the Small-Group Planning and Problem-Solving Process (Eight-Step Problem-Solving Process), which is a required component of school and district improvement plans. The project collaborates with the Florida Center for Reading Research, Just Read, Florida!, and the Florida Center for Research-Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to support evidence-based instructional practices in an MTSS.

The project provides resources, staff support, training and technical assistance to all LEAs to ensure the effective integration of specially designed instruction for students with disabilities throughout an MTSS, and provides focused staff support, training and technical assistance to districts identified by BEESS to improve outcomes of students with disabilities.

The project provides regional technology coordinators and technology specialists to support the effective implementation of accessible instructional materials, assistive technologies, learning technologies, and universal design for learning principles within all tiers of instruction. The project also manages, coordinates and supports the regional assistive technology loan libraries.

Fiscal Agency: USF

BEESS Project Liaison: Karrie Musgrove, karrie.musgrove@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: George Batsche, batsche@usf.edu

Project 10: Transition Education Network

Website: <http://project10.info/>

The purpose of Project 10 is to assist school districts and other stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve post-school outcomes. Project 10 addresses the following major initiatives: statewide capacity building, interagency collaboration, transition legislation and policy, and student development and outcomes, and Indicators 1: Graduation Rate, 2: Dropout Rate, 13: Secondary Transition Individual Educational Plan Components, and 14: Postschool Outcomes of Florida's SPP.

Fiscal Agency: USFSP

BEESS Project Liaison: Wendy Metty, wendy.metty@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Jordan Knab, jknab@usfsp.edu

Project StarFISH (FISH – Facilitating Individual Success and Hope)

Website: N/A

Project StarFISH is an educational and therapeutic program that assists elementary and middle school students with disabilities and students with Section 504 who have significant emotional, behavioral and mental health conditions that require intense interventions in order to be successful in the school setting. The project integrates academic, behavioral and therapeutic services to meet the complex needs of these students through utilization of evidence-based programs and interventions to facilitate positive academic growth and reinforce appropriate replacement behaviors.

Therapeutic services provided through the project include individual and group counseling and mental health assessments. Nonclinical services provided includes positive behavioral supports, social skill training, conflict resolution skill development, mentorship and therapeutic art, music, drama and recreation. Parent involvement and education, as well as community education, are emphasized and provided in an attempt to support the family and assist the students generalize the positive skills acquired across settings.

Fiscal Agency: Hernando County School District

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact:

- Anne Glass, anne.glass@fldoe.org
- Marixcia Chrishon, marixcia.chrison@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Cathy Dofka, dofka_c@hcsb.k12.fl.us

Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (RMTC-D/HH)

Website: <http://rmtcosbd.org/>

RMTC-D/HH provides statewide coordination for the delivery of specialized technology and instructional materials to students who are DHH or dual sensory impaired, as well as training and technical assistance to educators and parents of students who are DHH or dual sensory impaired.

The project provides specialized technology, technical assistance, information referral and training, and facilitates the provision of appropriate services for students who meet eligibility for programs for students who are DHH (Rule 6A-6.03013, F.A.C.) or programs for students who are dual sensory impaired (Rule 6A-6.03022, F.A.C.). To this end, the project staff performs limited direct services for students residing in small and rural school districts (e.g., evaluations) as necessary. This project provides technical assistance and services to Florida's school districts, with a priority given to the 33 small and rural districts. Services include, but are not limited to, evaluations, parent training, inservice education for personnel, and referral to other statewide agencies or resources. The project also provides staff and resources for the coordination, cataloging, standardizing, producing, procuring, storing and distributing of captioned media, and other specialized educational materials needed by qualifying students. Additionally, project staff provides services by traveling to the school districts, observing students, training personnel (i.e., teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators), and completing written evaluations and reports.

