

Coronavirus – impact on education

An overview of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the US education sector, including a breakdown of key funding provisions and actions to address the “homework gap”

June 5, 2020

Producer

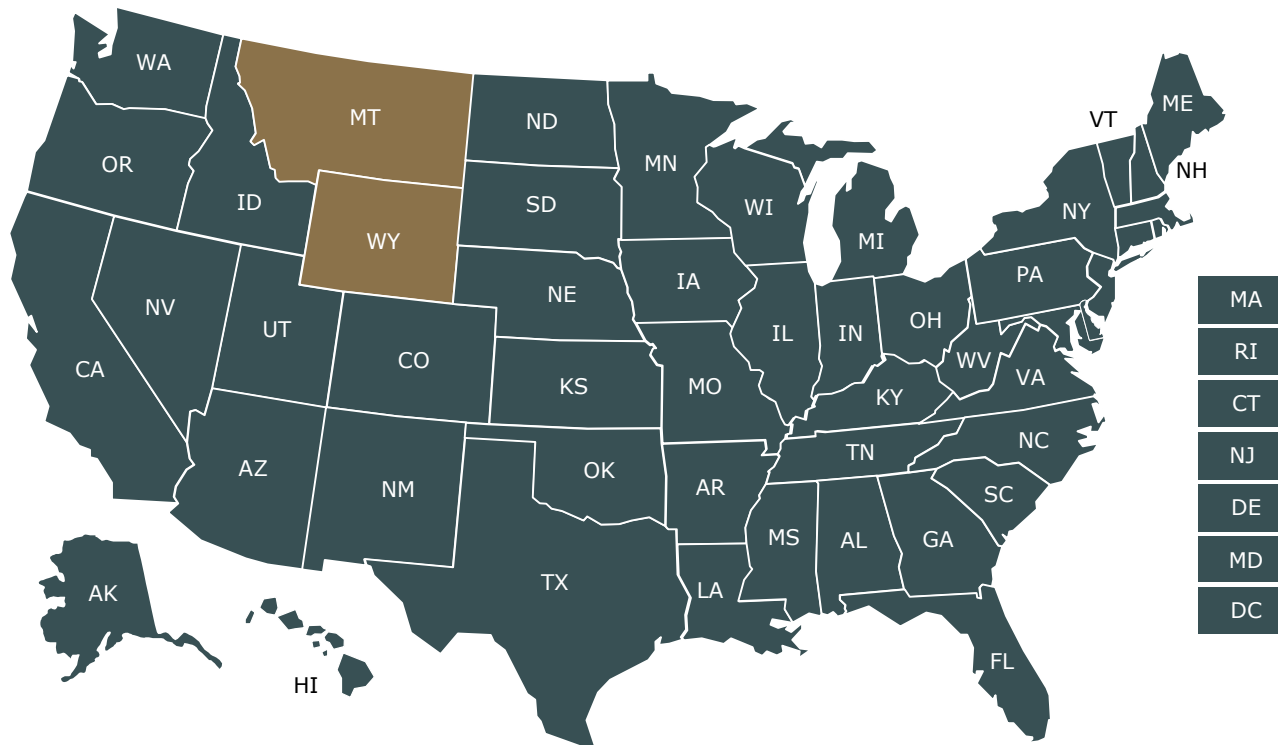
Molly Newell

As of May 15, 48 states, 4 territories, and DC have closed school buildings for the rest of the academic year

