



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

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION  
fldoe.org

“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)
  - Best Practices for Distance Learning:  
[www.fldoe.org/em-response/distance-learning](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/distance-learning)
  - Recursos en español: [www.fldoe.org/em-response/spanish](http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/spanish)