



**District Advisory Council (DAC) 2024-2025**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2025**  
**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Howell Center, 3955 W. Pensacola Street**

	What	Who	Outcome
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Dr. Michelle Gayle, Deputy Superintendent	
2.	Superintendent's Welcome	Superintendent Rocky Hanna	
3.	Approval of Agenda	Jaquelyn Steele, Chair	Vote
4.	Approval of Minutes (December 2025)	Jaquelyn Steele, Chair	Vote
5.	Policy Updates: None to date	Wallace Knight, Policy Director	Information/Vote
6.	Legislative Overview	Jessica Janasiewicz, Government Consultant	Information
7.	Big Bend Crime Solvers Program <a href="https://bbcrimesolvers.org/">https://bbcrimesolvers.org/</a>	Sharon Ofani, Director	Information
8.	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Programs	Brook Brunner Director of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Information
9.	DAC Legislative Platform	Jacquelyn Steel, Chair Dr. Michelle Gayle	Information & Discussion
10.	SAC Questions	Jaquelyn Steele, Chair	Information
11.	Wrap up on Issue	Jaquelyn Steele, Chair	Information
	Adjourn		

*\*Please note that one or more Board members may attend this meeting.*

**Next meeting Thursday, February 6, 2025**



①

District Advisory Council  
Thursday, December 5th, 2024  
In-Person Meeting: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M

- I. **Schools/Members Attending:** Jacquelyn Steele (Chair/ Conley), Demaris Barrios (Vice-Chair/Desoto Trail/ Montford), Kristen Hunter (Secretary/Sullivan), Kristy Ward (ACE-Transitions/Gretchen Everhart), Joanne Clark (ACE), Stephan Davis (Astoria Park), Linda Edson (Buck Lake/Swift Creek), Daniel Zeruto (Buck Lake), James Michael Sutherland (Canopy Oaks), Brittanica Davidson (Canopy Oaks), Taita Scott (Deerlake), Nathaniel Wiernert (DeSoto Trail), Christy Filter (Early Childhood/Cobb), Dr. Karen Minert (ESE), Cheryl Collier-Brown (Fairview), Todd Lanter (Ft. Braden), Sophia Perkins (Hartsfield), Katie Lyons (Hawks Rise), Stephanie Santiago (KLES), Dr. Lousi Dilbert (LCSB: Dr. Marcus Nicolas), Rett Boyd (LCSB: Laurie Cox), Marian Deadwiley (Leon), Andreka Rittman (Nims), Sandra Alber (Oak Ridge), Tiffany Lee (PACE), Brandi Andrews (Roberts), Laci Moore (Ruediger), Heather Daugherty (Ruediger), Chris Weider (SAIL), Susan Jones (Springwood), Amy Alvis (Superintendent Appointee- Special/GLC), Jason Koerner (Superintendent appointee-Middle), Cari Molinero (Woodville), Jennifer Pantero (Chiles), Roshanna Beard (Apalachee)
- II. **District Members/Visitors:** Dr. Michelle Gayle (Deputy Superintendent), Stacey Turknett (PICS), Jamie Holleman (School Choice), Regina Browning (Director of ACE), Kelli Walker (Volunteers/Mentors)
- III. **Excused Members:** Scott Whittle (Parliamentary/District Staff/SAIL), Stacy Ball (Chaires), Erica Stelter (Ft. Braden), Kelly Willis (Gilchrist), Amanda Beavis (LCSB: Laurie Cox), Lucy White (LCSB: Laurie Cox), Sarah Latimer (Leon), Katie Crawley (LCVS), Shelly Green (Lincoln), Dr. Marcus Scott (RAA), Johnitta Wells (Rickards), Melissa E. Cooper (Rickards), Leah Hutchinson (Riley), LaToyer Hankerson (Sabal Palm), Glondetra Arnold (Sealey), Desmond Cole (Godby), April Knight (Title I), Kerri Anderson (Superintendent Appointee: Elementary/WT Moore), Renee Gadson (Bond), Brenetta Lawrence (Bond)
- IV. **Special Guest:** Joe Sisk (City of TLH), Jenna Duncan (City of TLH), Ivory Miller (Family Resource Center: FRC), Deondra Williams (FRC), Ashley Leland (FRC), Beth Young (Ft. Braden), Martina Taylor (LCTA/Leon)
- V. **Approval of Agenda:** Cheryl Collier-Brown motioned to approve the December 5, 2024, agenda, which Demaris Barrios seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes:** Cheryl Collier-Brown moved to approve the November 7, 2024, minutes, which Nate Wienert seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- VII. **Public Infrastructure:** Hawks Rise and Springwood Joe Sisk & Jenna Duncan presented- Safe Routes to Schools- a Federally and Locally funded program. This is a growing movement throughout the US to motivate students to walk and ride their bikes to school. This program removes barriers like missing sidewalks or safe routes to walk and ride to school. Local