Status of state closures

EDUCATION WEEK, AS OF MAY 15, 2020

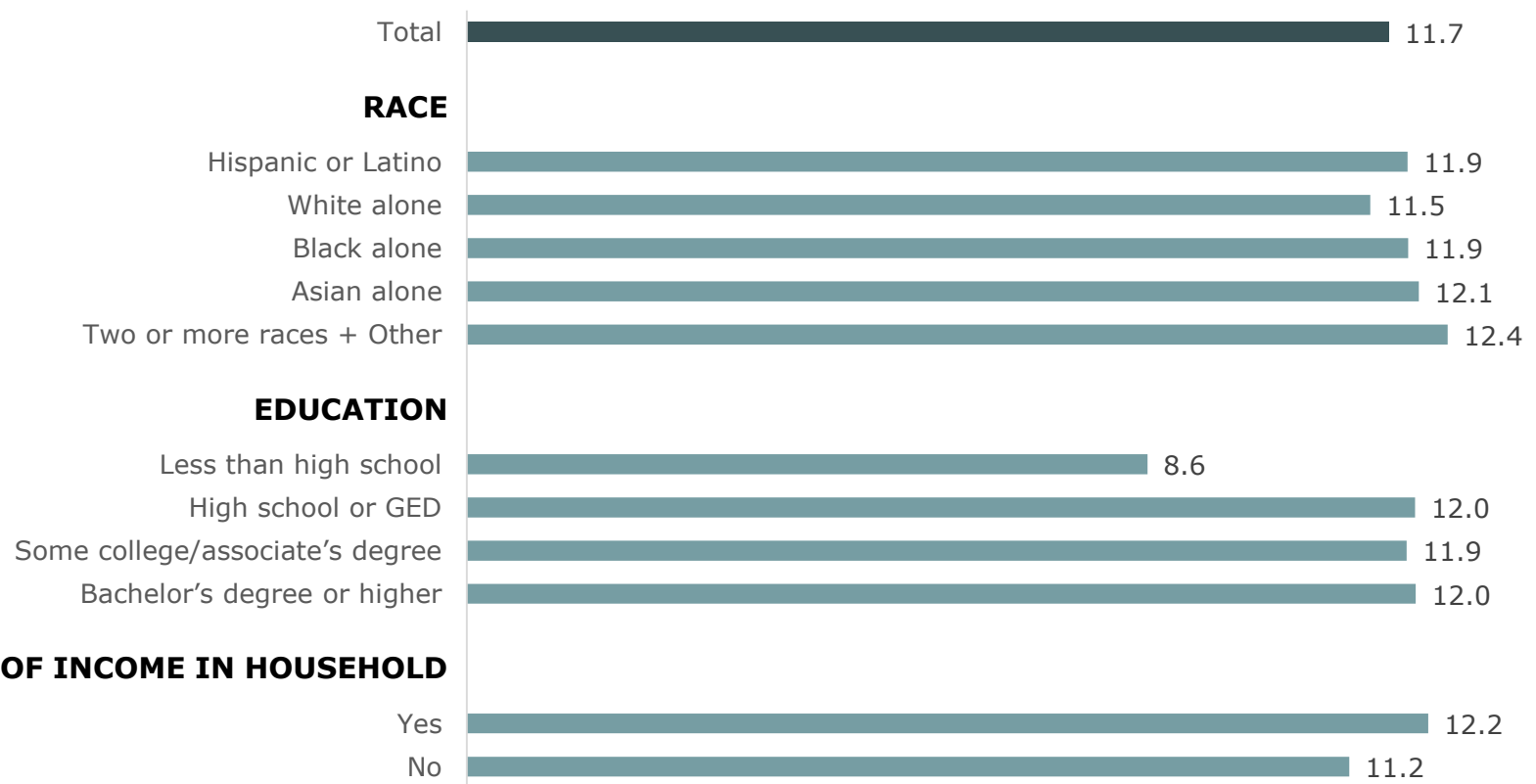
■ Closed or recommended to close for academic year ■ Varies by school district



Most US households with kids enrolled in public or private school report spending around 12 hours per week on education

Hours spent in last week on home-based education for households with children in public or private school, by select characteristics

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU HOUSEHOLD PULSE SURVEY, MAY 21-26.



Sources: US Census Bureau.

