



COVID Education Innovation in Florida

Virtual Kids on the Go (Collier County)

During times of stress, physical activity is a must for social and emotional well-being. When traditional physical education classes were cancelled this year, the Collier County Public Schools Coordinator for Health and Physical Education created a virtual and distance-safe program to ensure that students could still participate in vital fitness activities and programs.

Local county parks were used to provide opportunities for students and families to exercise and play. Markers and signage for the PACER fitness test and the mile were created by the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department in nine parks. The District created and provided printable guides at the course starts with addresses and reminders, all available through technology. This culminated in the District's first virtual Kids on the Go Program utilizing the same park facilities, tracking 26.2 miles and logging progress on performance calendars. Families that submitted three logs received a bag, t-shirt, medal and participated in the final mile together virtually in April.

The partnerships and collaborative effort were a win-win for all. The county parks were free and provide various opportunities to be active for families, and families in diverse and low-economic areas with multiple children could bring everyone to various facilities to exercise and play. In addition, all mile courses were designed to be easily monitored by parents. The Virtual Kids on the Go program was also fully funded by local organization Safe and Healthy Children's Coalition with support by Blue Zones and the University of Florida Nutrition Extension Office.

Historically, socio-economically challenged populations are also those experiencing higher obesity rates. By providing families the Virtual Parks and Fitness Courses program through their classroom teachers, doors were open to community parks that can help provide opportunities for every family to move, walk and play together while providing the teachers and students the information they need to assess fitness and build both short and long term goals.

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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](https://www.educationinnovationspotlight.com)