



INSTITUTE FOR SMALL  
AND RURAL DISTRICTS



Service   Collaboration   Achievement



**The Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISRD)** 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 (SWD) and their families, such as curriculum and instructional practices; educational policies, procedures and practices; behavior support; and transition.

ISRD's primary purpose is to provide professional learning and technical support to a network of small and rural school local educational agencies (LEA) across Florida to ensure their compliance with IDEA regulations and the indicators of the State Performance Plan (SPP). Overall, ISRD's goal is to ensure that services to students with disabilities, and their families, are enhanced and that positive outcomes will be achieved through increased student performance.

Working in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education and the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), the goal of the ISRD project is to enhance overall services to students with disabilities and those at risk to increase student performance.

### **Targeted Audiences**

- Superintendents
- ESE Directors
- Student Services Directors

### **Service Delivery**

- Advisory Council
- Peer-to-Peer Collaboration for Superintendents
- Peer to Peer Collaboration for ESE/ISS Administrators
- On-site Technical Support
- Email and Telephone Technical Assistance
- Training Events
- Purchase and Distribution of Media

### **Products**

- ISRD Website
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Project Annual Report
- Webinars
- Live Binders

### **Topics Addressed in Collaboration with IDEA Funded State Projects**

- ESE Policy and Procedures
- Legal Compliance and Current Case Studies
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports
- Mental Health
- Disproportionate Discipline
- Moving Your Numbers: The Six Key Practices
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Understanding Poverty
- School Climate
- Florida B.E.S.T. Standards
- State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report
- Resolution
- Mediation
- Closing the Achievement Gap

## **ISRD Training**

Multiple training opportunities are offered each quarter to ISRD Districts in Florida's Heartland (HEC), North East (NEFEC), and Panhandle (PAEC) Regions. The focus of these trainings are increasing the participants' skills in data-driven decisions to maximize student outcomes, knowledge of ESE procedures and practices, and ESE Legal Compliance and Current Studies. Topics identified through the ISRD Needs Assessment Survey are the focal points of these trainings, including improving graduation

rates, decreasing dropout rates, addressing disproportionate discipline, mental health, alternatives to suspension, and closing the achievement gap for students with disabilities.

## **ISRD Newsletter**

Quarterly ISRD Newsletters are disseminated electronically to all ISRD stakeholders. The newsletter focuses on district initiatives, innovative practices, current research, and up-to-date professional resources.

	Annual Data July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024		Cumulative Data July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2023	
	Total Participants	Total Offerings	Total Participants	Total Offerings
Training				
Institutes and Conferences	742	5	6,051	54
Training Opportunities	2,019	23	14,466	277
Service Delivery				
Professional Learning Community (PLC) Book Walks	57	1	946	49
Collaborative Meetings	2,338	192	5,578	635
On-Site Technical Support	1,063	30	855	111
Peer-to-Peer Collaboration for ESE Administrators	158	6	13,864	399
Products	Total Recipients	Total Products	Total Recipients	Total Products
ISRD Newsletter	12,898	4	41,125	32
ISRD Annual Report	5,103	1	15,655	8

## Service Collaboration Achievement

ISRD supports Florida's goals of higher student achievement, skilled workforce and economic development, seamless articulation and maximum access, and quality efficient services.

