Distance Learning Feedback
(Part 2)

School Board Meeting
April 6, 2020

Parent Feedback
What's not working for your children and for you?

Elementary Schools Parent Feedback

STUDENTS	PARENTS
- More structure--help getting organized - More frequent and/or longer live teacher contacts - More challenging work - More differentiated work - Lack of art, music, science - More feedback on work - Tech challenges - Too much screen time; need more print-based materials - More social interaction with classmates - Some want more work; others feels there is too much work	- Many challenges trying to take on the teacher's role - Hard to manage kids and jobs- kids aren't independent in work- parents feel like they are failing- parents need support - Hard to motivate kids to do the work - Not enough to fill the day - Streamline nstructions for parents on how to extend some tasks--too many emails - Don't know what to prioritize - Hard to monitor screen time - Too much work expected while we are trying to balance our own workload and simple tasks like buying groceries online

Middle School Parent Feedback

STUDENTS	PARENTS
- More interaction with teacher and classmates - Assignments/updates added to Schoology at different times of the day; it's hard for a student to notice if they missed a post - Timing of virtual check-ins announced; some announced too close to time they go live - Inconsistency in amount of work assigned across disciplines - Limited instruction provided by teachers, instead just posting assignments/work - Assignments taking too long, forcing too much screen time for students - Heavy reliance on reading and writing	- Too much work to manage on Schoology to support my child - Lack of child's engagement - Too much screen time - Not enough work to keep students engaged throughout the day - Want a weekly email to support tracking work completion; inconsistent use of schoology calendar - More synchronous class time - Need teacher feedback on students' performance

High Schools Parent Feedback

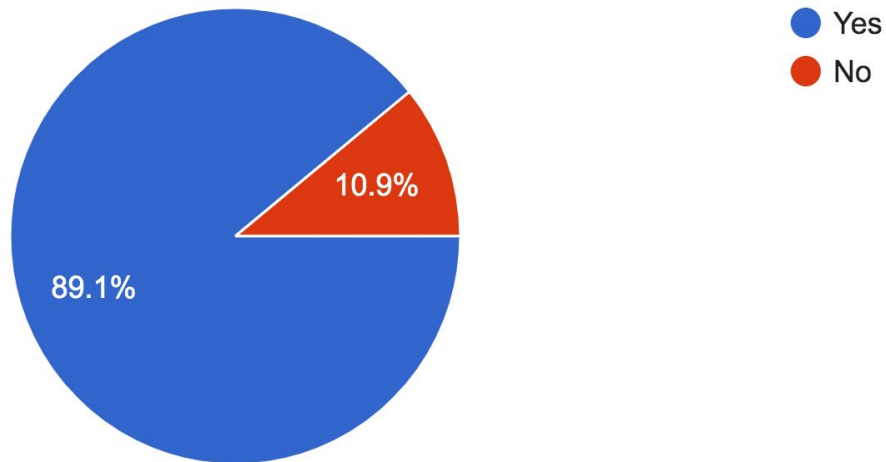| STUDENTS	PARENTS
- More online instruction and structured class meeting times - Too much work to be done independently; more should be done together online - Workload too high; quantity and quality of assignments feels more like homework than classwork - More useful, inspiring assignments and projects and less "busy work" - Not following schedule for class meetings - Sense that many students are cheating with the distance learning - Lack of senior activities, fun stuff	- Too much work to manage on Schoology to support my child - Lack of engagement - Too much screen time - Not enough work to keep students engaged throughout the day - Want a weekly email to support tracking work completion; inconsistent use of schoology calendar - More synchronous class time - Need teacher feedback on students' performance - Pass/no pass grading; anxiety about AP, grades, colleges