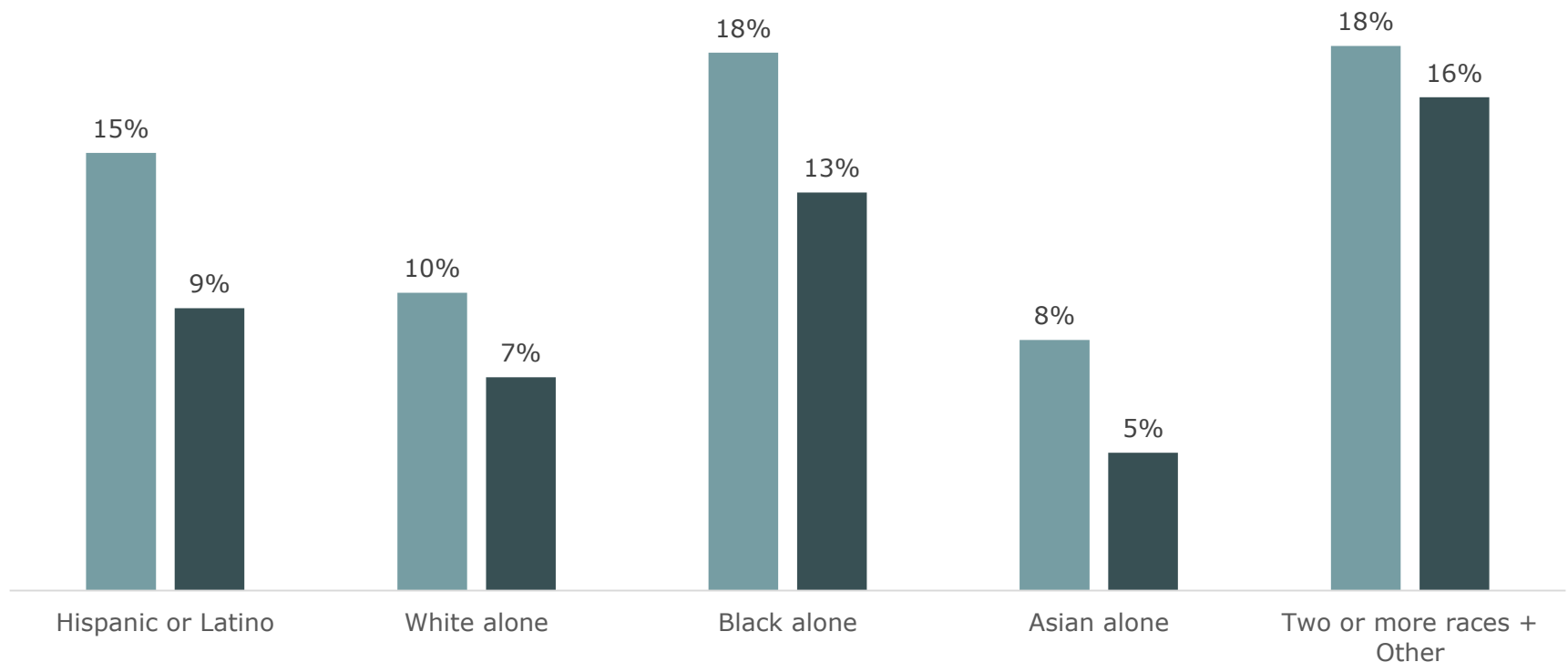
Slide last updated on: June 4, 2020

Black and Hispanic households are less likely to report having consistent access to the tech needed for online learning

Share of total population 18 years and older in households with children in public or private schools who report having technology available for education sometimes, rarely, or never

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU HOUSEHOLD PULSE SURVEY, MAY 21-26.

■ Devices ■ Internet



Sources: US Census Bureau.

