



Solidarity Report

“I respect this grind, I respect this process, and I respect what it takes to be GREAT!”

~ Jalen Hurts

The More You Know: Money

There has been a recent uptick in allegations of inappropriate behaviors related to fundraising and collecting money. It is important that you know the expectations and rules that govern the process for handling, receiving, and managing money.

Failure to follow VCS policy can lead to discipline and possibly termination. This is very serious, and if you are expected to collect money or fundraise, you need to know the rules and you should be trained. If there is no one available to train you, then you SHOULD NOT engage in the process until you can be provided training.

First, the VCSB has two policies that you need to know about; Policy 707 - Fundraising and Sponsorships (see below) and Policy 719 - Internal Accounts. The board is in the process of amending Policy 707, which is why it is shown below. All VCS policies can be found on Board Docs (<https://www.vcsedu.org/school-board/school-board-policies>).

FISCAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

NUMBER 707

FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIPS

Fundraising and sponsorship activities for school or district projects and activities conducted by district school-based organizations or outside organizations, (as the terms are defined in School Board Policy 705) shall not be in conflict with any district program or School Board policies.

- A. Each fundraising or sponsorship raising activity shall be planned and advertised to finance a specified objective. The intended use for the funds must be clearly stated in the advertisement. Sponsors or other employees supervising fundraising activities shall be responsible for being knowledgeable of the district requirements related to fundraising activities.
- B. All fundraising or sponsorship raising activities shall have the prior written approval from its sponsor and the principal (or designee) of the School Board.
- C. Raffles and other activities of chance shall not be conducted for school-connected activities.
- D. The installation of games requiring the student to deposit money is prohibited.
- E. All collections must be deposited in accordance with School Board Policy 719 - Internal Accounts, and all expenditures must be made in accordance with that policy, and any procedures established by the Superintendent.
- F. No elementary or middle school fundraising activities may utilize students in door-to-door sales.

Legal Authority:
Sections 1001.41(2), 1001.42(2), Florida Statutes

At no time should money be collect via electronic apps. Venmo, Zelle, Apple Pay, PayPal, etc., are not to be used for school fundraisers, to collect donations for schools, or your classroom. You should never co-mingle funds raised or received in your personal bank account. Doing this creates a perception of inappropriateness and will lead to an investigation by the Office of Professional Standards.

Additionally, any money you receive must be receipted and deposited with the appropriate individual (Bookkeeper) that same day. DO NOT hold money in your desk or room overnight. If the Bookkeeper is out or unavailable, ask your administrator to provide guidance (preferably in writing).

Never put school funds in your purse or wallet. Again, perception is everything.

You can never be too cautious when it comes to handling money. Most individuals never set out to break the rules, but when distractions occur or we get busy doing other things, we create vulnerabilities which can lead to serious consequences.

If you have any questions about handling money, please contact your steward or member representative.



VUE Celebrates Black History Month!

In honor of Black History Month, the Volusia United Educators are sponsoring a contest open to all Volusia County Schools students.

Two (2) winners will be selected at each level of instruction (elementary, middle, and high school).

Students are eligible to win a \$50 gift card.

The theme for Black History Month in 2025 is "African Americans and Labor". The theme was developed by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

The theme highlights the important role that African Americans' labor has played in shaping the United States' history. It also explores how labor has been central to Black Americans' survival and empowerment.

The categories include visual arts and essay. For more information, please contact Dr. Lekita Howard at Lekita.howard@floridaea.org.



VUE Action Alert

During last week's school board meeting, VUE members spoke to the board about the negative impacts of over testing. We posted a HOT TOPICS report that provided the details and links to public participation and comments by certain board members (click [here](#) to read the report).

We are asking that you send an email from your personal email account to the members of the board to share YOUR personal story about how the VBAs, DIAs, I-Ready, Unit, Chapter, and other assessments impact your ability to teach the content (stay up to date with the pacing guide) and your students' ability to learn.

"Tests don't teach kids," stated Board Chair Jamie Haynes. Now it the time to take action. We have at least three board members who are listening. We need to continue to share the truth in order to get the relief that you and your students need.

The individual email addresses for each board member are listed below. Please remember to use your personal email, be professional and tell the truth. Talking points may include:

- *negative impacts to instructional learning time*
- *rigid testing schedules (no flexibility in testing dates)*
- *extended time allowed for testing- some students test for more than 3 hours*
- *anxiety and test stress on students*
- *redundant process - data from teacher formative/summative assessments, PM 1 & 2 should be sufficient indicators of student progress*
- *retests & test prep cause students to lose academic instructional time in current classes*

Ms. Jamie Haynes – jmhaynes@volusia.k12.fl.us
Mr. Ruben Colon - rcolon@volusia.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Donna Brosemer - dbroseme@volusia.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Krista Goodrich - kngoodri@volusia.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Jessie Thompson - jjthomps@volusia.k12.fl.us

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your steward or member representative. Solidarity!



