



# BEES COVID-19 Updates

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)

Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado, Chief



## Services for Students with IEPs, 504 Plans or Gifted Plans

Each student with an IEP, 504 plan or Gifted Educational Plan (EP), should be included in the school district's instructional continuity plan to the same extent as all other students.

- May include virtual instruction, as well as virtual specialized instruction and related services to the extent practicable.
- All areas of the student's IEP, 504 or EP must be considered.
- Any and all required evaluations, IEP meetings etc. may also be held virtually to the extent practical.
- If there is any type of delay, the nature and extent of the delay and a plan to move as quickly as possible to prevent further delay should be documented.
- FDOE Q&A March 19, 2020
- <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urlt/FDOE-COVID-QAI.pdf>

## Services for Students with IEPs or 504 Plans

- IEP and 504 teams should monitor each student's progress and determine what, if any, remediation may be needed upon return to the student's placement.
- Questions and Answers on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak  
<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>
- Fact Sheet Protecting Students' Civil Rights During COVID-19 Response  
<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-webinar-fact-sheet-protecting-students-civil-rights-during-covid-19-response>

## School Based Mental Health Services

- Student services professionals and other licensed mental health providers are encouraged to collaborate with parents, educators, and administrators to meet the mental health needs of all students and continue to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Students with a disability should be provided the special education and related services that are identified in their IEP or 504 plan.
- Consider using web-based, online platforms, and teletherapy and tele-intervention platforms for the provision of services, facilitate meetings on digital platforms or phone conferencing, connect with students and families by phone, and leverage social messaging platforms to provide information.
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services- [Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency](#)
- Agency For Health Care Administration (AHCA)- [Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance for Medical and Behavioral Health Providers](#)

## Student Services Support

### School Counselors

- Create and deliver virtual social emotional supports and character education lessons for students and families
- Complete academic promotion and graduation check-in meetings with students and families using phone conferencing or virtual platform

### School Social Workers

- Complete pending, Social History evaluation and re-evaluations. This includes writing reports and conducting interviews with parents using the telehealth model (phone or computer contact)
- Collaborate with community agency stakeholders to assist in providing services and support to families in need

## **Student Services Support Continued**

### **School Psychologists**

- Conduct components of initial evaluations and reevaluations that can be completed virtually
- Assist with the identification of students who may need mental health support due to the Covid-19 pandemic

### **School Nurses**

- Call parents to update and complete Individualized Healthcare Plans and Emergency Action Plans
- Check-in with families of medically complex students weekly

## Related Services Telehealth

- OT
- PT
- Speech/Language
- Behavioral Services
- Nursing Services
- Agency For Health Care Administration (AHCA)- [Medicaid Telemedicine Guidance for Medical and Behavioral Health Providers](#)

## Services for Students in DJJ/ Correctional Programs

- County jails and DJJ schools are encouraged to operate virtually or through virtual learning. If face-to-face instruction is permitted, CDC guidelines should be followed.
- Virtual platforms, distance learning opportunities, training and support should be included in the district's plan for continuity of learning to the same extent as all other students and teachers.
- Identify plans for students and staff for any unmet technology needs.
- Determine how to meet the requirements of the DJJ cooperative agreement and/or contract for educational services (i.e. transition services for students entering and exiting DJJ programs and county jails).
- State assessments, including DJJ Common Assessment, are cancelled for the remainder of the school year.
- Districts do not need the state's approval to use available calendar days to remain in compliance with the minimum instructional days required by law, per F.S. 1003.01(11)(a) for DJJ schools.



# Youth Mental Health Awareness Training

## Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Training

- Instructor training will be available virtually beginning March 30th
- First Aider training will be available virtually by April 15th

## Kognito At-Risk Simulation Training

- Kognito At-Risk Simulation Modules (Elementary, Middle and High Schools) will also continue to be offered virtually.
- If you have not registered for Kognito, please use the following link for registration: <https://Florida.Kognito.com>.
- If you need additional technical support or assistance, please contact Ms. Cathleen Millar at [Cathleen.Millar@kognito.com](mailto:Cathleen.Millar@kognito.com).

## School Medicaid Program

- Agency For Health Care Administration (AHCA) is developing guidance for school district providers that will include information on telemedicine.
- Information related to telemedicine will be disseminated to school districts through a Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert.
- Subscribe to receive Medicaid alerts at <https://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/alerts/alerts.shtml>

## IDEA Due Process, Mediation and FIEPs

Florida's Division of Administrative Hearing's [Administrative Order](#)  
NO. AODOAH20-01

- Ordering that conferencing via telephone or video be maximized for hearings
- Requiring all mediations to be conducted telephonically

IDEA Mediations outside of Due Process and Facilitated Individual Educational Plan Meetings (FIEP)

- Should also maximize the use of remote conferencing in alignment with tools already adopted by the district

## IDEA, Part B, K-12 & Preschool Entitlement

- 2019-2020 Roll Forward Amendments
  - Amended (finalized) awards are currently being disseminated
  - Coordinators are being contacted for any changes
  - Outstanding amendments should be submitted May 31, 2020
- 2020-2021 Entitlement Application
  - Anticipated release: May 1, 2020
  - Anticipated due date: June 1, 2020

## For the Latest COVID-19 Updates

<http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.shtml>



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

## **BEES**

### **Contact Information**

Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado, Chief  
[Monica.Verra-Tirado@fldoe.org](mailto:Monica.Verra-Tirado@fldoe.org)  
850-245-0475



[www.FLDOE.org](http://www.FLDOE.org)