## 2024-25 ISRD Advisory Council Members

**Ronda Bourn**  
*Director, Research and Accountability*  
NEFEC

**Mandy Brock**  
*ESE Director*  
Gilchrist County School District

**Donnita Butorac**  
*ESE Director*  
Holmes County School District

**Kelly Claude**  
*Executive Co-Director*  
FIN

**Dr. Lisa Dieker**  
*Pegasus Professor and Lockheed Martin Eminent Scholar*  
University of Central Florida

**Katherine Dustin**  
*Director of ESE*  
Sumter County School District

**JaSheena Ekhaton**  
*Executive Co-Director*  
FIN

**Donna Garcia**  
*Executive Director*  
HEC

**Janet Good**  
*Project Coordinator*  
PS / RtI - Technology

**Dr. Charlene Grecsek**  
*Executive Director*  
SEDNET

**Toyka Holden**  
*Manager*  
FDLRS-PAEC

**Belinda Crowson**  
*ESE Executive Director*  
Wakulla County School District

**Donna Phillips**  
*Director/Principal Investigator*  
Project 10: Transition Education Network

**Dr. Maria Pouncey**  
*Administrator of Instructional Services*  
PAEC

**Sallie Payne**  
*Administrator*  
FDLRS Admin

**Dr. Lesley Thompson**  
*Director of ESE*  
Monroe County School District

**Kelly Waters**  
*ESE Director*  
Suwannee County School District

## ISRD Member Districts

### Panhandle Region

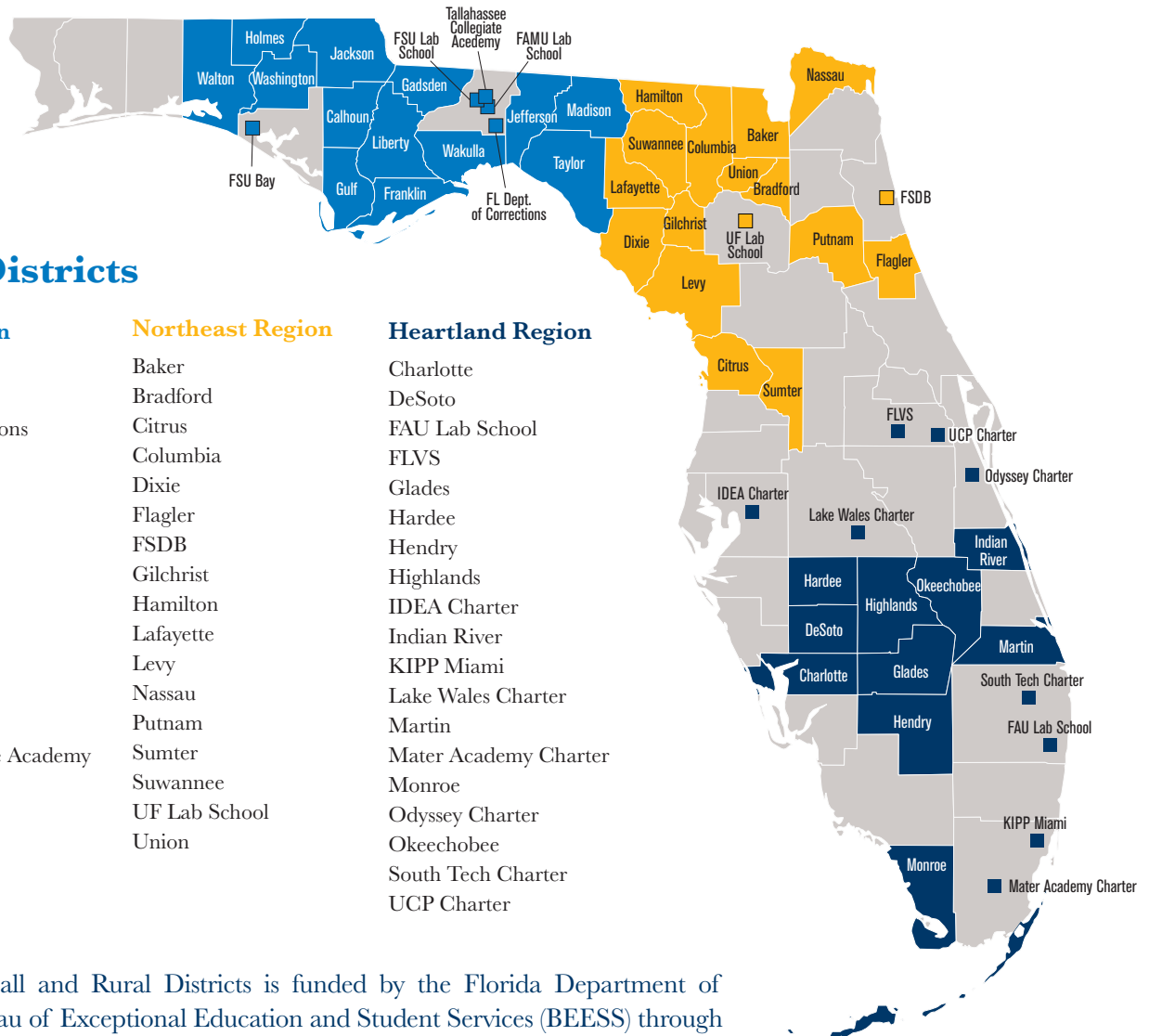
Calhoun  
FAMU Lab School  
FL Dept. of Corrections  
Franklin  
FSU Bay  
FSU Lab School  
Gadsden  
Gulf  
Holmes  
Jackson  
Jefferson  
Liberty  
Madison  
Tallahassee Collegiate Academy  
Taylor  
Wakulla  
Walton  
Washington

### Northeast Region

Baker  
Bradford  
Citrus  
Columbia  
Dixie  
Flagler  
FSDB  
Gilchrist  
Hamilton  
Lafayette  
Levy  
Nassau  
Putnam  
Sumter  
Suwannee  
UF Lab School  
Union

### Heartland Region

Charlotte  
DeSoto  
FAU Lab School  
FLVS  
Glades  
Hardee  
Hendry  
Highlands  
IDEA Charter  
Indian River  
KIPP Miami  
Lake Wales Charter  
Martin  
Mater Academy Charter  
Monroe  
Odyssey Charter  
Okeechobee  
South Tech Charter  
UCP Charter



Institute for Small and Rural Districts is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), Part B.

**Alissa Hingson, M. Ed.**  
*ISRD Project Administrator*  
hingsona@nefec.org

**Mandy Watson, M. Ed.**  
*ISRD Project Coordinator*  
watsonm@nefec.org

**Alicia Poole, M.S.**  
*ISRD Project Coordinator*  
poolea@nefec.org

**Stephanie Rojo**  
*ISRD Support Specialist*  
rojos@nefec.org