



## COVID Education Innovation in Florida

### Virtual CS Fest (Broward County)

During the pandemic, opportunities for high-quality professional learning have been limited due to travel restrictions and budget constraints. In collaboration with Broward County Public Schools and the Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub, the goal of this hands-on computer science professional development is to equip teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to expand opportunities for students in this fast-growing field. Participating teachers will collaborate with peers throughout Florida, building a network of computer science teachers statewide in the process of learning.

The Virtual CS Fest learning experience is centered around computer science professional development with an emphasis on physical computing, coding and jobs of the future. Coding and programming are the application of mathematics, so teachers will be empowered with another tool for closing gaps in math due to the emphasis on computational thinking and algorithmic thinking embodied in the content. Teachers will be empowered to bring the creativity of coding to their students while helping them close gaps in math through engaging work. Teachers will build and code robots, fly drones and compete in eSports in Broward County's first Virtual CS Fest June 14–18, all from the comfort of their home.

Post-COVID, the program is planned to continue by offering virtual and hybrid learning experiences, reaching throughout the state and bringing people together to learn. This is a cost-efficient model, and also very respectful of family values, by allowing education professionals to learn from their homes.

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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)