



COVID Education Innovation in Florida

Virtual Academic Competitions (Collier County)

Collier County Public Schools recognizes the importance of providing students with a variety of opportunities for extra- and co-curricular participation. One key District strategy is to offer a range of Academic Competitions at all grade levels that allow students to enrich their instructional experience. Historically, these competitions were conducted in person, either during the school day or in the evenings or weekends but needed to be adapted this past year in order to ensure students still had the opportunity for participation.

With collaboration and cooperation among community stakeholders, all Collier County's academic competitions were reimaged and restructured to either a virtual format or a new in-person format that adhered to health and safety guidelines. This included shifting Model United Nations to an event platform where students and judges entered virtual rooms to participate and compete. Similarly, Academic World Quest was conducted virtually where student teams convened and competed via Zoom, with community partners serving as virtual judges. Other competitions, like Debate and Scholar Bowl were redesigned to bring smaller groups of students together with appropriate social distancing.

Digital streaming of these events was utilized to allow other students, parents and community stakeholders to participate virtually. As a result, the District has been able to successfully continue its commitment to students through Academic Competitions. A blended hybrid platform of participation in the future may allow for increased participation not stifled by locale, travel commitment and transportation issues.

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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