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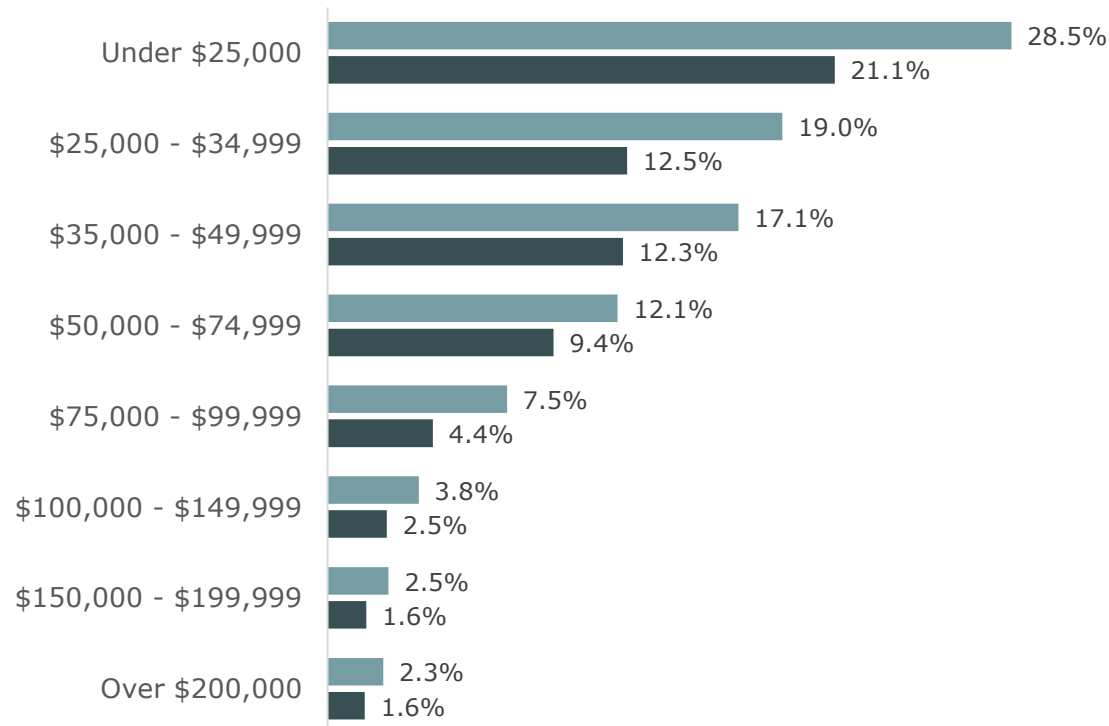
Households with financial insecurity are more likely to report inconsistent technology availability

Share of total population 18 years and older in households with children in public or private schools who report having technology available for education sometimes, rarely, or never

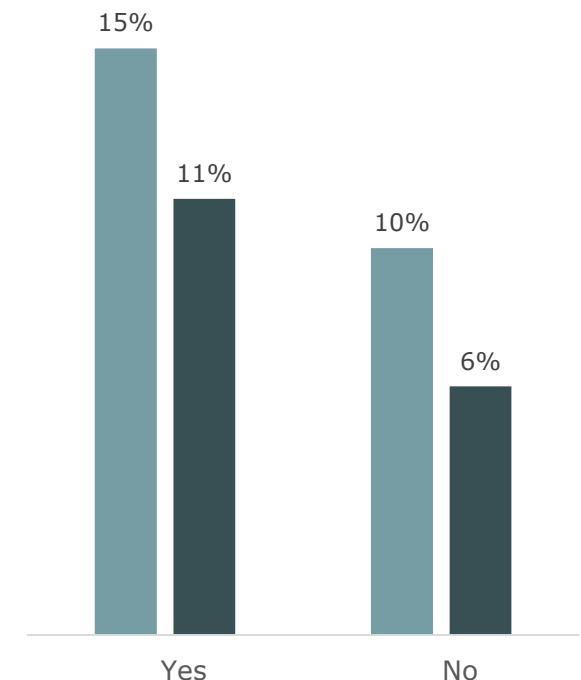
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU HOUSEHOLD PULSE SURVEY, MAY 21-26

■ Devices ■ Internet

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



LOSS OF INCOME IN HOUSEHOLD



Sources: US Census Bureau.

Slide last updated on: June 4, 2020

The pandemic could drive many changes to the education space during the 2020-2021 school year

Potential areas of change in the education space



Budget challenges: As states face an economic downturn, many advocates are worried that education will see funding decreases. In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) proposed a cut of over \$827 million to the education budget.



Return to school: As many school districts move summer school to online learning, administrators are considering plans for the 2020-21 school year. Some options would integrate at-home learning into in-school education. CDC guidance on school reopening is under review but will be available “soon.”



Assessment and evaluation: Most states cancelled their federally-required standardized assessments, which could have an impact on how schools’ are held accountable for student achievement. College admissions will change as some universities waive the already controversial SAT/ACT requirements.



Addressing the Homework Gap: Rising demand on broadband for educational access has raised awareness for digital inequities. School districts will likely continue to increase investment in digital access for students who otherwise lack connectivity.



Career and Technical Education: CTE was a major education priority for many leaders before the pandemic, but programs’ reliance on hands-on training have made the transition to remote learning particularly challenging.



Professional development: Teachers will need continued training to adjust to changing demands and the increased digital capacity necessary to run an online classroom. School closures have also brought stronger recognition of teachers’ skills.

