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State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: May 27, 2020
SUBJECT: Student Participation in Distance Learning: Survey Results

PURPOSE:

To provide an overview to the State Board regarding student participation in distance learning, as reported by a survey of local school systems.

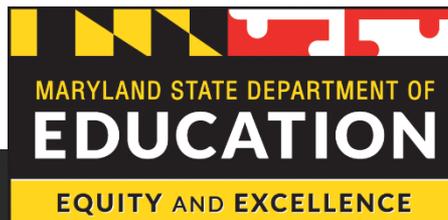
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Maryland State Department of Education surveyed local school systems in early May about student participation in distance learning. Systems were asked to report about the prior one-week period. The survey asked about student access, participation, and engagement in distance learning, including online distance learning, distance learning packets, and non-contact/non-participation.

ACTION:

No action is necessary; for discussion only.

Participation in Distance Learning: Survey Results



State Board Meeting

May 27, 2020

Overview: Participation in Distance Learning Survey

- MSDE surveyed local school systems in early May
- Systems were asked to report about the prior one-week period
- Survey asked about student access, participation, and engagement in distance learning:
 - Online distance learning
 - Distance learning packets
 - Non-contact and non-participation

Connectivity for Online Learning

Question	Low	High	Data Summary
To your knowledge, what percentage of your students have access to the Internet, either at home or at a location suitable for accessing online learning activities?	Less than 30%	99%	3 systems: less than 50% 1 system: between 50 and 80% 7 systems: between 80 and 90% 13 systems: 90% or more

- Systems with high connectivity percentages combine home access, additional hot spot distribution, creation of access points outside of some schools, and free public WiFi

Student Sign-Ons to Online Distance Learning

“Signed on” to online distance learning means that a student’s device connected to the online platform hosting learning materials, but not necessarily that the student participated in the learning activity or discussion, or even that they remained signed in for the duration of the session.

Is your school system collecting data on students who sign on to online distance learning?	Yes: 21	No: 3	
In the past week, what percentage of eligible students signed on to online distance learning?	Low: 73%	High: 99%	9 systems: 73 to 90% 6 systems: 90% or greater 7 systems: other data 2 systems: unknown

- Data on student sign-ons is being collected in 21 systems. 15 systems are able to answer the question about percentages exactly as written; 7 have data in some other form.
- In some systems unable to report student sign-ons:
 - Learning management systems do not differentiate between student and teacher sign-ons
 - System is working with vendor to better understand data provided
 - Sign-on data is collected at teacher level and not reported centrally

Engagement with Online Distance Learning

“Engagement” with online distance learning means that a student participates or interacts with online distance learning after signing on.

Is your school system collecting data on student engagement with online distance learning?

Yes: 22

No: 2

In the past week, what percentage of your students **engaged with** online distance learning?

Low: 73%

High: 94%

8 systems: 73 to 90%
3 systems: 90% or greater
10 systems: other data
3 systems: unknown

- Data on student engagement is being collected in 22 systems. 11 systems are able to answer the question about percentages exactly as written; 11 have data in some other form or cannot report a percentage.
- In some systems, data is collected at the classroom and/or school level only
- Some systems have accurate data about how many tasks were completed but not how many students completed them, or whether students engaged but not the mode (online or packet)
- Examples of definitions of engagement:
 - 3 log-ons per week
 - Participation in 1 synchronous learning opportunity per week
 - Completion of assignments
 - Interaction with the teacher

Receipt of Distance Learning Packets

“Distance learning packet” means a packet of instructional materials that is printed for students and then picked up or delivered, and/or a packet of instructional materials that can be downloaded and/or printed from the school system or other website.

“Eligible students” means students who are intended to receive a distance learning packet. (For example, if your school system only uses distance learning packets in grades K-5, then “eligible students” refers only to students in grades K-5.)

In the past week, what percentage of eligible students <i>received</i> at least one distance learning packet?	Low: 94%	High: 100%	2 system: 94% 12 systems: 98% or more 10 systems: other data
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- Data on packet receipt is being collected in all systems. 14 systems are able to answer the question about percentages exactly as written; 10 have data in some other form.
- Depending on the system, LSSs are providing packets:
 - To all students as the primary/sole source of distance learning
 - To all/some students as a supplement to online distance learning
 - Only to students in certain grades/subject areas
 - Only to students without reliable Internet access
 - Only to students who request them
- Depending on the system, packets are mailed, downloaded, and/or picked up at schools, meal distribution sites, and/or other locations

Engagement with Distance Learning Packets

“Engagement” with a distance learning packet means that a student interacts with the packet in some way after receiving it.

Is your school system collecting data on student engagement with distance learning packets?

Yes: 18

No: 6

In the past week, what percentage of your students who received a distance learning packet have **engaged** with a distance learning packet?

Low: 69%

High: 99%

3 systems: less than 90%
4 systems: 90% or more
11 systems: other data
6 systems: unknown

- Data on student engagement is being collected in 18 systems. Seven systems are able to answer the question about percentages exactly as written; 11 have data in some other form.
- Most systems are measuring student engagement with packets via uploaded photos or scans, or by counting teacher discussions
- In systems unable to report a percentage:
 - Some data on engagement with packets is at the teacher and/or school level but not reported centrally
 - Some systems are only using packets for students without reliable Internet, so those students will also struggle with sending evidence of engagement

Non-Contact and Non-Participation

Question	Low	High	Data Summary
Since your school system implemented its Continuity of Learning Plan, what percentage of students and/or families in your school system have <i>not once been contacted, and/or contact has been attempted but failed</i> ?	0%	8.5%	13 systems: less than 1% 7 systems: between 1 and 5% 1 system: 8.5% 2 systems: unknown*
Since your school system implemented its Continuity of Learning Plan, what percentage of students have <i>not participated in distance learning in any form</i> , meaning they have not received a distance learning packet, have not logged on to online distance learning, etc.? These students may have been contacted for other reasons.	0%	15%	8 systems: less than 1% 11 systems: between 1 and 5% 3 systems: between 5 and 15% 2 systems: unknown

*One system responded with an erroneous data point and cannot be reported here