



Limited Audit of DOH data compared to data provided by districts for the overlapping time period (Sept. 6 – Sept. 26 only).

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This report was written as part of a data quality review for recently released data by the Florida Department of Health, in conjunction with both The COVID Monitor and FloridaCovidAction.com. For questions about this report, please email: plans@thecovidmonitor.com

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) report referred to in this audit was released Sept. 29, 2020, and listed a number of student, staff, and “unknown” cases for each school in the state which had positive results reported between September 6, 2020 and September 26, 2020.

This audit provides an overview of major discrepancies, with detailed looks at two Florida counties that have been publishing their own district data independently of DOH: Collier and Duval. As we continue to work through the data, we will update this information with new counties.

Layout notes:

To reduce confusion about whether we’re referring to data provided by counties/school districts, or data provided *about* counties *from* the Sept. 29 Department of Health (DOH) state data, we’re going to color code our text for extra emphasis.

Data provided by school districts (counties) will be green.

Data provided by the state/DOH will be purple.

We realize this may make it difficult for those who have color vision deficiency to distinguish between the two, so we will make every effort to refer to data provided directly by the school districts in each county as either the “district/county,” and refer to the data coming from the DOH report as either “the state/DOH.”

We will provide a version without color coding, as well.

Data Sourcing

Metadata for school and district data came from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Current enrollment for in-person instruction, hybrid instruction, and virtual instruction for the 2020-2021 school year came from the individual districts shown here. Data about graduation rates, economic status, and school “report cards” come from the Florida Department of Education and are based on the 2019-2020 academic year. Updated enrollment data should be released by November 1 for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Overview of Findings

1. Inconsistencies across the state and district data are extreme
 - a. Reports that overlap make up only half of the cases reported (see Duval County analysis)
 - b. DOH reported 71 fewer cases overall than the combined total from the 28 districts self-reporting that are reviewed in this audit
 - c. Though data from 12 of the 28 districts reviewed were within 5 cases of the DOH data (either reporting within five more or five fewer cases than the state), there were extreme outliers (see Table 1)
2. The DOH report from Sept. 29 and data from counties that self-report show the same percent of student cases as a share of all cases
 - a. DOH reports students as 73% of cases
 - b. Counties report students as 73% of cases
3. While the rate of symptomatic cases is high (79% across all students and staff) it is much lower than recent CDC findings for pediatric cases¹
 - a. This is a difficult number to parse given the format of DOH's report, which combined symptomatic data for all students, staff and other.
4. According to analysis of DOH data of cases, teachers are slightly less likely to be symptomatic than students
 - a. In schools reporting no teacher cases, symptomatic cases make up 81%
 - b. In all schools, the symptomatic rate is 79%
5. Cases reported by DOH as "unknown" are most likely to be staff

Further research needed

Without more information from the Department of Health about how the Sept. 29 report was made, which criteria they used, separate dates for case and notification dates, and other basic questions, the DOH report conflicts too much with existing data provided independently by districts to be an authoritative resource for cases in Florida K-12 schools.

Additionally, not all of the 37 districts self-reporting do so transparency or consistently.

Bay, Charlotte, Lee, and Polk do not specify student or staff in their data.

Hendry's site is essentially useless, with no data definitions or explanations, no cumulative counts, and no information about the school's impacted.

Lee and Polk list notifications sent out about cases, but Lee does not specify the cases reported in each notification, and neither lists the number of student vs staff cases.

Indian River and Calhoun report via press release, but Calhoun's site hasn't been updated since September 3.

Most of the more advanced sites do not allow the public to easily download or export the underlying data, making it difficult to track and report on cases in each school.

¹ The CDC released a study showing that less than 3% of all pediatric cases from March 1 through Sept. 19 reported having no symptoms.

