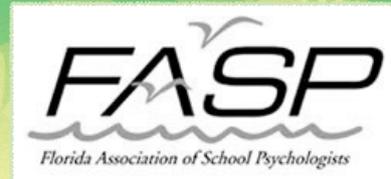


FLORIDA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL SOCIAL  
WORKERS



## ***Dear Colleagues,***

Advocacy is a core and central responsibility for many helping professionals and is a theme that runs throughout the vision, mission, work plan, and organizational structure of the Florida School Counselor Association (FSCA), the Florida Association of School Social Workers (FASSW), and the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP). As allied professions, we are committed to advocate for our students and families, for effective schools and policies, and for our profession as Student Services personnel. To this end, FSCA, FASSW, and FASP are partnering to promote our value through advocacy, leadership, collaboration, and systemic change at the state level. Our goal is to empower all colleagues with the knowledge, skills, partnerships, and resources that promote student and school success.

If you are reading the newspaper, watching television, and talking to your colleagues at school, you know that there appear to be many areas of change on the horizon that stand to weaken our profession and to threaten the excellent work that we do for our students and their families. Across the country the difficult economic times find state and local policy makers attempting to balance a budget on the backs of state workers in general and educators in particular. While the focus right now is on Tallahassee and its budget and legislative changes, it will be at the local school and district level that many of the real resource allocation decisions will be made. We, thus, will have to have a multi-pronged approach.

Each of our associations has a small core of dedicated volunteer leaders who are working hard to manage their organizations and to deliver services to their members. Advocacy, however, is not a job for only a few leaders. We need you, our members, to stand up and to be counted for your own profession and for our student services partners. One way to do this is to get the word out about the importance of advocacy and especially about membership in our organizations. When you join our associations, you provide support and a stronger voter block that we need to advocate more effectively in Tallahassee, among the school districts, and among our stake holders.

We will be working to provide highly relevant and useful networking opportunities, information, resources, and tools to launch a multi-pronged approach to ensure that Florida schools remain strong and can contribute to the economic recovery and vitality of our state. By combining our strengths, we can get more done in the way of position statements, data collection, and sample documents that will fuel individual or group advocacy efforts.

Stay tuned, get busy right now connecting with other professionals in your area, and start getting to know the key policy makers who may be making important decisions about the lives of students and educators in the next year.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith".

Chris Smith, President  
Florida School Counselor Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverley Wilks".

Beverley Wilks, President  
Florida Association of School Social Workers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Ogan Murray".

Monica Ogan Murray, President  
Florida Association of School Psychologists