②

District Advisory Council  
Thursday, December 5th, 2024  
In-Person Meeting: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M

municipalities across the state of Florida submit applications to FDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and if approved, the projects are funded by FDOT in the five-year work program. You can support this program by scheduling school walking/biking events during school hours. Applications from 2022 are being resubmitted for Hawks Rise (Heritage Ridge Road) and Springwood Elementary (North Settlers Blvd). Charles Wu (606-1549) is the contact who can assist with county sidewalks for roads around rural schools such as Woodville, Chaires, etc.

- VIII. Family Resource Center:** Deondra Williams, Ivory Miller, and Ashley Leland presented- The Cross-Creek Family Resource Center is a one-stop location for resume assistance, job applications, counseling, etc, to connect individuals with people who can assist them in the areas in need. The center is at 2002 Old St. Augustine Road, Bldg A, Suite 50. There is a computer lab for job applications, etc. Students can apply for housing vouchers, work on school work on the computers, find tutors for students, Healing Hearts (M 11-11:30), etc. Please reach out if you are at a school location and know of students or families who might be in need. Everything at the center is free. If you would like to volunteer, please stop by or reach out. Funded by the Children's Service Council. Contact Ivory Miller at 850-273-1050 or Deondra Williams at 850-273-0911 for more information. The center is open on Monday & Wednesday, 9 am-5 pm; Tuesday, 10 am-6 pm; Thursday, 10 am-5 pm; Friday, 9 am-2 pm; and the second Saturday of each month, 9 am-4 pm.
- IX. LCS Volunteer & Mentor Programs:** Kelli Walker presented- [walker7@leonschools.net](mailto:walker7@leonschools.net) 850-487-7800 The LCS Volunteer program began in 1969 with just 12 volunteers. There are so many ways to volunteer! First, complete the online volunteer form. You must complete this each new school year. Volunteers can serve in an academic capacity, such as assisting in the library, judging an academic competition, etc. This is a level 1 clearance to check all 50 states for any sexual assault/harassment. Mentoring occurs on LCS property, so all mentors are fingerprinted through LCS, and the county pays for the fingerprinting costs. Each mentor is assigned one student for at least a semester. We set a district record in 2023-2024 with 19,249 registered volunteers. During the 2023-2024 school year, 139,417.50 volunteer hours and 15 133.50 mentor hours were logged. This came to a total of 154,551 hours. According to the Independent Sector, volunteer hours are worth \$31.61 per hour. This was a total value of community involvement of \$4,885,357.11. The total value of community involvement equates to 74 people working for free for the district. If you know anyone who can spare 30-45 minutes per week, please get in touch with Kelli to get started with the mentor program.
- X. Adult & Community Education:** Regina Browning presented- Two locations in Tallahassee and online. ACE has four main programs- GED Prep, Adult High School, Co-enrollment, and ESOL. ACE is "A Great Start for a Better Future" and a stepping stone to post-secondary education, the workforce, or the military. Tuition is \$31.50 per semester, is part of the LCS framework, and utilizes the same calendar. You can apply online. ESOL and other programs accept students from 16 years old. You can take the GED at Ace by registering online at [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com). Career Pathways

**District Advisory Council**  
**Thursday, December 5th, 2024**  
**In-Person Meeting: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M**

Advisor is available on campus to all students. Integrated Education and Training (IET) program. The City of Tallahassee TEMPO for ages 16-24, which pays for tuition, GED study guide, and testing. FAMU Trio is for students of any age and pays for testing only. Career source Capital Region is for anyone of any age and assists with testing as needed. Leon County Schools graduation coach Teresa Dennis assists those aged 16-18 with paying for tuition, GED study guide, and testing.

