Inclusion of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in Distance Education

The St Lucian National Perspective

June 16, 2020
Special Education in St Lucia

5 special education centres
Mainstream schools have special educational needs teachers
All students with vision challenges integrated into mainstream schools

Approximately 400 students; varying disabilities
75 Primary; 15 Secondary
8 itinerant teachers; 35 students
## COVID-19 in St Lucia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Point</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Persons in Quarantine in Saint Lucia</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of COVID-19 Tests Done in Saint Lucia</td>
<td>1,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of persons Recovered from COVID-19</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Saint Lucia</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of COVID-19 Deaths in Saint Lucia</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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https://www.covid19response.lc/ as at June 14, 2020

Source: Dale St Juste
Student Support During COVID-19: Instruction

Printed packages provided for students (usually 2 week cycles)

Some instructional sessions on various online platforms (Zoom, Seesaw, Google Classroom, WhatsApp)
Student Support During COVID-19: Parent

All teachers contacted parents via WhatsApp and Zoom.
Some teachers purchased a dedicated sim card for communicating with parents.
School feeding supplies were sent home to needing students.
Student Support During COVID-19: Dept. of Education

Distribution of 20 MiFi devices to students with electronic devices but no connectivity

Institutional guidance and troubleshooting support for principals and teachers
Challenges and Issues

Limited access to electronic devices and online connectivity

Limited availability and capacity of parents to help and support children
Challenges and Issues

Difficulty contacting and providing support to some students

Childcare issues for working parents; respite for unemployed parents
Challenges and Issues

Difficulty helping some students adapt to the new form of learning

Scarcity of distance support options for students needing therapeutic intervention
Benefits and Gains

Regular contact between teachers and parents

Some parents now more empathetic to teachers’ concerns and experiences
Benefits and Gains

Greater teacher embrace of ICT in education

Improved teacher knowledge, skills and competencies in using technology in education
Looking Forward

Greater investment in ICT resources for SNE

Provide teacher training in ICT in education for SNE
Looking Forward

Create space for innovative approaches to teaching and learning

Strengthen partnerships between parents (homes) and schools

Dale St Juste
Thank you