



Freda Reid, President
Mary Alice Myers, President-Elect
Patti Vickers, Secretary
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Dear Friends of Children:

The 1,100 members of the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP) are dedicated to promoting and advocating for the mental health and educational development of Florida's children, youth, and families in educational systems and communities. In its ongoing efforts to accomplish these tasks using best practices in the most ethical manner, FASP has developed several documents to assist FASP members, student services administrators, parents, and others who are concerned with the mental health and educational development of Florida's children.

The FASP Professional Issues Work Group developed several documents to address concerns regarding dual practice parameters, score discrepancy, high stakes testing and initial evaluations, which include:

- "Notice of Available Services" form;
- Policy guidelines for parameters of dual practice by School Psychologists;
- Guidelines for reviewing and accepting parent-initiated evaluations by private practitioners;
- FASP response to issues of timeliness for initial evaluations;
- FASP position paper on High Stakes Testing; and
- The 2003 FASP Legislative platform.

Three of the included documents pertain to *parent-initiated evaluations by private practitioners*. FASP suggests the first document, "*Notice of Available Services*" be provided to parents prior to private evaluations to inform them of services available, at no cost, via the public school system.

The second document, "*FASP Guidelines for Dual Practitioners*," clarifies the practice parameters for licensed school psychologists according to Florida Statutes 490.0121 as well as provides guidelines for ethical behaviors related to potential "conflict of interest" issues.

Third, the "*Best Practice Guidelines for Developing a District Evaluation Review Committee*" document is an example of a process for the review of Parent-Initiated Evaluations by Private Practitioners at the parent's expense.

"*FASP Response to Issue of Timelines for Initial Evaluations*" was a letter written to the DOE providing input regarding timelines for initial evaluations for Exceptional Student Education based on new expectations of the reauthorization of IDEA and updated standards of the National Association of School Psychologists.

The FASP position paper, "*Use of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in High Stakes Decision Making*," was developed by FASP President-Elect Mary Alice Myers, Ed.D., which resulted from FASP's concern for the potentially serious, far-reaching negative consequences for students and school systems when tests such as FCAT are used to make high stakes decisions; and finally, the *FASP 2003 Legislative Platform* gives a brief overview of legislation that FASP promotes and supports.

FASP hopes the enclosed documents will be beneficial in providing services to the students and families of Florida - we welcome your comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Freda M. Reid, President
Florida Association of School Psychologists