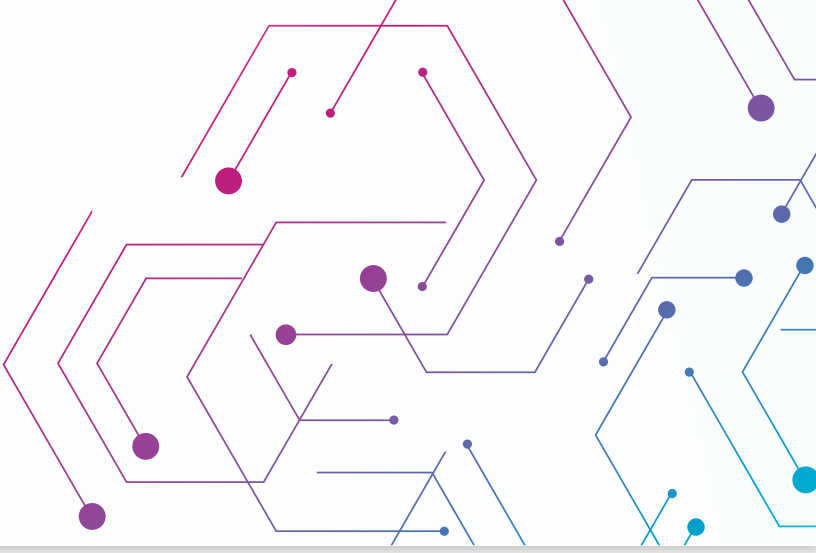# WHAT MICHIGAN NEEDS TO KNOW TO CLOSE/IMPACT THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
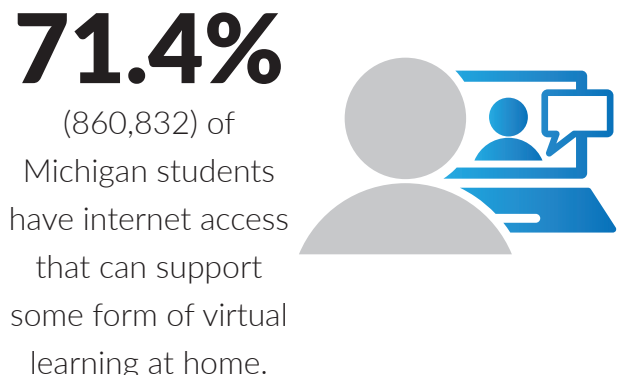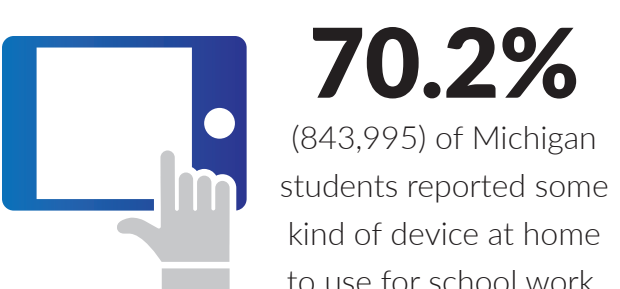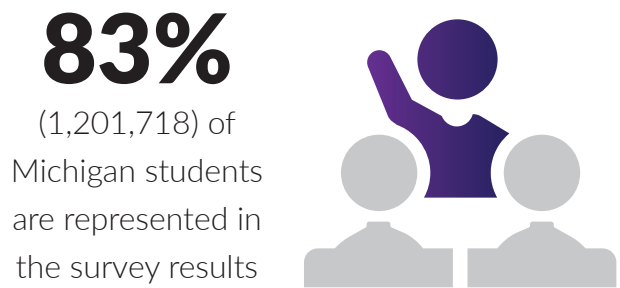
The Michigan Collaboration Hub (MiCH), a division of the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA), using data from MAISA's Michigan Education Technology Leaders (METL) group survey, has produced an infographic showing the device and internet access of students across the state of Michigan. The intent is that these findings and the associated infographic can be used to support equitable and sustainable remote learning access to all Michigan's students.

Now challenged with educating students at a distance during the COVID-19 pandemic —

Michigan needs to achieve 1:1 device and connectivity.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS

Key findings from the METL survey, conducted in mid-April 2020, include:

83%
(1,201,718) of Michigan students are represented in the survey results

70.2%
(843,995) of Michigan students reported some kind of device at home to use for school work.

71.4%
(860,832) of Michigan students have internet access that can support some form of virtual learning at home.

RELATED FINDING/ARTICLE

According to a March 2, 2020 article from MSU Today, "Slow Internet connections or limited access from homes in rural areas can contribute to students falling behind academically, according to a new report from Michigan State University's Quello Center. The educational setbacks can have significant impacts on academic success, college admissions and career opportunities."

"Students without Internet access and those who depend on a cell phone for their only access are half a grade point below those with fast access. This gap has ripple effects that may last an entire life."