Fiscal Agency: Florida School for the Deaf and Blind

BEESS Project Liaison: Victoria Gaitanis, victoria.gaitanis@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Carmelina Hollingsworth, c.hollingsworth@rmtcosbd.org

Special Olympics, Florida

Website: <http://specialolympicsflorida.org/>

The goal of Special Olympics, Florida is to implement Project UNIFY in schools within Florida each year. Project UNIFY is a school-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change. A Project UNIFY school has three distinct, but intertwining, components to promote inclusion, which include:

1. Unified Sports, which combines individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams for training, competition and skill development.
2. Inclusive Youth Leadership, a unified club for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities to develop meaningful relationships, enhance leadership skills, and take responsibility spreading acceptance and ensuring that everyone feels included and welcome in their school.
3. Whole-School Engagement, an activity, event or rally that offers the entire student body the opportunity to participate in or be a part of Project UNIFY, including the utilization of education and community resources.

Fiscal Agency: Special Olympics, Florida, Incorporated

BEESS Project Liaison: Heidi Metcalf, heidi.metcalf@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Sherry Wheelock, sherrywheelock@sofl.org

Specialty Children's Hospital Academics Program

Website: N/A

The project provides educational services to students who are hospitalized at the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital because of acute or chronic illnesses that require lengthy or frequent hospital stays. Illnesses include cystic fibrosis, neurological disorders, congenital heart disease, kidney disease, cancer and sickle cell. These funds directly support the hiring of additional certified teachers to be based at the hospital. The addition of these teachers assists in providing greater continuity of educational services to this population of students. Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital is located in Pinellas County. This facility collaborates with the ESE department in the Pinellas County School District, and other school districts, as needed, to ensure a seamless transition of educational services for these students.

Fiscal Agency: Johns Hopkins' All Children's Hospital, Inc.

BEESS Project Liaison: Diana McLendon, diana.mclendon@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Fabio Vargas, fabio.vargas@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Natalya Komarova, nkomaro1@jhmi.edu

State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)

Website: N/A

The project builds capacity to increase school completion rates of students with disabilities, through the provision of professional development to support and scale-up existing research-based practices, develop capacity for use of evidence-based dropout prevention strategies, and enlist parental support of these research-based practices.

Fiscal Agencies/BEESS Project Liaisons:

- Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) – Beth Moore, beth.moore@fldoe.org
- Putnam County School District – Karrie Musgrove, karrie.musgrove@fldoe.org
- USFSP – Wendy Metty, wendy.metty@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Fabio Vargas, fabio.vargas@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contacts:

- FGCU – Peg Sullivan, msulliva@fgcu.edu
- Putnam – Mary Ann Ahearn, ahearnm@nefec.org
- USFSP – Jordan Knab, jknab@usfsp.edu

Student Support Services (SSS) Project

Website: <http://sss.usf.edu/>

The SSS Project's mission is to provide expertise and leadership for supporting the academic, social, emotional, physical and behavioral development of all students. This is accomplished through the provision of resources and policy development with a topical emphasis on the integration of school psychology, school counseling, school social work and school nursing for maximized impact on student outcomes. The project is committed to the ultimate vision of a comprehensive, fully integrated MTSS that meets the needs of the full range of learners in every school.

Fiscal Agency: USF

BEESS Project Liaison: Heidi Metcalf, heidi.metcalf@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contacts:

- Jayna Jenkins, jayna.jenkins@fldoe.org
- George Batsche, batsche@usf.edu

Technical Assistance and Training System for Programs Serving Prekindergarten with Children with Disabilities (TATS)

Website: <http://tats.ucf.edu>

TATS is a statewide system of technical assistance and training that promotes high-quality programs, which lead to and support positive outcomes for Pre-K children with disabilities and their families.

Fiscal Agency: UCF

BEESS Project Liaison: Chelsea Williams, chelsea.williams@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Sandy Smith, sandy.smith@ucf.edu

VSA, Florida (VSAFL)

Website: <http://vsafll.org/>

The VSAFL project supports student achievement by providing direct arts experiences to students with disabilities and by providing professional development and technical assistance to individuals that provide programs that relate to students' access to art. The project supports the development of inclusive programs and activities in the arts for students with disabilities from Pre-K to age 21.