Teacher Feedback
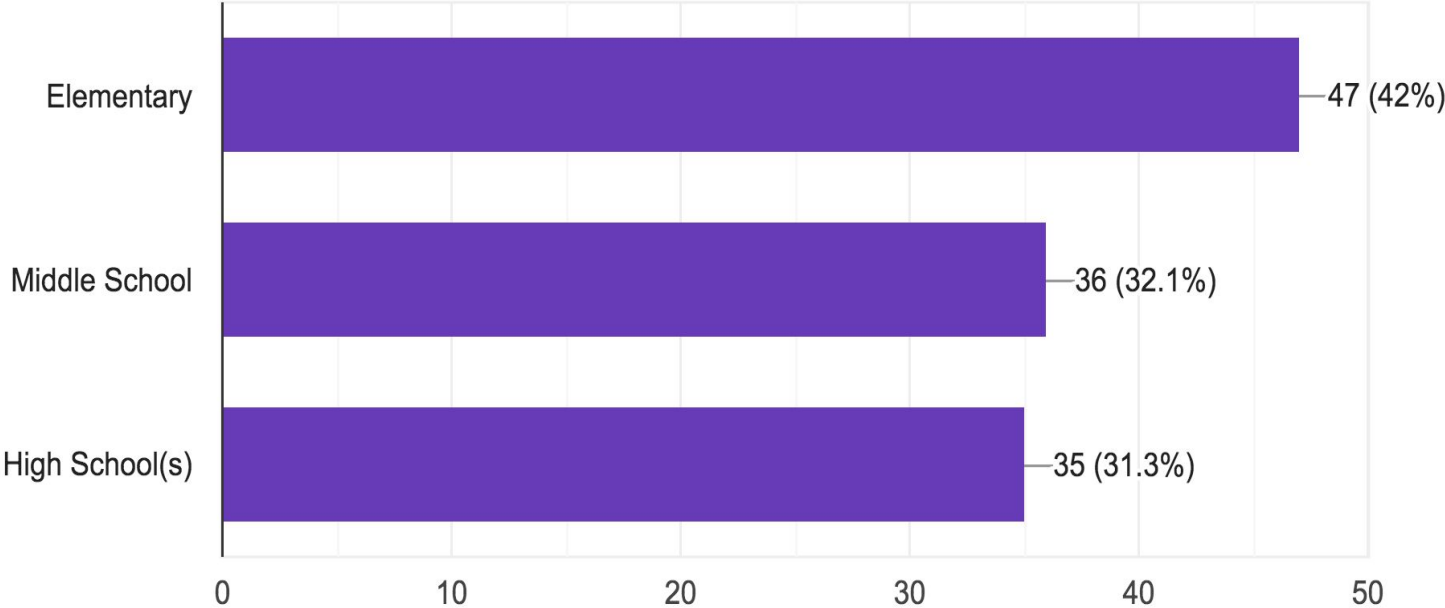
Have you performed an "Asynchronous" meeting/lesson with your students (pre-recorded)?

109 responses

- Yes
- No

35.8%

64.2%
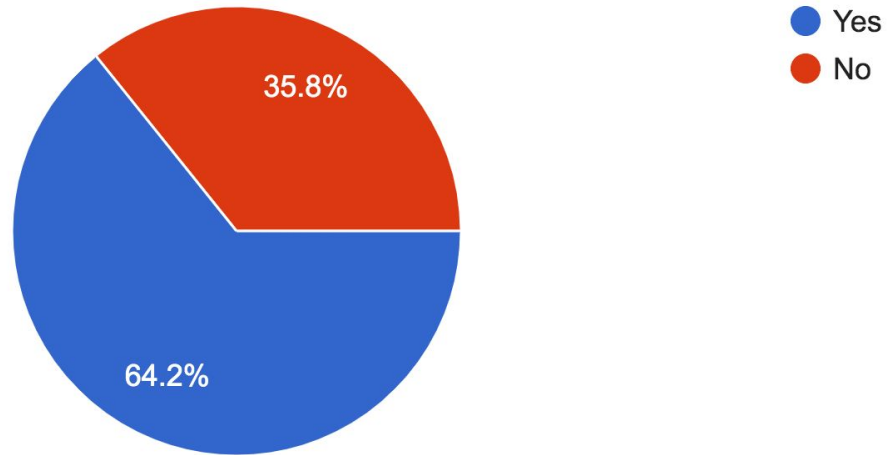
How much time, on average, are you spending per day developing distance learning lessons and activities?

Level	1-2 hours	3-4 hours	5-6 hours	7-8 hours	9-10 hours	10+ hours
Elem	3	4	8	14	5	3
Middle	7	11	5	6	0	0
High	7	6	8	3	2	2
Total	17	21	21	23	7	5

Elementary: What's working for you and your students?

- Googe hangouts--synchronous meetings with students
- Asynchronous lessons--posting assignments in Google classroom times to provide flexibility for families
- Tech trainings and tech support
- Collaboration with grade level/site teams
- Read-alouds and other ways of connecting with students
- Not collecting work because not all students can get it done
- Getting positive feedback from parents and students

Secondary: What's working for you and your students?

- Connecting with students through synchronous meetings
- Schoology to post videos, links, assignments, etc.
- Tech trainings (Screencastify, Google Meet) and tech support
- Planning for the week and allowing students to work at their own pace
- Office hours with short check-ins and more time for 1:1 interactions with students
- Recording lessons followed by homework
- Flexibility turning in assignments
- Student-to-student interactions through discussion boards and seeing each other in Zoom meetings
- New technology: Flipgrid, Edpuzzle

What challenges are you experiencing related to distance learning?

1. Creating a Classroom from Home

"I live in a very small space that has now become my bedroom, living room, and now teaching space. It makes life and work quite difficult at times."

"I do not have a work space at my house and I have no desk to work at. My family of 5 is having to juggle quiet space for me to meet with students. I am currently keeping the crates and boxes of materials that I brought home in the back of our mini-van because I do not have anywhere to store them in the house."

