Opening Florida’s Schools to Re-Open Florida’s Economy

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020
“Our number one goal is to ensure the safety and security of students and to provide a great education.”

- Governor Ron DeSantis
• The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is working to help Florida’s entire education family return to the schools that enable Florida’s talent pipeline and help fuel Florida’s economy.

• “The Florida Council of 100 commissioned a recent survey showing that nearly two-thirds of employed parents of minor children in Florida say that school closures and/or lack of childcare have either somewhat (41%) or greatly (23%) hurt their ability to fully perform their job responsibilities during the pandemic.”
FDOE’s Guiding Principles for Crisis Response

• Urgently transition Florida’s schools to distance learning to give Florida’s students the greatest access to the best education possible.

• When confronting any difficult decision, always show compassion and grace.
FDOE’s Guiding Principles for Recovery

• Eliminate achievement gaps, which have likely been exacerbated by this crisis.

• Prepare our schools and programs to reopen safely and ready for success.
FDOE’s Indicators of Success for Recovery

• Keeping Florida’s entire education family safe and healthy.
• Giving confidence for Floridians to return to school campuses safely and ready to succeed.
• Focusing on student-centered outcomes, especially closing achievement gaps.
• Elevating educators and equipping them to succeed.
• Enabling parents of school aged children to return to the workforce.
Recovery Timeline

• Finishing the spring 2020 semester (April to early June).
• Summer programs usually begin late May to early June.
• Will we use June to August for additional educational recovery?
• The 2020-2021 academic year begins in August.
Considerations: Spring 2020

- Continued communications and technical supports for school districts, public charter schools, private schools, state colleges, technical colleges and early learning coalitions and providers.
- Students’ and teachers’ access to devices and Internet.
- Supporting our health care workers and first responders with access to child care.
- Building new tools to track absenteeism.
- Promotion and retention decisions.
- School accountability without testing and school grades.
- The 2020 Senior class.
- Bright Futures.
- The mental health of our students and their families during this period of distance learning.
Considerations: Summer 2020

- Safely returning to school campuses.
- Implementing new social distancing best practices on campuses.
- Summer programs.
- Supporting absentee, low-income and struggling students with recovering lost time and closing achievement gaps.
- Reconnecting supports for students with special needs (IEP plans).
- Developing a new strategy for increasing attendance and engagement.
- Getting teacher certification back on track.
- Upgrading instructional continuity plans.
- Growing the FLVS safety net.
Considerations: 2020-2021 School Year

• Progress monitoring, especially early grades, to empower teachers to close achievement gaps.
• Using data to drive success for low-income students.
• Providing every school with the tools needed to keep students, teachers and staff healthy.
• Fully implemented protocols to address future incidents of infection.
• Helping students and teachers learn to distance learn.
• Help 2020’s seniors transition into postsecondary.
• Implementing new tools to connect learners to career pathways.
• Developing quicker pathways into recovery-focused and high ROI pathways.
• Sports and social distancing.
Considerations: Systemic

- Recognizing Florida’s new subgroup of students – students without access to a device and/or Internet.
- Renewing Florida’s foundation in literacy (reading).
- Teacher professional development in virtual education.
- How to achieve 1:1 students to devices.
- CDC Guidance for Institutes of Higher Education
- CDC Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs
Thank You!

• www.fldoe.org/em-response
  • Free Resources for Families & Teachers: www.fldoe.org/em-response/resources-families
  • Best Practices for Distance Learning: www.fldoe.org/em-response/distance-learning
  • Recursos en español: www.fldoe.org/em-response/spanish