Calendar Reminders



- February 5, 2025** - No Early Release due to FTE
February 6, 2025 - Testing training for MS during PLC - PERT Assessment
Week of February 10th - No Meeting Week- Midterm grades due Wednesday 2/12 (PLCs can occur on Thurs. or Fri. only)
February 17, 2025 - **President's Day, no school**
February 19, 2025 - **ERPL CANCELLED**

VUE Support Staff Appreciation Party!

Your union knows that our support professionals are the backbone of our district. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our unsung heroes and we want to show our paras and office specialists a little love and appreciation.

We are hosting an appreciation party for support staff on Friday, February 7th at the VUE office from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. We will have food, drinks, raffles, door prizes and a rooting tooting trivia contest. Come and join us for a fun filled evening.

This event is also an opportunity to share the benefits of belonging to the only union within VCS. We encourage you to bring a friend who has not yet joined and help them to learn why "*IT'S BETTER IN A UNION!*"

Please RSVP by clicking this link, <https://forms.office.com/r/FeVU6VmV6W>

PLEASE JOIN OUR
Cupid's Appreciation Party
for Support Staff

FEBRUARY 7
AT 4:30PM-7PM

1381 EDUCATORS RD
DAYTONA BEACH 32124

PLEASE RSVP TO
386-238-1605

JOIN US FOR FOOD,
TRIVIA AND PRIZES!




VUE Professional Learning

Your union continues to provide you with top notch professional learning that is designed to meet your needs. VUE PL is facilitated by members for members. The following face-to-face ESE courses are currently being offered.

Make sure that you register today using MyPGS. There are only a limited number of seats and they are filling up quickly!


If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lekita Howard at lekita.howard@floridaea.org.



ESE IEP/IDEA Professional Learning

Presented by Volusia United Educators
1381 Educators Rd, Daytona Beach, FL 32124
Facilitators: Paulette McKibbins-Shed & Jeff Turner

Tuesday February 11, 2025 * 5:00 – 8:00pm




Course# 72058 Session# 112607 Format: Face2Face

This course will be an overview of federal, state and district requirements as participants will understand the federal law governing educational requirements for students with disabilities such as:


- Understand the parameters of IDEA educational requirements for students with disabilities
- Understand the purpose and criteria for quality inclusion practices in public schools
- Recognize the consequences of non-compliance
- Foster the teachers consistent use of the IEP and involvement with the IEP Team
- Broaden the teacher's knowledge and skills in making accommodations and meeting the needs of ESE students.

In-Service Points: 4



ESE Building Relationships with Adults Professional Learning

Presented by Volusia United Educators
Facilitator: Paulette McKibbins-Shed & Jeffrey Turner



Course# 72061 Session# 112608 Format: Face2Face

Tuesday February 18th, 2025 5:00pm – 8:00pm

In this class participants will learn:

- resources available to build positive relationships with adults
- strategies effective in creating a hospitable/comfortable classroom environment
- importance of classroom layout and how it impacts SWD
- Importance of classroom structure and consistent rule enforcement
- how to effectively give procedural clarity to meet the needs of all students
- different models of ESE services
- to implement strategies to develop on-going dialogue
- who in the school community can provide ESE services

In-Service Points: 4

2025-2026 Global Learning Fellowship - NEA

Since the inception of the NEA Foundation's Global Learning Fellowship (GLF) in 2011, we have been thrilled by the desire among educators to bring a global perspective into their classrooms, and to help their students thrive in our increasingly interconnected world. Now more than ever, the advancement of global teaching and learning across the United States is in need of support.

NEA looks forward to continuing to advance this important cause with our next cohort of NEA member educators in the 2025-2026 Global Learning Fellowship. We're **thrilled to announce that the 2025-2026 GLF Application is now open through Monday April 7th!** Please refer to the GLF overview and application link [here](#), as well as application instructions [here](#).

NEA is seeking a diverse group of educators for this Fellowship. Applicants must be current public school educators with responsibility for creating lesson plans and delivering classroom instruction to PreK-12th grade students, and have three or more years of teaching experience.

Please find the application announcement attached, featuring last year's GLF cohort on their summer field study in Costa Rica! If you or an interested applicant have any questions, our GLF team is hosting a virtual information session on Wednesday February 5th at 7pm EST ([Zoom link here](#)), or you may email the GLF team any time at grantsandprograms@nea.org.

Thank you for all you do to support educators. We look forward to receiving applications and to continuing the advancement of global learning all across the country.



THE NEA FOUNDATION GLOBAL LEARNING FELLOWSHIP

THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM



THE FELLOWSHIP INCLUDES:

- Workshops and webinars with global competency and education.
- Fellows' independent study followed by group reflection and discussion.
- Group mentoring.
- A two-day in-person conference.
- Completion of a capstone project incorporating one or more of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals into classroom instructions.
- A 10-day international field study to examine another country's education system, culture, and historical context.

APPLICATION DEADLINE MONDAY, APRIL 7

APPLY & LEARN MORE
NEAFOUNDATION.ORG

FOR QUESTIONS
GRANTSANDPROGRAMS@NEA.ORG