The Phase 3 stimulus package included over \$30 billion in education funding

Highlight of major funding provisions:

\$13.5 B

for **public K-12 schools**,
with at least 90% of that
earmarked for school districts
through the Title I aid formula

\$14.25 B

for support to **higher
education institutions**

\$3 B

for **governors to use at
their discretion** through a
flexible funding formula for K-
12 and/or higher education



Student loans

- **Suspends federal student loan payments** without interest through September 30
- **Suspends wage garnishment or tax refund reduction** for those who have defaulted on federal student aid loans
- Does not include debt forgiveness
- The bill **will not impact privately held student loans** (approximately 12% of all loans in 2018-2019)



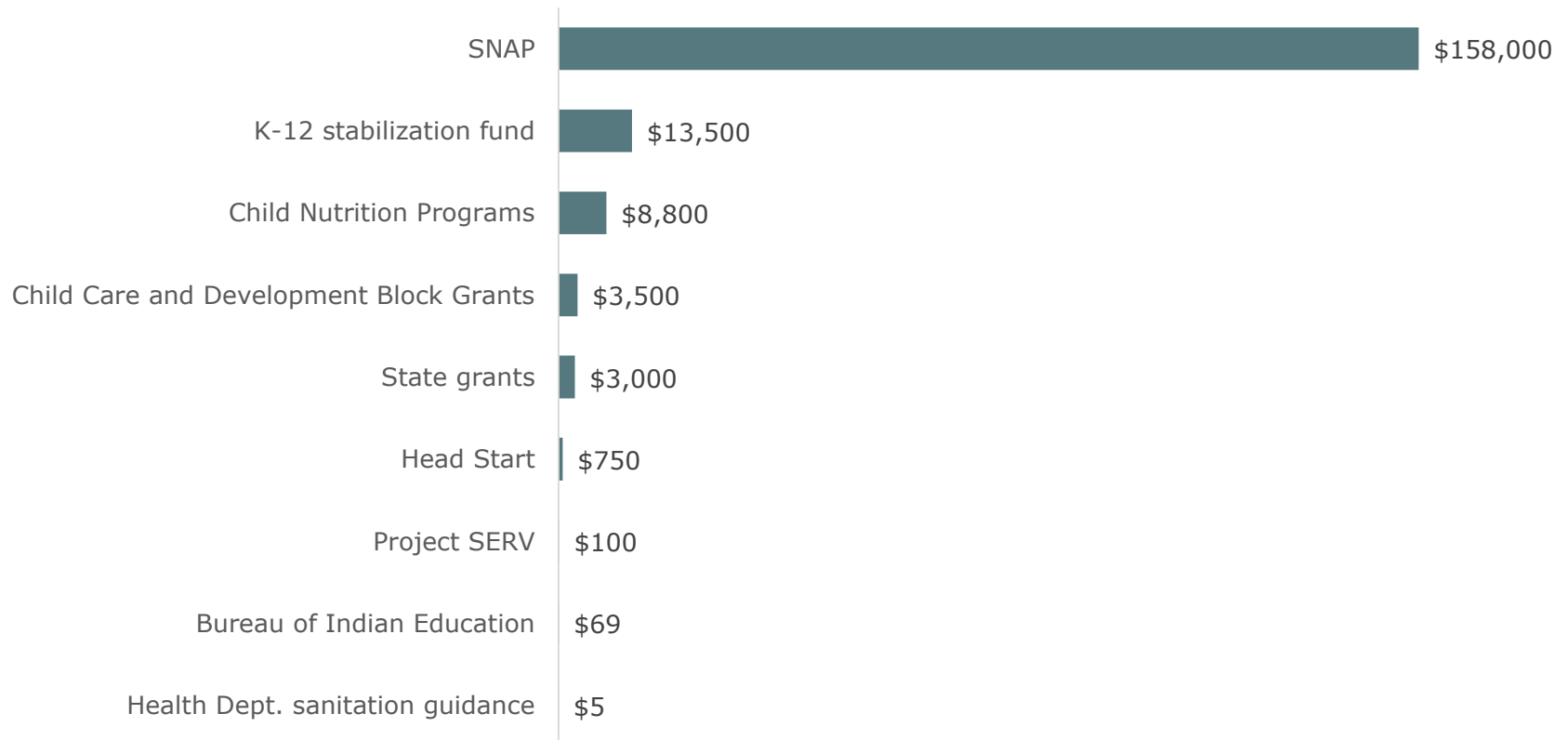
Accountability

- The bill gives Secretary Betsy DeVos authority to **grant relief from certain accountability statutes** under ESSA
- The bill requires her to report to Congress within 30 days about **recommendations to grant schools limited flexibility from other education laws**, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The \$2 trillion stimulus package also included funding for other programs impacting children and schools