**XI. School Choice 2024-2025:** Jamie Holleman presented – The School Choice Application is only available through the Focus Parent Portal. Parents who do not have a Parent Portal account but wish to submit a School Choice Application must register for an account. If your children ARE NOT SHOWING in YOUR portal: Are your children currently enrolled in LCS or WERE previously enrolled in LCS (including charter, home school, private testing, PK Screening, or received state scholarship funding)? DO NOT create an online application. Contact your school or [focushelp@leonschools.net](mailto:focushelp@leonschools.net) to add your child to YOUR portal. Are the students BRAND NEW to the district (FIRST TIME)? If so, complete the ONLINE ENROLLMENT with FULL LEGAL NAME and REQUIRED DOCUMENTS- Submit and FINISH to complete the application before you can complete the school choice application. When submitting for multiple children, complete the form for each child by clicking "Save" and then selecting the next child, etc. Parents applying for Sibling Support must enter the student's name in the sibling list at the bottom of the application to be considered for Sibling Support. Parents make the appropriate selections for various statuses, such as Active Military, Special Circumstances, etc. Do not include each description, and include all supporting documentation by using the file upload at the bottom of the screen. Parents may select up to 3 program choices. After applying, parents will receive a confirmation email. Once you are approved for school choice, with good attendance and good behavior, you can stay at the same school if you would like.

**XII. Break-out Session: Legislative Priorities:** The DAC Members who asked to be part of the committee include Kristy Ward, Brittania Davidson, Nathaniel Wienert, Dr. Karen Minert, Sandra Alber, Laci Moore, Heather Daugherty, Martina Taylor, Scott Mazur, and Heather Garcia. The Florida School Boards Association 2025 Legislative Platform, in partnership with parents, families, students, and staff, supports the following legislative recommendations for increased student success. Hurricane Relief and Community Resilience, Administrative Efficacy, Attendance and Accountability, School Safety and Law Enforcement Support, Education Funding and Fiscal Responsibility.

**XIII. S.A.C. Questions:** No questions at this time

**XIV. Wrap-Up:**

Upcoming community events:

4



**District Advisory Council**  
**Thursday, December 5th, 2024**  
**In-Person Meeting: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M**

- Join us for a FREE community celebration! Saturday, January 11, 2025, 8:00-11:00 AM for free hamburgers, healthy groceries, and fun! Pinewood Place 2940 Grade Road, Tallahassee, FL 32312
- 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Daddy-Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 1, 2025, early dance 5:00-7:00 pm and late dance 7:30-9:30 pm. Online pre-sale \$40 Dad/\$30 Daughter At the door- \$45 Dad/\$35 Daughter at The Moon 1105 E. Lafayette St, Tallahassee, FL 32301
- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother-Son Dance on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 6 PM at The Moon – ticket link and prices coming soon!

**XV. Adjourn: 7:36 p.m.**

# How to apply for School Choice 2025-2026

**The School Choice Application is only available in the Focus Parent Portal from January 8<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

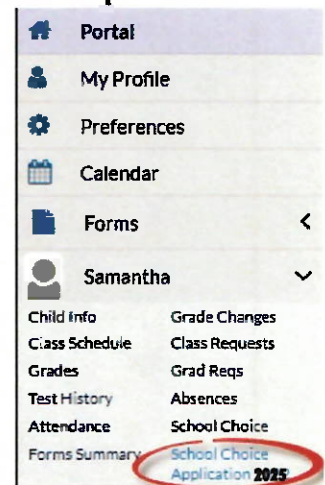
- **Do you have a parent portal account?** Parents who do not have a Parent Portal account but wish to submit a **School Choice Application** you must register for an account.  
[Click here to create a new account](#) → [Parent Portal Registration](#)
- **If you have an account, click here to log in to your portal** → [Focus Parent Portal](#)
- Do you see your children? If so follow the directions to complete the application.
- If your children **are NOT showing** in YOUR portal: *Are your children currently enrolled in LCS or WERE previously enrolled in LCS (including charter, home school, private testing, PK screening, or received state scholarship funding)?* **DO NOT create an online application.** Contact your school or [focushelp@leonschools.net](mailto:focushelp@leonschools.net) for assistance in adding your child to YOUR portal.
- **Are the students BRAND NEW to the district (FIRST TIME)?** If so, then complete the ONLINE ENROLLMENT with FULL LEGAL NAME and REQUIRED DOCUMENTS - Submit and FINISH to complete the application before you can complete the school choice application.