	County Data				DOH/State Data					Difference
	Total	Students	Staff	Other	Total	Students	Staff	Other	Symptomatic	
Bay*	23	--	--	23	24	17	1	6	71%	DOH +19
Brevard	112	87	25	0	97	68	20	9	87%	County +15
Charlotte	9	--	--	9	9	7	0	2	78%	Equal
Citrus	41	27	14	0	38	23	2	13	67%	County +3
Clay	50	33	17	0	44	33	9	2	94%	County +6
Collier	58	43	15	0	48	39	1	8	64%	County +10
Duval	100	66	34	0	93	68	17	8	80%	County +7
Flagler	26	21	5	0	21	14	1	6	57%	County +5
Hardee*	69	56	13	0	25	21	1	3	52%	County +44
Hendry	11	6	4	0	7	3	1	3	86%	County +4
Hernando	24	15	9	0	24	17	3	4	71%	Equal
Hillsborough	211	152	59	0	198	158	19	21	80%	County +13
Lake	34	23	11	0	41	28	1	12	94%	DOH +7
Lee	47	--	--	47	66	44	9	13	84%	DOH +19
Leon	63	43	20	0	40	26	2	12	87%	County +23
Manatee	33	21	12	0	46	35	5	6	82%	DOH +13
Nassau	21	16	5	0	25	20	3	2	72%	DOH +4
Orange	146	115	31	0	171	124	10	37	80%	DOH +25
Osceola	60	41	19	0	57	37	6	14	75%	County +3
Pasco	117	78	39	0	121	82	15	24	82%	DOH +4
Pinellas	78	55	23	0	110	89	5	16	83%	DOH +32
Polk	107	--	--	107	103	75	18	10	72%	County +4
Putnam	37	28	9	0	37	29	6	3	70%	Equal
Sarasota	53	3	1	0	53	42	6	5	77%	Equal
St. Johns	100	83	17	0	69	52	5	12	68%	County +31
Sumter	17	11	6	0	17	9	4	4	69%	Equal
Taylor	17	17	0	0	5	5	0	0	100%	County +12
Volusia	45	29	16	0	49	30	6	13	79%	DOH +4

Notes: Bay county only includes data from 9/15 on, so only the last reporting week for DOH's data was used. Hardee's cumulative data does not match its daily case updates, so calculated figures based on daily updates are provided here.

Review: Collier County

Collier is a mid-sized county in Florida in terms of enrollment and the total number of schools. Its mix of urban, suburban and rural schools contrasts well for the purposes of this study, and they have provided detailed data about cases in their school since reopening August 31.

The most recent data from the NCES shows 3,200 teachers for the district's 48,000 students in 61 schools, consistent with information Collier County provides. That ranks Collier 17 of Florida's 67 districts in terms of total enrollment, and 18 out of 67 for the number of teachers per student (each sorted high to low). The district received an A grade for the 2019-2020 school year by the state, with a 91.9% graduation rate. State data shows that 62% of Collier students are considered economically disadvantaged.

While Collier's [data interface](#) is cumbersome for retrieving data for research purposes, it allows the public to search by school and by date range, returning a value for both students and staff by the date each positive case was reported. Collier county updates their dashboard Monday-Friday by 7:00 pm ET, according to their site.

Collier county schools began in-person and online instruction on August 31, and reported 43 student cases and 15 staff cases in the time period covered by DOH's report.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) report showed 39 student cases, 1 staff case, and 8 "unknown" cases.

Of the 26 schools DOH listed as having positive cases, only 10 matched the data provided by Collier County. Five schools Collier reported cases in were not listed in the DOH spreadsheet (below). Those five missing schools Collier reported made up nine cases in the district – 14% of all the cases the district had self-reported.

Schools that Collier County listed as having cases, but DOH did not include in their report:

MISSING SCHOOLS:	TOTAL	STUDENT	STAFF
ALTERNATIVE - NAPLES	3	0	3
ALTERNATIVE - IMMOKALEE	1	1	0
VINEYARDS ELEMENTARY	1	0	1
LAKE PARK ELEMENTARY	2	2	0
CALUSA PARK ELEMENTARY	2	2	0

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Schools where the state data matched the data reported by Collier County schools:

Cypress Palm Middle School

Golden Gate High School

Laurel Oak Elementary School

North Naples Middle School

Oakridge Middle School

Palmetto Ridge High School

Veterans Memorial Elementary School

Golden Gate Elementary School

Lake Trafford Elementary School

Sea Gate Elementary School

MIKE DAVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Schools Where The State Reported More Cases Than The Collier County School District	School
School not in data provided by county	Marco Island Charter Middle (Marco Island)
School not in data provided by county	The Village School (Naples)
1 more student case than county	East Naples Middle School (Naples)
1 more student case than county	Gulf Coast High School (Naples)
1 more student case than county	Naples High School (Naples)
1 more student case than county	Poinciana Elementary School (Naples)
2 more student cases than county	Osceola Elementary School (Naples)

