



May 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Subject: MSDE Distance Learning Survey

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Maryland State Department of Education asked all Maryland local education agencies to participate in a distance learning survey. The survey is designed to gauge students' access and engagement with online learning over the week of Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1. Howard County Public School System returned the below responses to the survey on Wednesday, May 13.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Executive Director of Information Technology Justin Benedict.

Copy to: Executive Staff
Board of Education Office

Student Participation in Distance Learning

Questions in this survey will ask about the percentage of students who have received and engaged with distance learning packets (if applicable), and/or the percentage of students who have accessed and engaged with online distance learning (if applicable). Please make sure you have this information available before you begin. If there is another person in your local school system who should answer, please send the survey link to them.

All questions ask about student participation over the week of Monday April 27 to Friday May 1. If you do not have data for this time period, enter data for the most recent one-week period you have available.

If you have questions about how to answer any of the items in this survey, and/or if you would like to change any of your responses, please contact Dara Shaw, Executive Director for Research at MSDE (dara.shaw@maryland.gov).

* Indicates required question

* 1. Enter local school system name:

Howard County Public School System

* 2. Enter your name:

* 3. Enter your email address:

Student Participation in Distance Learning 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.)

* 4. Are distance learning packets a part of your school system’s Continuity of Learning Plan?

Yes - _____

No - _____

5. In the past week, what percentage of eligible students *received* at least one distance learning packet?

Unknown

I have data about distance learning packets but cannot answer this question exactly as it is written

Percentage: _____

6. If you answered Q5 “I cannot answer this question exactly as it is written” or need to provide additional information about students receiving distance learning packets, please explain.

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

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

Yes - _____

No - _____

8. How does your school system define student engagement with distance learning packets? (What "counts" as engagement?)

We did not collect names of students who picked up packets and we have not collected the packets. Therefore, we cannot measure engagement with distance learning packets.

9. In the past week, what percentage of your students who received a distance learning packet have *engaged* with a distance learning packet? (For example, if 600 students received a distance learning packet, what percent of those 600 students engaged with a distance learning packet?)

Unknown

I have data about engagement with distance learning packets

but cannot answer this question exactly as it is written

Percentage: _____

10. If you answered Q9 “I cannot answer this question exactly as it is written” or need to provide additional information about students engaging with distance learning packets, please explain.

Student Participation in Distance Learning ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

“Online distance learning” means instruction that is accessible *only* via the Internet. Online distance learning may consist of virtual activities, video lessons, digital assignments, online “class sessions” or “office hours,” virtual “discussion boards,” and/or other learning activities that require Internet access and cannot be downloaded as a static distance learning packet.

Online distance learning may be "live" or "synchronous" (participants interact in real time) and/or "asynchronous" (materials are provided via the Internet and students can access them at any time).

- * 11. 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? (Please answer this question to the best of your knowledge, even if your school system is not using online distance learning as part of its Continuity of Learning Plan.)

95% (56,599 / 59,546)

* 12. Is online distance learning part of your school system's Continuity of Learning Plan?

Yes -

No -

Student Participation in 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.

“Eligible students” means students who are intended to participate in online distance learning. (For example, if your school system only uses online distance learning in grades 6-12, then “eligible students” refers only to students in grades 6-12.)

13. Is your school system collecting data on students who sign on to online distance learning?

Yes -

No -

14. How has your school system defined “signed on” to online distance learning? (What "counts" as being signed on?)

For elementary students - “signed on” metrics are calculated by measuring logins to any application across HCPSS through our Single Sign On (SSO) credential which will also aggregate 3rd party tools.

For secondary students - “signed on” is calculated by measuring any activity that might occur in both the mobile app or web version of the Canvas learning management platform. An activity can be anything from simply visiting the front page of Canvas to completing an assignment.

15. In the past week, what percentage of eligible students *signed on* to online distance learning?

Unknown

I have data about students signing on to online distance

learning but cannot answer this question exactly as it is written

Percentage: 98.7% (4/27/20 - 5/1/20)

16. If you answered Q15 “I cannot answer this question exactly as it is written” or need to provide additional information about students signing on to online distance learning, please explain.

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

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

Yes - X

No - _____

18. How has your school system defined/measured student engagement with online distance learning?

At elementary, HCPSS is measuring participation in DreamBox (mathematics) and Lexia Core5 (reading) and virtual check-ins with teachers. For grading, we are also tracking Canvas tasks at elementary.

At middle and high school, virtual check-ins with teachers and completed assignments are being used to measure more intensive engagement.

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

_____ Unknown

Y I have data about engagement with online distance

learning but cannot answer this question exactly as it is written

Percentage: 94.39%

20. If you answered Q19 “I cannot answer this question exactly as it is written” or need to provide additional information about students engaging with online distance learning, please explain.

Student Participation in Distance Learning

STUDENT CONTACT

- * 21. Since your school system implemented its Continuity of Learning Plan, what percentage of students and/or families in your school system have *not once been contacted, and/or contact has been attempted but failed* ? Contact may occur with either the student or family, and with a teacher, school staff member, school system administrator, or other educator.

_____ Unknown

Percentage: 0.01%

22. Since your school system implemented its Continuity of Learning Plan, what percentage of students in your school system have *not participated in distance learning in any form*, 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.

_____ Unknown

Percentage: .7% have not participated in online learning

23. This survey asked about student participation in distance learning for your school system as a whole. Do you have this information by grade span (elementary, middle, and high)?

Yes - X

No - _____

24. Please provide any additional information or comments about student contact and/or participation in distance learning.

HCPSS believes participation would be higher if all students had access to the internet. Lack of HotSpot availability is a challenge.