



## Media Release

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# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION APPROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY REOPENING PLAN

**(Bradenton, FL – July 28, 2020)** Late Tuesday afternoon, K-12 Chancellor of Public Schools Jacob Oliva sent Superintendent Cynthia Saunders an email announcing that the Florida Department of Education has approved the Manatee District's Reopening Plan for the Fall Semester of the 2020-2021 school year. (Please see the attached for the full text of Chancellor Oliva's email)

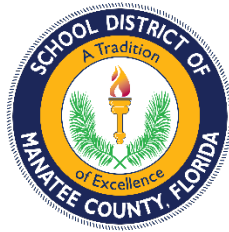
"I am pleased to report that the plan you submitted provides each of the required assurances," Oliva wrote in the email. "As such, your reopening plan is approved, effective immediately."

Superintendent Saunders was excited to receive the good news.

"We have been working hard for months to provide a plan to our students, parents and employees that would not only meet the state's requirements, but also provide options that address the different needs expressed by all of our stakeholders," Saunders said. "I want to thank all of the parents, employees and citizens who sent more than 26,000 responses during our reopening plans survey, and all of our principals, teachers and support staff for their hard work in making these plans possible."

Chancellor Oliva ended his approval email with the following:

"Thank you for your commitment to excellence and innovation in support of student achievement and we look forward to continuing to support your faithful implementation of this plan."



## Florida Department of Education Approves School District of Manatee County Reopening Plan

(Please see the email below sent from K-12 Chancellor of Public Schools Jacob Oliva early this evening)

Dear Superintendent Saunders,

The Florida Department of Education has reviewed the Innovative Reopening Plan for the Fall 2020 School Semester submitted by the Manatee County School District. The Department's review, for purposes of considering the approval of a reopening plan, is focused on verifying each of the seven assurances required by DOE Order No. 2020-EO-06.

I am pleased to report that the plan you submitted provides each of the required assurances. As such, your reopening plan is approved, effective immediately.

As a reminder, the Department's emergency order does not (and cannot) waive any federal requirements. We encourage you and your team to be diligent in ensuring strict compliance with all federal obligations and the delivery of all necessary and required student services required by law.

As we head into a new school year, the Department is eager to support the important work you are accomplishing. We are confident that innovative solutions, tailored to the local challenges associated with educating students during Florida's recovery, will come from every school and district across the State. As you discover helpful strategies and practices, let us know so we can facilitate the sharing of best practices.

Thank you for your commitment to excellence and innovation in support of student achievement and we look forward to continuing to support your faithful implementation of this plan.

Sincerely,

Jacob Oliva  
Chancellor  
Division of Public Schools