

FLLAC COLLABORATIVE DISTANCE LEARNING PLAN

4.2.20

April 2, 2020

Dear FLLAC Collaborative Families,

Below you will find details of our distance-learning plan, which will move into its next phase on Monday, April 6th. We know that our families have been anxious for a more structured schedule that re-engages students in learning, reconnects them to their school community and provides clear direction and support. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have embarked upon the challenge of moving a large organization centered upon in-person connection to a distance learning environment.

During the time since our schools closed, we have tested online learning resources, practiced with video-conferencing tools, learned from experiences in other districts, and collaborated with colleagues. We have had planning teams at each level, consisting of central office leaders, program administrators, BCBA, technology staff and our ancillary service providers.

This collaboration, focus and reflection has allowed us to create a distance learning plan that will keep our students connected to their peers, their teachers and the trusted adults they have come to know and love in our school communities. It will keep them engaged in learning in meaningful ways, while also recognizing limits on the content we will be able to cover in this environment. Finally, it acknowledges the wide variety of circumstances that our families and our staff find themselves in right now and seeks to balance moving instruction forward and maintaining the social and emotional health of students, staff and families.

PLAN, SCHEDULE, STRUCTURE

Consistent with [guidance provided by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#), the purpose of distance learning at FLLAC Collaborative will be to support connectedness as a community and to engage students in continuing and deepening their learning.

The distance-learning plan includes a structured weekly schedule that teachers will create for their classes. A description of the types of learning experiences included in this plan, as well as sample schedules, can be found in the distance learning google doc that has been supplied to all families ([FLLAC Resource Page- Click](#)). We have issued out student email accounts that will allow them secured access to the locked site to ensure online safety and student confidentiality. **The specific times during which your student will connect with their class, as well as the weekly plan for learning, will come directly from their teacher or their team of teachers. You can expect to receive detailed communication by Monday, April 6th.**

Instructional practices for distance learning cannot be equivalent to the traditional classroom setting. In very short order, parents and guardians have had to increase the amount of time spent supporting their children's learning at home while juggling other personal, familial and/or professional responsibilities. Additionally, our educators, while balancing the same challenges as our families, have had to acquire new skills, expertise and ways of working and collaborating to support all learners. With this in mind, the plan seeks to:

- Create a coherent weekly **student experience** in each class and overall that addresses the needs of all learners, including students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Emphasize **universal design** from the start to ensure expectations can be met and support can be accessed by all students.
- Build a learning plan that **acknowledges the reality that not all students and staff will be able to access the internet consistently** on an individual device at set times.
- Create a plan for students **to complete the school year**, the courses they are enrolled in, and receive full credit, with a reduction in content learning expected due to the school closure.

NEXT STEPS

You will hear from your student's teacher or team of teachers by Monday, April 6th. They will provide you with a specific schedule and their weekly plan for learning. In addition, they will share with you the technology tools they will be using so you can prepare with your student.

Following the implementation of our distance-learning plan, we will be sending you a survey to gain feedback and to hear about your experience. We do expect to refine our plan over the next few weeks as we learn what works best.

Please understand that this plan will very much be a work in progress and there will be bumps in the road along the way. It is not possible to completely transform a learning environment without unforeseen challenges. That being said, I have no doubt that the creativity, work ethic and resilience of our staff will result in learning opportunities and connections we never thought possible. Thank you for your patience as we have constructed this plan. I will continue to be in touch as we move forward.

Sincerely,

John Demanche M.Ed., BCBA, LABA
Executive Director