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Schools where county reported more cases than state	School
Missing 1 staff case reported by county	Immokalee High School (Immokalee)
Missing 1 staff case reported by county; 2 more student cases than reported by county	Corkscrew Elementary School (Naples)
Missing 1 staff case reported by county	Vinyards Elementary
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Barron Collier High School (Naples)
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Eden Park Elementary School (Immokalee)
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Immokalee Middle School (Immokalee)
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Lely Elementary School (Naples)
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Pine Ridge Middle School (Naples)
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Alternative - Immokalee
Missing 1 student case reported by county	Immokalee Technical College
Missing 2 student cases reported by county	Lake Park Elementary
Missing 2 student cases reported by county	Calusa Park Elementary
Missing 3 staff cases reported by county	Highlands Elementary School (Immokalee)
Missing 3 staff cases reported by county	Alternative - Naples

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Review: Duval County

Enrollment in Duval County Schools for 2020-2021 was 130,000 with 12,603 staff members, according to state data. They opened on August 20 to a hybrid format 11 days earlier than Collier County opened. The district received an B grade for the 2019-2020 school year by the state, with a graduation rate of 86.5%. Two-thirds of the students enrolled are considered economically disadvantaged.

Duval county attempted to start reporting cases in its schools in August, but was told by the state that it did not have permission to do so. After weeks of waiting on the state, Duval went ahead and published their data anyway, going back to the first day of school on August 20.

Some important data about how Duval county schools reports its COVID-19 case counts, from the school district's website:

“The dashboard shows the number of students and staff attending or working in brick-and-mortar schools with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

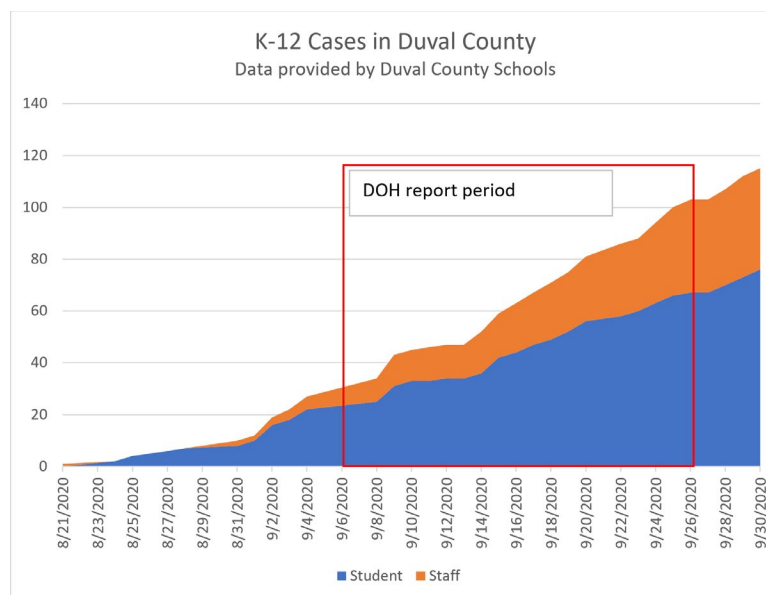
Sept. 28 clarification: The dashboard only reports Duval County Public School employee or student cases impacting school operations. The total number of employees or students diagnosed with COVID-19 may be higher.

The date of the case is the date on which the district confirmed the results. The date may be different than the date of diagnosis or initial report.

Charter school data is not included here due to incompatibility of information systems. Charter schools may publish their own data on their school websites.

The dashboard is updated daily by approximately 10 p.m.”

Duval County reports for 165 schools, regardless of whether cases have been reported in those schools. Of those 165, only 56 reported cases from Sept. 6-26, according to the county. Those 56 schools reported a combined 66 student and 34 staff cases during that period.



The state DOH report showed 51 schools in Duval County as having reported cases from Sept. 6-26, with seven fewer cases overall compared to the county, making the difference minimal between the two.

What's most worrisome is that the DOH/State report is missing 28 schools that are in the county's data, and the county data is missing 22 schools that show up in the state data.