Fiscal Agency: USF

BEESS Project Liaison: Aimee Kowalczyk, aimee.kowalczyk@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Discretionary Project Contact: Jennifer Sabo, jsabo@usf.edu

Working With the Experts (WWE)

Website: <http://www.flwwe.net/>

This project provides financial support for professional development activities for speech-language pathologists (SLPs), occupational therapists (OTs) and physical therapists (PTs). In addition, this project facilitates professional development activities for faculty IHEs that support the preparation of teachers, SLPs, OTs and PTs working with students with disabilities; including a Summer Institute, IHE newsletters and periodic webinars.

Fiscal Agencies/BEESS Project Liaisons:

- FGCU – Peg Sullivan, msulliva@fgcu.edu
- UF (Gainesville) – Alice Kaye Emery, aemery@coe.ufl.edu

BEESS Project Liaison: Mary Walsh, mary.walsh@fldoe.org

FDOE Office of Grants Management Contact: Sue Wilkinson, sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org

Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following is a list of acronyms and abbreviations used within this Discretionary Projects Descriptions document.

AHCA	Agency for Health Care Administration
AMP	Accessible media producer
ASD	Autism spectrum disorder
AWARE	Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education
BEES	Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
CARD	Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities
CEEDAR	Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Center Accountability and Reform
CHRIS	Children's Registry and Information System
CIVI	Critical Initiatives in Visual Impairment
DHH	Deaf or hard of hearing
E/BD	Emotional or behavioral disabilities
EIP	Educational Interpreters Project
EMACS	Electronic Medicaid Administrative Claiming System
ESE	Exceptional student education
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
FAU	Florida Atlantic University
Family Café	Family (Cooperation, Advocacy, Friendship, and Empowerment)
FDLRS AC	Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Center
FDLRS MDC	Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Multidisciplinary Educational Service Center
FDOE	Florida Department of Education
FGCU	Florida Gulf Coast University
FIMC-VI	Florida Instructional Materials Center for the Visually Impaired
FIN	Florida Inclusion Network
FIU	Florida International University
Florida AWARE	Florida (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education)
FLPBIS: MTSS	Florida Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FSU	Florida State University
HRD	Human Resources Development
DEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (also referred to as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
IHE	Institute of Higher Education
ISRDR	Institute for Small and Rural Districts
LEA	Local Educational Agency
LtL	Learning through Listening
MTSS	Multi-tiered system of supports
NIMAC	National Instructional Materials Access Center

NIMAS	National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards
NITT AWARE SEA	“Now is the Time” Project AWARE State Education Agency
O&M	Orientation and mobility specialist
OT	Occupational therapist
PDSP	Personnel Development Support Project
PEPSA	Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism
Pre-K	Prekindergarten
PS/Rtl	Problem Solving and Response to Intervention
PT	Physical therapist
RMTC-D/HH	Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
s.	Section
SCT	School Climate Transformation
SDAC	School District Medicaid Administrative Claiming
SEDNET	Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional or Behavioral Disabilities
SLP	Speech-language pathologist
SPDG	State Personnel Development Grant
SPP	State Performance Plan
SSS	Student Support Services Project
StarFISH	FISH – Facilitating Individual Success and Hope
TATS	Technical Assistance and Training System for Programs Serving Prekindergarten Children with Disabilities
TVI	Teacher of the visually impaired
UCF	University of Central Florida
UF	University of Florida
UM	University of Miami
UNF	University of North Florida
USF	University of South Florida
USFSP	University of South Florida St. Petersburg
UWF	University of West Florida
VSAFL	VSA, Florida
WWE	Working With the Experts
YMHFA	Youth Mental Health First Aid

Discretionary Projects’ Descriptions Website

For information on bureau discretionary projects, please visit <http://fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/grants-management.stml>.