## How to apply for School Choice

**School Choice opens on January 8<sup>th</sup> and closes on March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- **Now you can log in to your [Focus Parent Portal](#) account and complete the steps below.**

1. Click on the child's name then click on "School Choice Application".
2. The child's basic information will appear at the top of the Application.
  - a. **When submitting for multiple children**, complete the form for each child by clicking "Save" and then selecting the next child, etc.
3. **Parents applying for Sibling Support** must enter the student's name in the sibling list at the bottom of the application to be considered for Sibling Support. Click **Save** beside the student name.
4. Parents make the appropriate selections for various statuses such as Active Military, Special Circumstances, etc. **Do note the description for each and include all supporting documentation by using the file upload at the bottom of the screen.**



5. **Parents may select up to 3 Program choices.**  
 You may select up to 3 school/program choices, with (1) being the most desired. Once parents have selected their choice(s), make sure to click Save at the bottom of the screen.
  - a. Make sure to review the program notes listed for each program, some magnet programs require additional steps.
  - b. If you wish to make changes to your application, you can go back into your portal to make changes, then save and submit. You have until March 1st to make any changes.
6. Click "Save" or "Save & Print" to apply. Parents will receive a confirmation email following.

**If you have questions after visiting our website please email [Schoolchoice@leonschools.net](mailto:Schoolchoice@leonschools.net).**

# JOIN US FOR A FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!



SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025

8:00 - 11:00 AM

FREE HAMBURGERS,  
HEALTHY GROCERIES & FUN!!!

PINEWOOD PLACE

2940 GRADY ROAD TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32312

GREAT FUTURES START [HERE](#).

ALL NATIONS  
Church

  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF THE BIG BEND

 LEON COUNTY  
SCHOOLS



# PERIOD POVERTY COMMUNITY DRIVE

A Period Product Supply Drive will occur in Tallahassee-Leon County from **January 13, 2025 to January 31, 2025** at various locations and will wrap-up with **Community Wide "Stuff the Truck" event on January 31, 2025 from 7:30am-5:30pm.**

Period poverty affects many individuals in our community who struggle to access or afford menstrual products. To address this, **FAMU's Free the Period, FSU's Alliance for Black Women, FSU's Women Student Union, Period FSU, Second Harvest of the Big Bend, The Oasis Center for Women & Girls, & The Tallahassee-Leon County CSWG** are launching a community-wide drive to collect period products.

We are calling on the community to **donate items such as pads, tampons, liners, reusable period underwear, and menstrual cups.** If your business or organization is interested in becoming a collection site or you want more information, please contact [Danielle.Dozier@theoasiscenter.net](mailto:Danielle.Dozier@theoasiscenter.net) to sign-up!

## JANUARY COLLECTION SITES

**Children's Home Society:** 1801 Miccosukee Commons Dr.

**FAMU CAMPUS:** College of Pharmacy, Housing Offices, Free the Period at FAMU, & School of Allied Health Sciences

**FSU CAMPUS:** Alliance for Black Women, College of Communication & Information, Sorority Houses, College of Social Work, & Women's Student Union

**Junior League of Tallahassee:** 404 E. 6th Ave.

**Oasis Center for Women & Girls:** 3064 Highland Oaks Ter.

**United Faculty of Florida:** 115 N. Calhoun St., Suite 6

**Willing Hearts Creative Counseling:** 1210 E. Park Ave.

*More locations are added daily!*

*Check out the FB Event for the most up to date list of locations.*

## STUFF THE TRUCK

**Friday, January 31st: 7:30am-5:30pm**  
**St. Johns Episcopal Church Parking Lot**  
**(Corner of Call & Gadsden - Look for Second Harvest Truck)**





