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 of these findings and the associated infographic can be used to support equitable and sustainable remote learning access to all Michigan’s students.

New challenges with educating students at a distance during the COVID-19 pandemic —

INFORMATION 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% (1,203,718) of Michigan students have internet access that can support some form of virtual learning at home.
- 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 training needs to be provided to ensure learning from a distance?
- How might efficiency of purchasing and support magnify the benefits?
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WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED?

Focused grant funding and collaboration, has helped us possibly nearly. 75% of our K-12 students with devices and connectivity. MSU’s Broadband and Student Performance 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:

- What training needs to be provided to ensure learning from a distance?
- 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?
- Survey represented 111,458 staff across all Michigan counties.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING ON THIS CRITICAL INITIATIVE

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