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Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice (IEPC) Conference Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide additional guidance and clarification regarding the Department's guidance to school districts related to COVID-19 closures.

1. Q: What does it mean to be closed until April 15?

A: All public K-12 schools in Florida will remain closed through April 15, 2020. Private K-12 schools in Florida are strongly urged to follow suit. Schools are encouraged to operate virtually or through other non-classroom-based means. This may include:

- Educational packets provided to parents with teacher assistance provided as needed.
- Online learning platforms.
- Hybrid of packets and online.

When providing remote learning, a documented plan should be created that outlines how educational content is being delivered and monitored as well as how attendance is being monitored and recorded. Do not send this documentation to the SFO or the FLDOE, but retain it in your school's records.

2. Q: How will the implementation of online instruction impact statutory requirements for "direct student contact" in scholarship participating schools?

A: The Commissioner of Education is currently considering a waiver for this requirement. Our office will update you as soon as it is approved. Virtual learning will count toward attendance requirements for private schools. Schools will need to have a mechanism to monitor and record attendance during this period.

3. Q: Will private schools participating in the Family Empowerment Scholarship, Florida Tax Credit, Gardiner Scholarship or Hope Scholarship Program receive a waiver for the NRT Assessment requirement?

A: The Commissioner of Education is currently considering a waiver for this requirement. Our office will update you as soon as it is approved.

4. Q: Will scholarship payments continue for the remainder of the school year?

A: Yes. There will be no interruption in the delivery of scholarship checks. At this time, no changes to the scholarship check delivery addresses will be approved.

5. Q: Will parents still need to sign scholarship checks?

A: Scholarship checks must be endorsed by the school and parent in accordance with the established policy and process.

6. Q: Will students receiving scholarship be permitted to take Florida Virtual School Courses?

A: There will be no changes or waivers to the FLVS requirements under each scholarship program.

7. Q: Are there resources available to help schools access cleaning, disinfectant, and hygiene supplies?

A: Yes. Please contact your local Emergency Operations Center to submit a request for necessary supplies. Information on how to contact your County Emergency Manager can be found here:

<https://floridadisaster.org/counties/>

8. Q: Are there resources available to help school districts, educators, and families ensure continuity of learning during this time?

A: Yes, please visit [FLDOE's website](#) for a list of free resources, offered by state and federal agencies, private companies, and non-profit organizations.