



**CONSORTIUM**  
OF FLORIDA EDUCATION  
FOUNDATIONS



## **COVID Education Innovation in Florida**

### **Social and Emotional Learning for Students (Sarasota County)**

Supporting students in college- and career-readiness is a mainstay of the Education Foundation of Sarasota County's mission and supporting them in life-readiness and wellness has been shown to increase attendance rates, grades and graduation rates. Now more than ever, visions of college and career readiness must include a purposeful focus on developing students' life readiness, including social emotional learning.

When schools closed in March 2020, the Foundation partnered with SELaunchPd to provide a four-part series of free lessons for students (gr. 6-12) on Understanding and Managing Stress—key strategies in developing life readiness skills and negotiating the pandemic. The Foundation team also created and shared additional lessons on Problem-Solving at Home & School (gr. 3-8) and Self-Calming Strategies (gr. 6-12). In the weeks immediately following school closures there were more than 6,500 pageviews by area teachers.

There has never been a more important time to collaboratively rebuild the education system into one that truly serves each and every student in both the cognitive and affective domains. Supporting social emotional learning as a key component of life-readiness will lead to more equitable learning environments in which students are emotionally safe, engaged in learning and academically challenged. The Foundation plans to continue to collaborate with administrators, teachers and other youth-serving organizations to continue to promote social emotional learning for students.

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The Consortium elevates the impact of Florida's local education foundations through advocacy and providing a collegial community for ongoing learning, shared resources and support. These nonprofit organizations are aligned with nearly every school district in our state and collectively they raise more than \$80 million annually to innovate learning, power potential and celebrate success.

We believe strong collaboration is essential to ensure school success. Our effort to capture, elevate and share education innovations discovered amid the disruption of the pandemic is offered in that spirit.

Our **Top 10 Takeaways: COVID Education Innovation** report can be accessed at [educationinnovationspotlight.com](http://educationinnovationspotlight.com)