



## Summary of Local Education Foundation COVID-19 Response Efforts August 31, 2020 Update

We believe that strong local education foundations (LEFs) are essential for communities to close opportunity gaps and ensure educational success for all students. Our mission is to work with our members and partners to connect individuals, organizations, and financial resources, building the capacity and effectiveness of LEFs.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of education in the world. Amid the crisis, Florida's local education foundations are adapting current programs, responding to immediate student and teacher needs and thinking ahead to what's next to innovate teaching and learning with a focus on equity and addressing the needs of our most vulnerable students. To date, we estimate that **LEFs have raised more than \$5 million** in response and relief efforts.

### Florida's LEFs Response Highlights

#### Adapting Existing Programs, Refocusing Support and Responding to New Needs

- Distance learning still generally requires students have basic school supplies at home. LEFs with free teacher resource stores have developed new systems to reach teachers and families with basic school supply and hygiene items as well as hands-on science or literacy activities for students. Stores have gone virtual by accommodating drive-through shopping, providing delivery direct to teachers and coordinating with community relief organizations while meeting safety and social distancing guidelines.
- Others are also helping families with basic needs – surveying parents and mentors to identify specific needs and augmenting district food efforts. Futures Foundation for Volusia County Schools provided online Walmart cards for struggling families. The Education Fund of Miami-Dade distributed fresh produce from their school-based Food Forest program. Many local education foundations have partnered with Farm Share or similar organizations to provide support to families.



 Brevard Schools Foundation  
12 mins

Our small but mighty team of volunteers are busy packing 500 school supply kits and 500 hygiene packs that will be distributed this coming Saturday (April 25) at a food distribution event provided by Farm Share and hosted by State Representative Randy Fine. We are proud to be part of this wonderful collaborative effort to assist local families in need.



- Since many LEFs have needed to move Take Stock in Children (TSIC) mentoring sessions and college coaching online, some are using that knowledge and those systems to help more students. Champions for Learning (Collier County) shifted FAFSA support to online and webinar-based resources that are available to all students in the state: [Step-by-Step FAFSA Instructional Video](#). The Education Foundation of Alachua County re-invented their TSIC Mental Health Initiative to support all students in weekly virtual sessions to help students connect, de-stress and build resilience: [This QuarantEEN Life](#)
- [Broward Education Foundation](#) repurposed funds to allow teachers to purchase what they need in their new “classrooms” – headsets, green boards, etc. In the Spring, Office Depot helped them develop a system for online purchasing for home delivery with a deep discount as well as a tracking system. Since that time, other foundations around the state have started to work with Office Depot in similar fashion.
- Some LEFs identified teacher leaders or community partners to share their leading practices in online learning to support other teachers in maximizing teaching and learning strategies in distance and hybrid learning environments.
- LEFs supported school and district efforts to recognize seniors through scholarship programs and virtual graduation ceremonies.



[The Education Foundation of Alachua County](#) – wellness mini-series



[Hendry Public Schools Foundation](#) - Scholarship Ceremony



[Pinellas Education Foundation](#) - Virtual Awards Ceremony

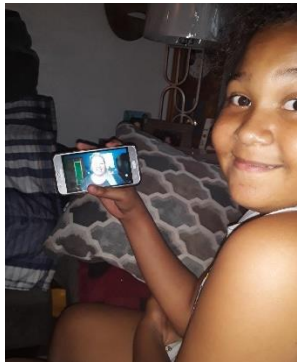


[The Education Fund](#) (Miami-Dade) – distance learning support for teachers



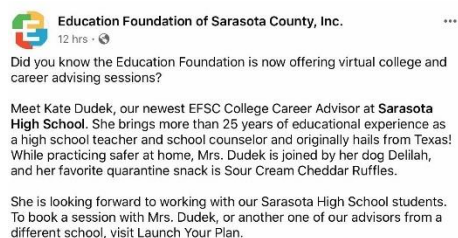
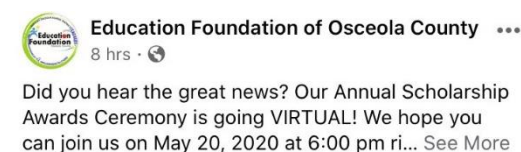
## Digital Devices and Internet Connectivity

- As Districts and schools identified digital device shortfalls with the goal of having one adequate device in each household for students, several LEFs stepped up raising hundreds of thousands in a matter of days. They continue to work through software and distribution issues. Some are providing additional devices in households with multiple students.
- Internet Connectivity – There have been lots of requests to pay for “Hot Spots” being deployed in low income neighborhoods on school buses or in targeted locations. Some local education foundations are helping with individual family internet connectivity, focusing on specific schools or student populations such as transitional grades, seniors, etc. With nearly half of Florida’s 2.8 million K-12 students opting to continue distance learning for the start of the 2020-21 school year, some LEFs are marshalling broader community support for sustainable solutions to offer ongoing connectivity for low-income families.



## Addressing Opportunity Gaps

- Some foundations worked with their district partners to plan summer academic programs to stave off an even bigger “summer slide” with vulnerable students losing significant academic gains from the transition to distance learning combined with regular summer break.
- Other LEFs proactively worked with students in scholarship programs to avoid a “summer melt” with students who had been planning to go to college in the fall but could have become distracted and/or had more challenging family circumstances.



## Assisting with Safety Concerns for In-Person Instruction

- Local education foundations continue to work with districts to help meet immediate needs of teachers and students. PPE needs are being addressed through a variety of partnerships. Grant funds are supporting creative solutions to ensure safe learning environments.



### Would You Like to Help?

*Our members collectively reach 99% of Florida's 2.8 million K-12 students.*

*If you'd like to help Florida students in the new normal of distance learning, we encourage you to connect with your [local education foundation](#).*

*If you are interested in funding needs on a multi-district basis, we are happy to facilitate. Contact Mary Chance for more information.*

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