

COVID-19 Baseline Data Collection and Planning Grant

The primary project goal is to collect baseline data across specific set of 5-10 Florida school districts for the 2020-21 school year to be used within the COVID-19 Education Deep Dive Longitudinal Study.

The overarching research questions for this project are as follows:

- How do communities, educational systems, educators, families, and priority students respond and experience the year following COVID-19 and associated school closures?
- What historical, contextual, and policy factors make response more or less effective in preserving quality educational experience for priority students?
- What practices and policies emerge as most effective in response for preserving quality educational experience for priority students?

The purpose of this baseline data is to

- Provide schools and state policy-makers critical data on recovery this school year;
- Provide the Gates Foundation with important information about how recovery is experienced in 2020-21.

A combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection will occur across 5-10 school districts in Florida that serve a significant number of Black, Hispanic, and/or low-income students within urban and rural settings. Data collected will be prioritized based on current unavailability of these data through other sources and/or inability to collect these data in the future. Data collection methods include surveys as well as interviews/focus groups to provide a deeper and more nuanced understanding of specific areas of interest. Media reports/articles may also be reviewed and included for additional baseline data as appropriate.

From this initial set, the UF Lastinger Center will develop a set of criteria to determine which districts would be well-positioned to serve as Deep Dive schools within the COVID-19 Education Deep Dive Longitudinal Study. Using this criteria, we will provide recommendations on which, if any, districts from the baseline data collection year, would be eligible.

The UF Lastinger Center will gather information on required data sharing agreements and other processes and structures that must be in place in order to create a restricted-use dataset and obtain data from districts that allows them to share baseline data and results.