



May Sands Montessori School

Reopening Plan Amendment

August 26, 2020
MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reopening Plan Amendment: Safely Reopening Schools in Florida

Purpose

This document provides updated information for the May Sands Montessori School Innovative Reopening Plan for the Fall 2020 school semester as it relates to the memorandum issued by Monroe County School District (MCSD) Superintendent, Theresa Axford, on 21 August, 2020.

School Community Vulnerable Populations

The May Sands Montessori School shall implement a safe and equitable plan for in-person instructional delivery, based on our school's community population and with a priority on meeting the needs of specific student groups as outlined in DOE ORDER NO. 2020-EO-06, Assurance 2. The school identifies the following vulnerable populations for considering in-person instruction during the present level of community spread:

- ✓ Children of members of staff
- ✓ Children in low socioeconomic status (SES), single-parent households without flexible work schedules
- ✓ Children who are English Language Learners (ELL)
- ✓ Children who have a specific learning disability

Supplemental Information

This document contains the supplemental information requested of the MCSD by Commissioner Corcoran and addresses:

1. The student capacity of the school.

144 (source: DOE Facility Inventory Report)

2. The number of students who have requested in-person instruction at the school.

Up through 7/20/2020: 35 (source: Planning for SY2021 - Return to Campus Survey)

As of 8-27-2020: 14 Requested (source: Instructional Delivery Support)

3. The number of students who can receive in-person instruction at the school, consistent with the layout of the school facilities, given the local health conditions and the guidance of state and local health officials.

35 (sources: DOE Facility Inventory Report, CDC Guidelines for Maintaining Healthy Environments)

4. The number of students that the school is unable to offer in-person instruction.

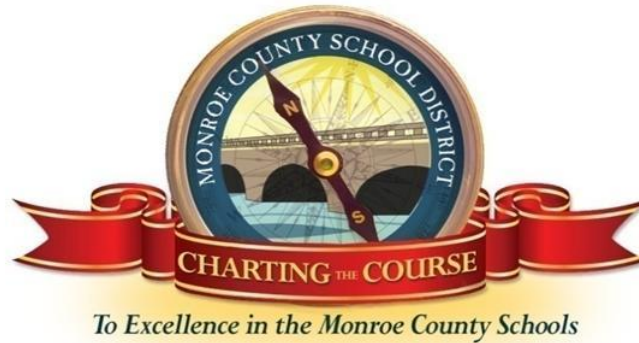
Based on the vulnerable populations identified, there are three students who are not able to receive in-person instruction at this time.

5. The methods for ensuring the most vulnerable students receive priority for in-person instruction.

- Review Enrollment by classroom and program level
- Conduct Parent Survey
- Confirm instructional delivery preference with identified students' families

Completed: August 26, 2020

THERESA AXFORD
Superintendent of Schools



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals
FROM: Theresa Axford, Superintendent
RE: Supporting Vulnerable Populations
DATE: August 21, 2020

As part of Safely Reopening Schools in Florida, the Commissioner has issued an Executive Order that all schools be open for face-to face instruction for students on August 31st. To comply with that request, we are addressing our vulnerable populations in Monroe County School District by giving them support at the School Sites. These populations are our homeless students, EL's, ESE, low socioeconomic status, and foster children. You can design the program that fits your school from these vulnerable populations. Please contact the parents for permission to work with these students. Several different scenarios can be put in place to support the students such as: each student brings their chrome book to school and teachers support them throughout the day in their virtual instruction which is already in place and/ or teachers can work with these students on specific identified skills during breaks in virtual instruction. I know your teachers can design specific supports that will be helpful. Please submit the names of the teachers and the students who will be participating by August 25th. We need to coordinate bus routes to serve these students. Thank you.



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Superintendent
Monroe County Public Schools
241 Trumbo Road
Key West, FL 33040

Mindy Conn
Chair of the Monroe County School Board
Monroe County Public Schools
241 Trumbo Road
Key West, FL 33040

August 10, 2020

Dear Superintendent Axford and Chair Conn:

Following the submission of your plan, the Department discovered through the media that the Monroe County School Board decided to delay the date for offering in-person instruction in Monroe County. We understand that this action was taken in response to guidance from local health officials, based on the criteria that was set out in your reopening plan that was submitted to the Department. In order for us to better understand your local health circumstances, please send the Department the guidance that you received from your local health officials.

As you know, one of the primary goals of the Emergency Order is to empower parents with the ability to choose the education modality that best suits their child's needs, including in-person instruction, consistent with public safety. The Emergency Order gives school districts guaranteed funding at levels beyond what would otherwise be available in order to empower school districts to meet the diverse needs of students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The assurances required by the Emergency Order are designed to provide each child with access to a "system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high-quality education" as required by Florida Constitution. Art. IX, Section 1(a), Fla. Const. Ensuring that our vulnerable populations have access to high quality education during this emergency is one of the reasons that the second assurance directs local education officials to prioritize the needs of "vulnerable

populations, such as students from low-income families, students of migrant workers, students who are homeless, students with disabilities, students in foster care, and students who are English language learners (ELLs).”

District-wide delays of in-person instruction past August for districts not in “phase 1” is inconsistent with the framework of the Emergency Order. Such decisions must be supported by a particularized analysis on a school-by-school basis. This is consistent with Emergency Order 2020-EO-06 which provides: “the day-to-day decision to open or close a school must always rest locally with the board or executive most closely associated with a school.”

Any district-wide delays of in-person instruction past August requires the submission of supplemental information that **must** include the following for **each** school in the district:

1. The student capacity of the school.
2. The number of students who have requested in-person instruction at the school.
3. The number of students who can receive in-person instruction at the school, given the local health conditions and the guidance of state and local health officials. This analysis must include a review of the layout of the school’s facilities and make specific determinations about the number of students who can be educated in each classroom, consistent with state and local health guidance.
4. The number of students that you are unable to offer in-person instruction to at the school.
5. In any case where you are unable to accommodate all students, please explain how you are ensuring that priority for in-person instruction will be given to your most vulnerable students.
6. If you determine that not a single student can receive in-person instruction at a school facility, please provide a reasoned explanation to support that finding, citing the specific health and safety guidance you are relying upon.

For any schools that will not be open for in-person instruction by August 31, please provide the analysis set forth in items 1 through 6 above by August 19, 2020.

To be consistent with the framework of the Emergency Order, district school boards and superintendents must thoughtfully determine school-by-school, grade-by-grade, and classroom-by-classroom how parents that desire in-person instruction for their children can be accommodated. School leaders should be working creatively and diligently to accommodate as many students as possible with in-person instruction. If less than 100 percent of the students requesting in-person instruction can be accommodated, what thoughtful steps can you take to ensure that priority is given to students who are most vulnerable and who have the greatest need for in-person instruction? And, how quickly can you expand in-person instructional capacity?

We encourage you to work with each member of your instructional and non-instructional staff as you put together your plan to open brick-and-mortar facilities. Which teachers and support staff are ready, willing and able to provide in-person instruction on day one? And, which teachers are

best suited to support students who are receiving innovative instruction remotely? Again, this is not a district-wide decision, but rather a school-by-school, grade-by-grade, and classroom-by-classroom analysis.

The Emergency Order leaves the final decision about whether to open or close a particular school with the locally elected schools board. However, blanket districtwide decisions are disfavored and suspect, given the harm and hardship that many students will experience if in-person instruction is not available to them

I, along with my staff, look forward to working with you and we are committed to doing so through this difficult time. This request for additional information should not be construed as a denial of your plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Corcoran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Corcoran