Only 28 of the schools reporting cases for Duval County appear in both the state/DOH AND the county/district data. Which means that while the case numbers are close, they're for completely different schools in half the cases.

Of the 100 cases reported by Duval County from Sept. 6-26, 38 come from schools not even listed in the DOH data.

Of the 93 cases reported by DOH/the state from Sept. 6-26, 30 come from schools that Duval county schools never reported as having cases.

And while you might think the cases in schools that both the county and the state/DOH reported would be evenly spread out, they're not. Most are minor differences – one or two cases missing from the other – but a handful are significant.

For San Pablo Elementary, **Duval County reported two student and four staff cases**, while **the state reported seven student and one staff case**.

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Schools that appear in both the state/DOH data and the county/district data with student and staff cases totals for the period beginning Sept. 6 and ending Sept. 26:

Schools in both the county/district data and the DOH/state data	District data		State/DOH data	
	Students	Staff	Students	Staff
Annie R Morgan Elementary	1	1	1	1
Atlantic Coast High	2		1	
Baldwin Middle-High	1		3	
Biscayne Elementary	1		1	
Chets Creek Elementary	2		2	
Darnell Cookman	1		1	
Duncan U. Fletcher High	4		3	1
First Coast High School	2		1	
Frank H Peterson Academies	3		2	
GRASP Academy	2		1	
Greenland Pines Elem.	2		1	
Highlands Elementary	1	3	2	3
Holiday Hill Elementary	1		1	
Jean Ribault High School	1		1	
Joseph Stilwell Middle School		5	1	5
Landmark Middle School	3		3	
Mandarin High School	1	1	1	
Merrill Road Elementary		3	1	2
Mt. Herman Exc Student Ctr		1		1
Robert E. Lee High School	3		2	
Samuel W. Wolfson High School	2		2	
San Pablo Elementary	2	4	7	1
Southside Estates Elementary	1	1	1	1
Spring Park Elementary	1	2		1
Thomas Jefferson Elementary	1		1	
Westview K-8	2		2	
William M. Raines High School		1	1	
Windy Hill Elementary	1		3	
Young Womens Leadership Academy (YWLA)/Young Mens Leadership Academy (YMLA) at Eugene Butler		2		1

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Schools in the county/district data that do not appear in the DOH/state data

School	Case totals, Sept. 6-26	
	Students	Staff
Abess Park Elementary	1	1
Alimacani Elementary		1
Andrew A. Robinson Elem.	2	
Bartram Springs Elementary	1	
Crown Point Elementary	1	
Dinsmore Elementary	1	
Enterprise Learning Acad.	1	1
George W. Carver Elem.	1	
Greenfield Elementary	1	
Gregory Drive Elementary		1
Highlands Middle School	1	
J. Allen Axson Elementary	1	
J.E.B. Stuart Middle School	1	
Jacksonville Beach Elem.	1	
Julia Landon Middle School		5
Lake Lucina Elementary	1	
New Berlin Elementary	1	
Palm Ave. Exc. Student Ctr.		1
Parkwood Heights Elementary		1
Pine Estates Elementary	1	
Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary	2	
Southside Middle School	1	1
Stanton College Prep.	1	
Susie E. Tolbert Elementary.		1
The Bridge to Success Academy at West Jacksonville	2	
Twin Lakes Elementary	1	
Whitehouse Elementary	1	1

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Schools in the DOH/state data that do not appear in the county/district data

School	Case totals, Sept. 6-26	
	Students	Staff
ATLANTIC BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	
BISHOP JOHN J. SNYDER HIGH SCHOOL	1	
BISHOP KENNY HIGH SCHOOL	1	
DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	1	
DUNCAN U. FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL	1	
DUVAL DISTRICT OFFICE		1
EDWARD H. WHITE HIGH SCHOOL	1	2
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF JACKSONVILLE	1	1
FORT CAROLINE BAPTIST ACADEMY	1	
GLOBAL OUTREACH CHARTER ACADEMY		1
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL	1	1
HOPE HAVEN ASSOCIATION INC.	1	
LAVILLA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	1	
MANDARIN MIDDLE SCHOOL	2	
MATTIE V RUTHERFORD ALT ED CENTER		1
NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	3	
RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY	1	
S. A. HULL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	
SAN JOSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	
SEABREEZE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	
TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	1	
WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL	2	

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