Highlight of key provisions impacting children and schools

DOLLARS IN MILLIONS



Sources: Education Week

The transition to remote learning will acutely impact students without adequate internet connectivity



3 million households with school-age children do not have at-home broadband connections



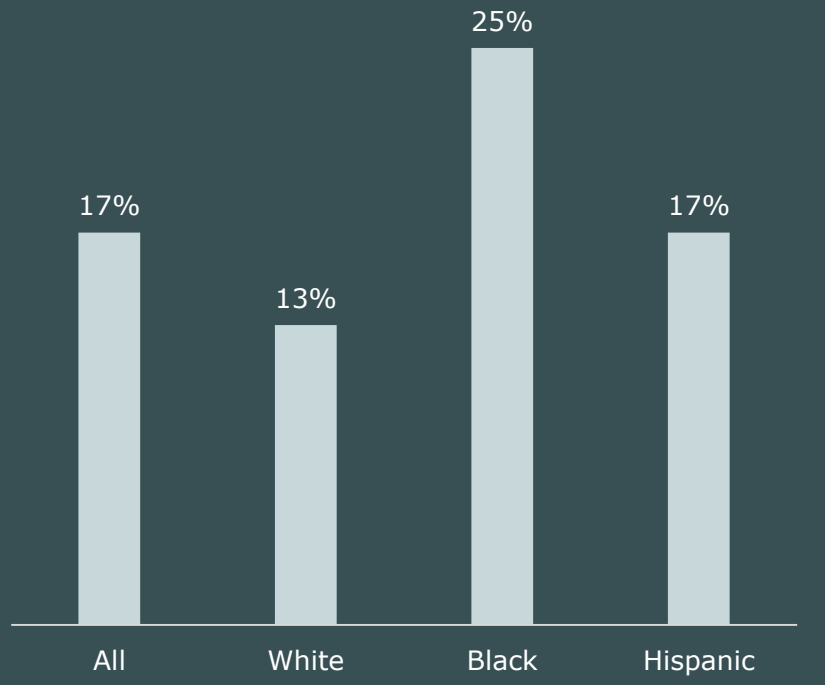
2 million children live in households that rely exclusively on cellular networks



Many of the **community resources** that students would have used to access internet, such as libraries, **have been closed** in response to COVID-19

17% of teens are often or sometimes unable to complete homework due to a lack of a reliable computer or internet connection

PEW, OCTOBER 2018



Sources: Pew Research Center, Benton Institute, City Lab

FCC has taken steps to improve students' access to internet services during the COVID-19 pandemic

Highlight of FCC action to support education

1

FCC and Department of Education are **promoting the use of the \$16 billion CARES Act Education Stabilization Fund** for remote learning.

2

FCC **waived gift rules in the E-Rate program** until September 30, allowing schools and libraries to accept improved capacity, Wi-Fi hotspots, or other equipment services from providers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

3

Over 700 companies and associations have signed FCC's Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which calls on companies not to terminate service due to an inability to pay, waive late fees, and open Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them during the pandemic.



E-Rate overview

- E-Rate is the largest government program addressing in-school broadband access
- Advocates have called on FCC to loosen regulations so funding can be more easily spent on at-home devices to improve access for students
- 16 Democratic senators sent a letter to FCC calling upon the agency to determine how much of the E-Rate program can be used for one-time discounts to schools seeking to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots or enable internet access on other devices
- The \$2 trillion Senate CARES package did not provide additional E-Rate funding

Over 1,100 colleges and universities in all 50 states have cancelled in-person classes or moved to online instruction



Academic impact

- Studies have found that student performance can suffer in online classes
- Hundreds of colleges and universities have changed grading policies in response to the pandemic
- A growing number of colleges are dropping testing requirements for admission, waiving fees, or extending deadlines



