Early Learning & Workforce Education: Re-Opening Florida’s Economy

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2020
“Our number one goal is to ensure the safety and security of students and to provide a great education.”
- Governor Ron DeSantis
Education Recovery

• 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 Floridians to return to the workforce.
Overview of Impact to Early Education
Early Learning Recovery Timeline: Now-June

Providers
- Support providers that are open (birth – age 5 and after school programs).
- Encourage connections with teachers and the families they serve.

First Responders/Health Care Workers
- Expanded current program to serve children of first responders and health care workers.
- Incentivizing providers to serve these students and families.
- Committed to meet these unknown needs.

Families
- Eliminated any terminations of child care services.
- Provided flexibility for eligibility for SR child care (i.e., job search).
- Extended timelines for submission of paperwork.
- Waived required parent copayments.
Early Learning Considerations: Summer 2020

Providers

• Support open SR/VPK providers to stay open.
• Support closed high quality providers to reopen; special emphasis for infants and toddlers and special needs students.

Teachers

• Support educational attainment through career pathways.
• Provide additional supports for classrooms to include tools to identify the needs of young children (i.e., developmental and mental health).

First Responders/Health Care Workers

• Review need to expand to other essential workers.
Early Learning Considerations: Summer 2020

Community Needs

• Increase collaboration between coalitions, post-secondary programs and school districts.

• Map local child care capacity to meet needs.

• Support reopening of public school prekindergarten and afterschool programs.

Families and Children

• Focus on tools for parents to support early learning.

• Provide options for summer Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Programs.

• Develop summer program for incoming kindergarten students.
Early Learning: Future Considerations

• Expand high-quality providers especially in high-need areas.
• Plan for increased need for child care given economic impact.
• Progress monitoring the success and needs of our prekindergarten students.
• Continue support for teachers to increase their skills, competencies and educational attainment.
Overview of Impact to Workforce Institutions and Florida Colleges
Postsecondary Recovery Timeline

• Spring 2020 semester ends by beginning of May.

• Florida College System (FCS) and technical college summer sessions begin early-mid May with another term starting in late June.

• FCS institutions and district technical colleges are operating remotely through the first summer sessions with targeted, limited in-person learning/training occurring in certain career and technical programs.
Education & Economic Recovery Aims

• Continued safety for all.
• Improving the economic outlook and upward mobility of all citizens, especially those most in need.
• Rapid response to key industry and community needs - health care, manufacturing & IT, hospitality and tourism, supply chain and logistics, and childcare.
• Providing opportunities for all Floridians to upskill in any area and to high-wage, high-skill related programs.
Education and Economic Recovery: Postsecondary Considerations for 2020-2021 Academic Year

- Safety of students and employees:
  - Implementing and communicating appropriate protocols for safely returning to campuses, including new social distancing best practices.
  - More course offerings via synchronous remote, blended and limited face-to-face delivery.

- Keeping the learning going:
  - Clinical and other work-based learning experiences continuing through simulations.
  - Supporting underprepared students’ success in college-level work and in-demand workforce programs.
  - Re-enrollment and potentially higher enrollment during the economic downturn/recovery.
  - Being fully responsive to immediate workforce needs of key industries and local citizen needs to upskill, regain or improve employment.
  - Success for all in a different learning landscape - more courses offered through variety of remote options, ensuring communities’ access to devices and Internet is still key.
Considerations: Systemic

- Recognizing Florida’s new subgroup of students: communities and students of all ages without access to a device and/or Internet.
- Renewing Florida’s foundation in literacy (reading).
- Increasing instructional quality in virtual education.
- Increasing economic mobility and putting Floridians back to work quickly and with the best skills.
- Meeting workforce needs in high-demand fields in all Florida communities.
- CDC Guidance for Institutes of Higher Education
- CDC Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs
Thank You!

• [www.fldoe.org/em-response](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response)
  • Free Resources for Families & Teachers: [www.fldoe.org/em-response/resources-families](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/resources-families)
  • Recursos en español: [www.fldoe.org/em-response/spanish](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/spanish)