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Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Q&A Guidance for Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Schools

The purpose of this Q&A document is to provide additional guidance and clarification regarding FDOE's guidance to school districts related to COVID-19 closures. Commissioner Corcoran has made it clear that all decisions are being made with compassion and grace at the forefront.

K-12 EDUCATION - School Districts with DJJ Schools:

1. Q: How does the recommendation from the FDOE Press Release on March 17, 2020, for all public and private K-12 school closings through April 15, 2020 impact DJJ schools?

A: Each school district should develop instructional and academic continuity learning plans for all students, including all DJJ schools. The plans should include ways to implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students. School districts and DJJ schools should determine how they will meet the requirements of their DJJ cooperative agreement and/or contract for educational services (e.g., transition plans, progress monitoring, educational input for treatment team, and transition services).

- **For residential facilities and detention centers**, the following two options should be considered by the district when determining the instructional continuity and academic learning plans.
 1. Blended learning and classroom face-to-face instruction should follow the guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance specific to COVID-19 in Florida](#). A few examples are below:
 - ✓ Conduct daily temperature and symptom screening of staff before entering the facility.
 - ✓ Enhance cleaning and sanitation, specifically between each class when students transition.
 - ✓ Maintain no more than 10 people in a classroom or instructional setting.
 2. Provide instruction virtually or through other non-classroom-based means, such as distance learning as feasible and appropriate.
- **For non-residential day treatment and prevention schools**, the district is encouraged to operate virtually or through other non-classroom-based means to the greatest extent possible to implement distance learning. In the event the

district's instructional plan includes blended learning or face-to-face instruction, the CDC guidelines should be followed.

2. Q: Are waivers available in DJJ schools for missed instructional DAYS?

A: Given that the impact of instructional days missed due to COVID-19 is yet to be determined, the FDOE is refraining from making any decision related to missed instructional days until long-term impacts can be realized. As a reminder, districts do not need the state's approval to use available calendar days to remain in compliance with the minimum instructional days required by law, per F.S. 1003.01(11)(a) for DJJ schools.

3. Q: How do school districts plan for distance learning in DJJ schools?

A: The district should consider the following:

- Include teachers of DJJ schools to the same extent as all other district teachers in training and support for distance learning.
- Identify plans for students and staff for any unmet technology needs.

4. Q: Are all state assessments, including the Florida Common Assessment for DJJ schools, cancelled?

A: Yes. All remaining assessments for school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten and K-12 assessments are cancelled for the 2019-2020 school year. Requirements for graduation and promotion, and students' final course grades will be evaluated as though those assessments which were cancelled did not exist.

5. Q: How can DJJ schools support students with IEPs or 504 plans?

A: Each student with an IEP, or 504 plan, should be included in the school district's plan for continuity of learning to the same extent as all other students. This plan may include virtual instruction, as well as virtual specialized instruction and related services to the extent practicable. All areas of the student's IEP or 504 must be considered. Any and all required evaluations, IEP meetings etc. may also be held virtually to the extent practicable. If there is any type of delay, the nature and extent of the delay and a plan to move as quickly as possible to prevent further delay should be documented. IEP and 504 teams should monitor each student's progress and determine what, if any, remediation may be needed upon return to the student's placement. In the event the district's instructional plan includes blended learning or face-to-face instruction, the CDC guidelines must be followed. Additional information from the U.S. Department of Education on Protecting Students' Civil Rights during COVID-19 can be found at the links below.

- [Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak - March 2020](#)

- [Fact Sheet Protecting Students' Civil Rights During COVID-19 Response](#)

FDOE will re-review its guidance every 15 days in accordance with the March 15, 2020 interim guidance from the CDC.

Any potential barriers to the creation or implementation of the continuity plans should be addressed by district leadership teams. For additional guidance and support, please contact Carla Greene, Juvenile Justice Education Program Director at FDOE at Carla.Greene@fldoe.org or 850-245-0983.