Economic impact

- The sudden shift to online classes and potential revenue losses jeopardize academic institutions' economic security
- Worsening stock market conditions also weakens endowments
- The threat of a recession may leave fewer students able to afford higher education or choosing more affordable options
- Adjunct and part-time faculty are more likely to lack benefits such as sick leave or health insurance



Other considerations

- *International students:* DHS guidance allows students to maintain visa status, even if classes are all online
- *Sports:* NCAA will cut distributions to Division I schools by up to \$375 million; NCAA is also considering eligibility extensions for seniors who had their seasons cut short or cancelled



Higher-Ed in CARES Act

Appropriations

- **\$14.25 billion** for higher-ed
- **\$3 billion** for governors to use at their discretion to support K-12 and/or higher education

Student loans

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- **Suspends wage garnishment or tax refund reduction** for those who have defaulted on federal student aid loans
- The bill **will not impact privately held student loans**

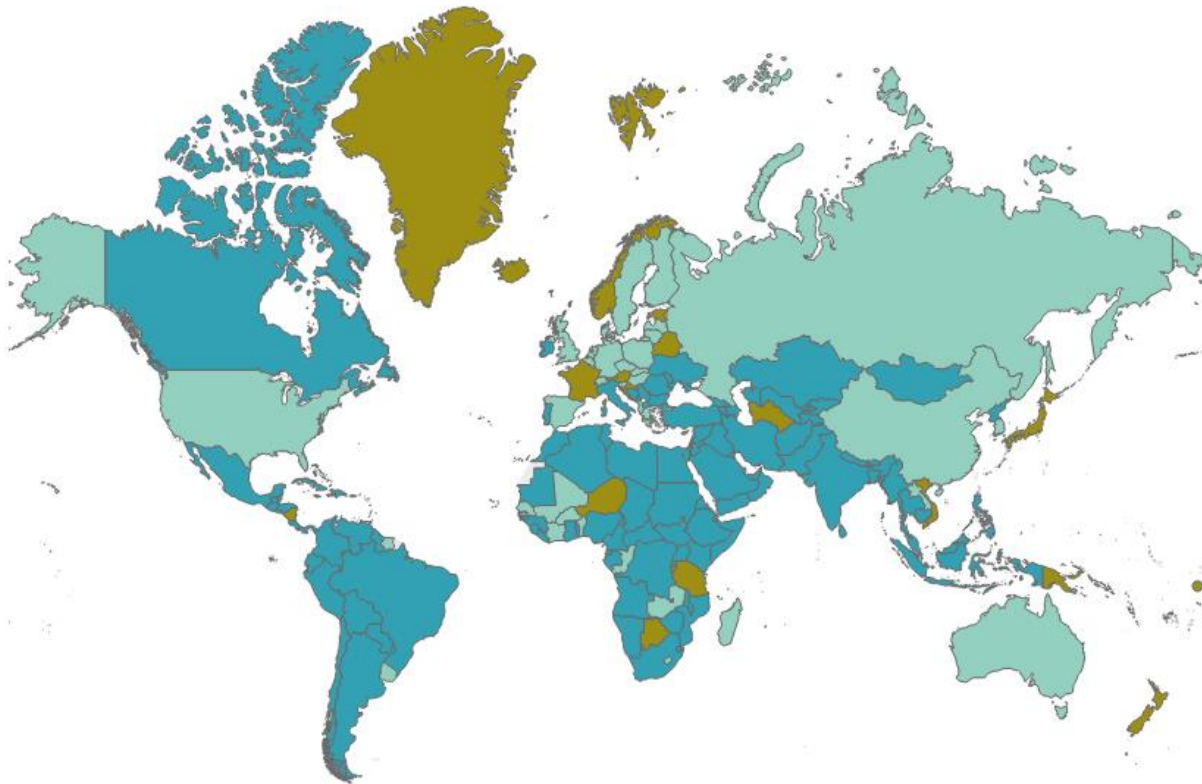
Sources: Education Week, Government Technology, USA Today, Politico, Inside Higher ED, NCSL

Some countries are beginning to reopen schools that had been closed due to the pandemic

Status of school closures caused by COVID-19

UNESCO, AS OF JUNE 5, 2020

Local National Open



Over 1.1 trillion
currently affected learners

64.4%
of total enrolled learners

134
country-wide closures