



CONSORTIUM
OF FLORIDA EDUCATION
FOUNDATIONS



COVID Education Innovation in Florida

Virtual Auditions (Seminole County)

Arts Alive has been an annual event for more than 20 years in the Seminole County School District with professional-level student performers. In-person auditions were always held, and the District didn't want to lose the involvement or audition experience for students due to pandemic restrictions, so the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools helped them transition to virtual auditions.

Students and teachers for school-based groups could submit a three-minute video with a brief introduction and upload it to a private YouTube link. With the long history of auditions in the school system, the Foundation wanted each performance to be judged solely on talent and not as a popularity contest, so the private link was very important. A small group of teacher and community member judges reviewed more than 120 audition videos in three days, ranking each audition in a variety of categories on a spreadsheet. With the judges' feedback, ten performances were selected to participate in the virtual program.

The Foundation declared that the video auditions and virtual review was a huge hit—the students loved it and the judges loved the flexibility of reviewing submissions on their own schedule to meet the deadline. Each year there are some tweaks to the audition process, but the video auditions and virtual judging are here to stay.

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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