"Results showed that the most rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged students are least likely to have broadband Internet access at home. Only 47% of students who live in rural areas have high-speed Internet access at home compared to 77% of those in suburban areas." https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2020/poor-internet-connection-leaves-rural-students-behind/
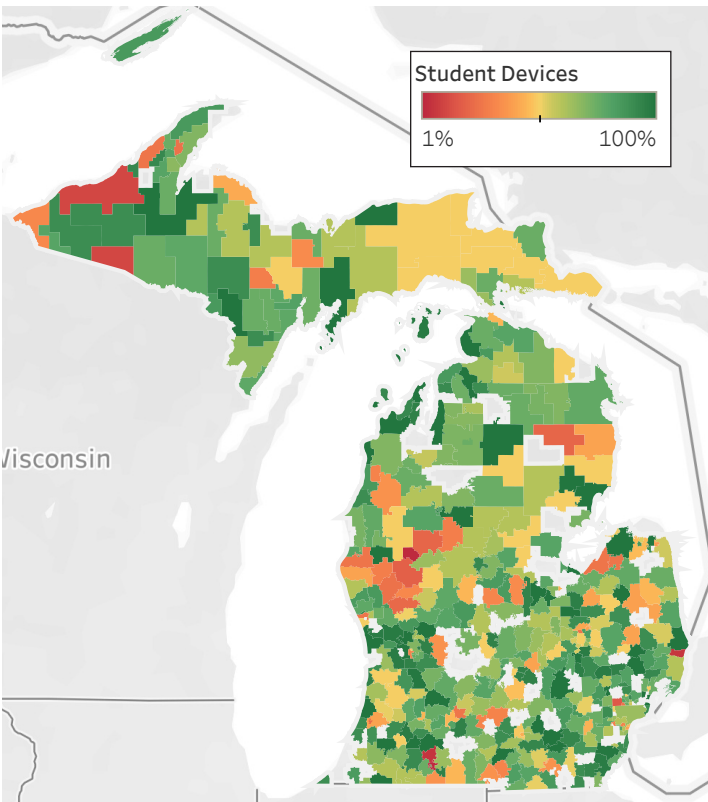
WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED?

Focused grant funding and collaboration, has helped us provide nearly 70% of our K-12 students with devices and connectivity. MSU's Broadband and Student Performance Gap study shows that students with access to high speed internet have higher academic achievement. It is time for us to work together as a state to ensure equitable access for all students, leveraging our collective resources so that we can provide a robust education throughout Michigan.
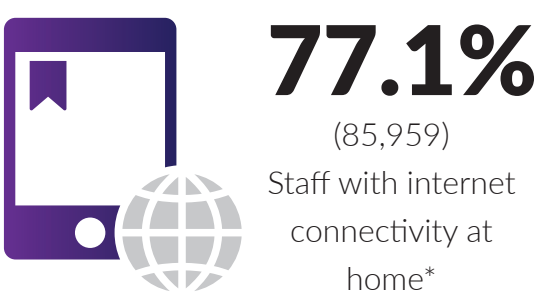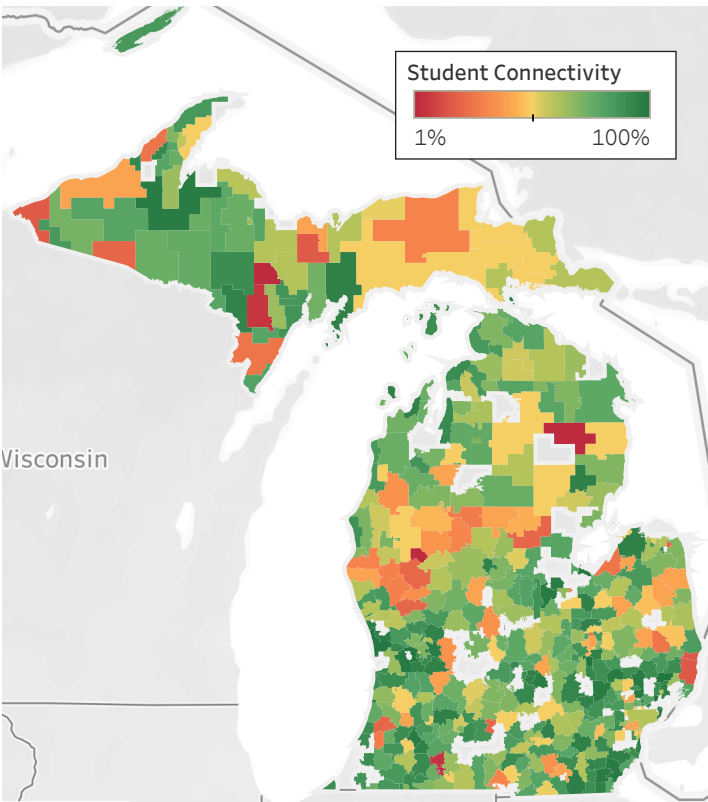
Important Questions to Note:

- While we have worked as a state to ensure schools are connected, how can we leverage the same systems to ensure all families have access at home?
- How might efficiency of purchasing and support magnify the benefits?
- What systems can be put in place to provide equitable distribution of devices?
- How do we ensure that students have the support, training, and security to safely navigate content at home?
- What structures need to be in place to support updating equipment on a regular schedule?
- What training needs to be provided to ensure educators have the skills to support and deliver learning from a distance?

STUDENTS WITH DEVICES

Student Devices
1% — 100%

Wisconsin

STUDENTS WITH INTERNET

Student Connectivity
1% — 100%

Wisconsin

The color moving from red to green indicates an increasing percentage of students that have a personal device or internet access at home. Areas without shading had not yet reported as of April 22, 2020.

81.9%
(91,298)
Staff with a device at home*

77.1%
(85,959)
Staff with internet connectivity at home*

*Survey represented 111,458 staff across all Michigan counties.

Survey data will continued to be gathered. The information represented reflects responses as of April 22, 2020 at noon. Please look for future updates.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING ON THIS CRITICAL INITIATIVE

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