DJ DEMP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

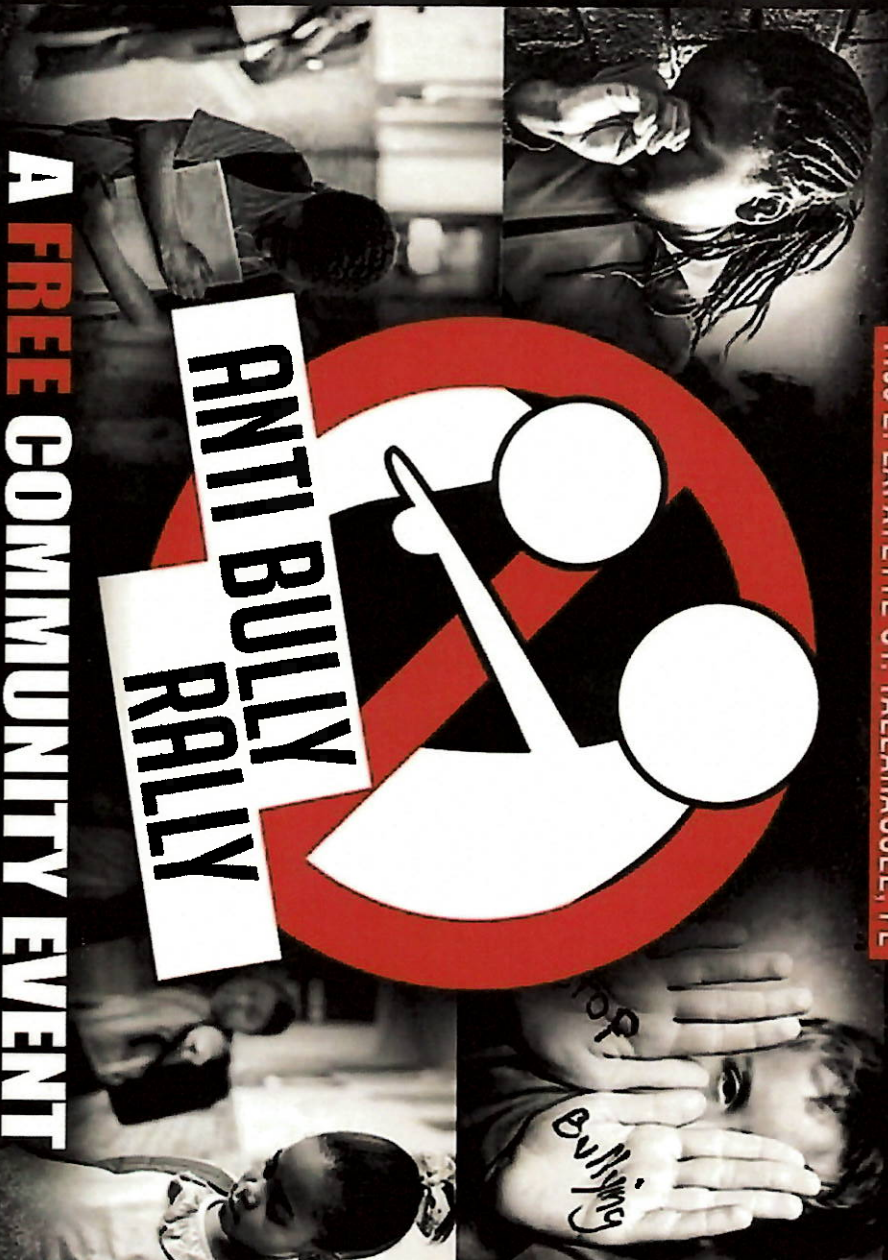
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11**



# DEMP | 2025 WEEK

12PM-3PM

1105 E. LAFAYETTE ST. TALLAHASSEE, FL



**A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

*The* **MOON**

1105 E. LAFAYETTE ST. TALLAHASSEE, FL



Tallahassee



Whole  
Foods

Humana  
Healthy Horizons





# The Snow Queen

presented by the Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers



Thursday, January 23 & Friday, January 24 at 7:30PM



For tickets and more information,  
scan the QR code or visit

[tallahasseeirishstepdancers.com/snowqueen](http://tallahasseeirishstepdancers.com/snowqueen)

Follow us on social media!

Instagram & TikTok [tallyirishdancers](https://www.tallyirishdancers.com)

Facebook [Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers](https://www.facebook.com/TallahasseeIrishStepDancers)

Website [tallahasseeirishstepdancers.com](http://tallahasseeirishstepdancers.com)