2. Not Enough Time To Do It All

"Almost everything I do requires learning new technology or learning how to present something I know how to teach in person into something that can be done online. So even things I know how to teach are taking me hours as I first figure out how it translates into online work, then learn the technology to do that."

"There is just not enough time to plan and prep meaningful learning activities, meet with my class, meet with individual students, grade level team members, schoolwide staff, ILT AND THEN care for myself and my family in a way that feels healthy. "

3. Balancing Work and Home Life

"It's a ton of work to do right by my students. I also want to do right by my family and take care of my household."

"It is extremely challenging to teach two different grade levels to my own children while trying to research curriculum, watch technology trainings, attend meetings, respond to parent emails, record read alouds and write daily letters to my class. I am barely able to hold it together each day."

4. Learning New Technology

"Learning so much about how to use all the technology. Still not sure how to provide meaningful live lessons with such young primary students."

"Absorbing all the options/tools and info (so much content and training in the emails)... I have learned how to use screencastify, google hangouts, flipgrid--all easy! And I know there is soooooo much more -- and soooooooooooooo much going around. And most of it is passing me by... I just can't keep up and I truly cannot read everything that is being sent my way."

5. Troubleshooting Technology Glitches

"Schoology is having trouble keeping up with traffic on the site, it freezes both for me and students."

"[Internet] connection issues because so many people are online at the same time…"

6. Managing High Expectations from Parents

"We are spending A LOT OF TIME fielding emails from parents about expectations and guidelines. We especially are spending a lot of time trying to deal with feedback from the vocal minority of parents who want more. I recognize that administration is doing a lot to protect us from this onslaught. But I really wish we had taken time to just all get on the same page while not teaching at the same time."

7. Managing High Expectations from Administrators

"I feel that I am expected to replicate what I do in the classroom, which is impossible with this method of instruction, especially in such a short turnaround time. The amount of time needed to do this with the timeframe we have is unfathomable. The few videos I have uploaded to the online classroom have taken a significant amount of time to plan, record, upload, and prepare. A 5-10-minute video can take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour in behind-the-scenes work."

8. Finding the Right Balance of Workload for Students

"No matter what we assign/how much we connect with students, it seems that some families are not satisfied while others are overwhelmed."

"My class has varying levels of skill (as most do) and there is a huge divide between some of the higher performing students and those that need additional support. Differentiating work online while also being concerned about students' skills of simply accessing content is beyond overwhelming."

9. Concerns About the Lack of Student Engagement

"Students who are not keeping informed, not reading their emails, and not attending their meetings with me."

"Difficult to connect to students. Can't require attendance, can't require work"

"Sometimes I feel like I'm talking to a void. Not all kids are responsive, several are MIA. Many have expressed how hard it is to be organized on their own, despite the structure I try to provide. I miss the human interaction."

10 . Concerns About Grading

"I am very concerned that with pass/no pass we will see many students not engage at all, but I am seeing many stressed out students who report being in front of a screen all day, which is not healthy."

"I am very concerned about the idea of offering students a choice of letter grades vs. P/NP. This will create confusion, inconsistency, inequities, and a whole host of other variables that will disadvantage our students."

"The reason I support letter grades is because I want to honor the hard work many of my students have already put into school. Assigning all kids with the same rewards the slackers and will make the hard workers wonder why they tried so hard."

11. Inappropriate Parent Behavior

"Parental overreach and the way that I have been spoken to by parents during this time has made it very difficult to put myself out there and take risks with the way I am going about educating the students. I have been subjected to scrutiny and condescension the entire way, which has caused alarming levels of anxiety and reduced me to tears on many occasions over the past few weeks."

"The amount of parent emails demanding more and telling me how I should be doing my job from home has been really hard. This has created a huge level of stress. I put my heart and soul into teaching and the parents leave me feeling like I am never doing enough. This is exhausting and truly sad because I love my kids and am doing the best that I can. I would like the administration to send out a message to the parents about the way they speak to the teachers in our district."

12. Missing Students & Colleagues

"I miss the kids; it takes a lot of time to change in-person lessons into online learning experiences."

"I feel very disconnected to the school community. As does everyone, I realize."

13. Life Stressors Due to the COVID-19 Crisis

"I have other stressors in my life such as probably being forced to move out of the state because we can't afford to live here as my husband has been laid off."

"I fully believe we should be working and doing our best for the students, but there also needs to be the understanding of how hard this is--not only trying something new and completely the opposite of what we usually do, but we are also in crisis dealing with a major trauma."

Appreciations from Teachers

"I appreciate words of encouragement from the district leaders. Thank you for stepping up and making decisions."

"Thanks for all you do. Teachers are experiencing a lot of crazy unforeseen issues behind the scenes of relatively put-together online learning plans, so I imagine the case must be the same for you all."

"I appreciate all our colleagues in brainstorming and staying connected. I appreciate our district and school leadership in making good and thoughtful decisions, and I appreciate our tech dept in literally making things happen in an instant."