



**CONSORTIUM**  
OF FLORIDA EDUCATION  
FOUNDATIONS



## COVID Education Innovation in Florida

### Virtual Teacher Professional Development (Pasco County)

As a large school district, Pasco County Schools was charged with delivering quality professional learning experiences to more than 5,000 teachers and 350 administrators who were working remotely and providing instruction virtually. They met the challenge by collaborating to design and implement a teacher professional development structure aligned with their key priorities but delivered in a new virtual environment. Shifting away from the traditional practice of conference style and day long face-to-face sessions for teachers that took a year to plan, to a virtual platform with multiple choices of shorter sessions, they were able to quickly meet the needs of participants and address topics that were of immediate concern, such as providing virtual instruction to students, using digital resources, supporting the mental and emotional health of students and staff. Pasco schools were able to increase teacher participation from 400-500 attendance sessions to more than 9,500 unique session enrollments.

After the success of the professional learning conference, they applied the same structure to host a virtual learning night in February for families from across the county to learn more about the schools prior to the school choice window opening. They also hosted their first county wide, virtual college and career fair which welcomed more than 1,000 students and families.

Lea Mitchell Director of the Office for Leading and Learning at Pasco County Schools cited positive discoveries from this virtual pivot. She explained, ***"We have learned a great deal from this work. We have learned that we are stronger than we thought we were, our teachers and leaders are masterful at solving problems and willing to do anything to serve their students. We also learned that we are better together and that it takes all of us within the organization to work collaboratively to solve the biggest and most unexpected problems. We have decided to continue with our large summer professional learning events being hosted virtually- the reach was so much further. We can never go back!"***

Submitted by:

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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://educationinnovationspotlight.com)