



PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, March 31, 2009
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
404 House Office Building

Action Packet

Larry Cretul
Speaker

Anitere Flores
Chair

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

3/31/2009 2:00:00PM

Location: 404 HOB

Summary: No Bills Considered

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

3/31/2009 2:00:00PM

Location: 404 HOB

Attendance:

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Anitere Flores (Chair)	X		
Janet Adkins	X		
Dwight Bullard	X		
Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed	X		
Kurt Kelly	X		
Martin Klar	X		
John Legg	X		
Kelli Stargel	X		
Michael Weinstein	X		
Totals:	9	0	0

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

3/31/2009 2:00:00PM

Location: 404 HOB

Other Business Appearance:

Funding of University FDLRS

Dr. David Childers (State Employee) - Information Only

FDLRS; UF College of Medicine, Jacksonville

12878 La Costa Court

Jacksonville FL 32225

Phone: (904) 633-0750

FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCE SYSTEM (FDLRS) UNIVERSITY CENTERS

The FDLRS University Centers were established in the early 1980's by the Florida Legislature. The intent is to provide school districts and the children and families they serve with direct access to the resources and expertise at Universities in Florida.

- **The FDLRS University Centers *fill a service void.***
 - The interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluation and consultation services provided by the FDLRS University Centers are neither available through doctor's offices (even for those families with health insurance), CARD, the FDLRS Associate Centers, nor school districts. Hence, children are referred to these centers by schools, doctors, parents, and other agencies (because these centers offer *different* expertise and services), as described in more detail below.
- **The FDLRS University Centers are solely funded as a line item in the state budget – the centers receive no additional funding through DOE BEESS.**
 - This funding supports a network of five Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System Multidisciplinary Educational Services Centers. These centers receive no other source of funding. *If they are zeroed out they cease to exist* as a resource for school districts and the children and families they serve.

Myths or Misunderstandings about the FDLRS University Centers

Myth: The FDLRS University Centers duplicate services that can be provided in the private sector and paid for by insurance.

Fact: School districts, parents, physicians, and other state and local agencies **refer** children to these specialized multidisciplinary centers for expertise in addressing the unique needs of students with complex educational, behavioral, medical, and social-emotional problems **who have not responded to the interventions already in place** (i.e. students considered "**intervention-resistors**" and those who are at high-risk of school failure) and **who require specialized multidisciplinary evaluations to provide diagnostic clarification and guidance in implementing evidence-based interventions.** The **comprehensive, evidence-based, interdisciplinary diagnostic evaluation, consultation, and parent-support services provided by the FDLRS University Centers are neither available through other agencies** (such as CARD and the FDLRS Associate Centers) **nor within local communities through private providers** (even for families with health insurance). Many of these struggling children have had previous evaluations by a range of professionals. The evaluations provided by the FDLRS University Centers are very different from evaluations available through other sources: families and schools receive information on the child's current learning needs and detailed recommendations on how the child's unique needs can be met at school. Evaluations from the private sector do not work with families and schools to develop an integrated interdisciplinary intervention plan targeted at maximizing a child's learning potential and school outcome.

Myth: The FDLRS University Centers duplicate services provided by the Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD).

Fact: CARD may provide initial screening for Autism Spectrum Disorders and refer a child to FDLRS University Centers, which, unlike CARD, perform diagnostic evaluations. Following evaluation and identification of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, FDLRS University Center and CARD staff often collaborate in developing comprehensive intervention and family support plans based on results of the diagnostic evaluation.