

Reading

By: Angel Rodriguez



- The title of this article is “Understanding the Digital Divide in Education”, which was written by the American University, a private university located in Washington D.C. The article was published on December 15, 2020.
- The main idea of this article is to bring awareness to the inequality in online learning. As students from low-income neighborhoods do not have access to the internet, causing them to have little to no information that simultaneously has a disadvantage in their education and affects their academic results in a negative manner. It creates a new hurdle on students, making it become time consuming to complete their learning objectives as well.
- Our group would give it a rating of 5 as it goes in depth to what the Digital Divide is, context on the Digital Divide, how it affects the US, and provides data to what kinds of groups are impacted by this educational setback.
- The American University stated, “The impacts of the digital divide in education have been significant. The digital divide has affected individual students in the same school as well as groups of students across districts, lowering the academic outcomes of low-income, underserved students and districts.” This highlights the connection between the article and the topic as it describes the idea of the digital divide and displays an image for people to comprehend on what it looks like when not having internet access during a remote state of learning.

Reading Pt. 2

By: Angel Rodriguez

- The title of this report is “59% of U.S. parents with lower incomes say their child may face digital obstacles in schoolwork”, which was written by Emily A. Vogels. This report was published on September 10, 2020.
- The main idea of this report is to show how many people have been affected by the digital divide, as students and parents not only have to worry about the global pandemic that is going on, but as well as the stress of not having an internet connection at home to do assignments. Parents also voiced their opinions, saying that the government should provide an internet connection to those in need of them.
- Our group would give the report a 5 since they provided factual data and also received opinions and experiences from parents and their children. They also talked about what lawmakers and advocates have been doing to narrow the digital gap and help students have an equal opportunity in their education.
- Vogels wrote, “A new analysis of Pew Research Center data collected in early April finds that 59% of parents with lower incomes who had children in schools that were remote at the time said their children would likely face at least one of three digital obstacles asked about.” This demonstrates the connection between the report and the topic because the report talks about the different practices' students have tried in order to get their assignments done. Some have tried to do work on their cellphones, others have tried using public Wi-Fi, and others are just not able to do their schoolwork because of them not having a reliable connection.



What is the EDU issue?

By: Angel Rodriguez



The topic our group chose is Title 1 funding: The Digital Divide. According to ACT Center for Equality in Learning, "The digital divide in education is the gap between those with sufficient knowledge of and access to technology and those without it." To analyze the gap, one must look at those that can access it. For example, the School of Education Online Program said, "A student who has multiple laptops in their home and has access to high-speed broadband likely will have better educational success than someone who has one computer to share with their entire family and only has dial-up internet access."

<https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/digital-divide-in-education>

What is Title 1 Funding?

- Title 1 provides federal funds to schools with high percentages of low-income students. The funds are allocated for extra educational services to help at risk students achieve success, regardless of any disadvantages through no fault of their own.
- It is also used to improve staff development and parental and community involvement.
- Funding is provided by the ESEA (**Elementary and Secondary Education Act**) and enacted Title 1 in 1965.

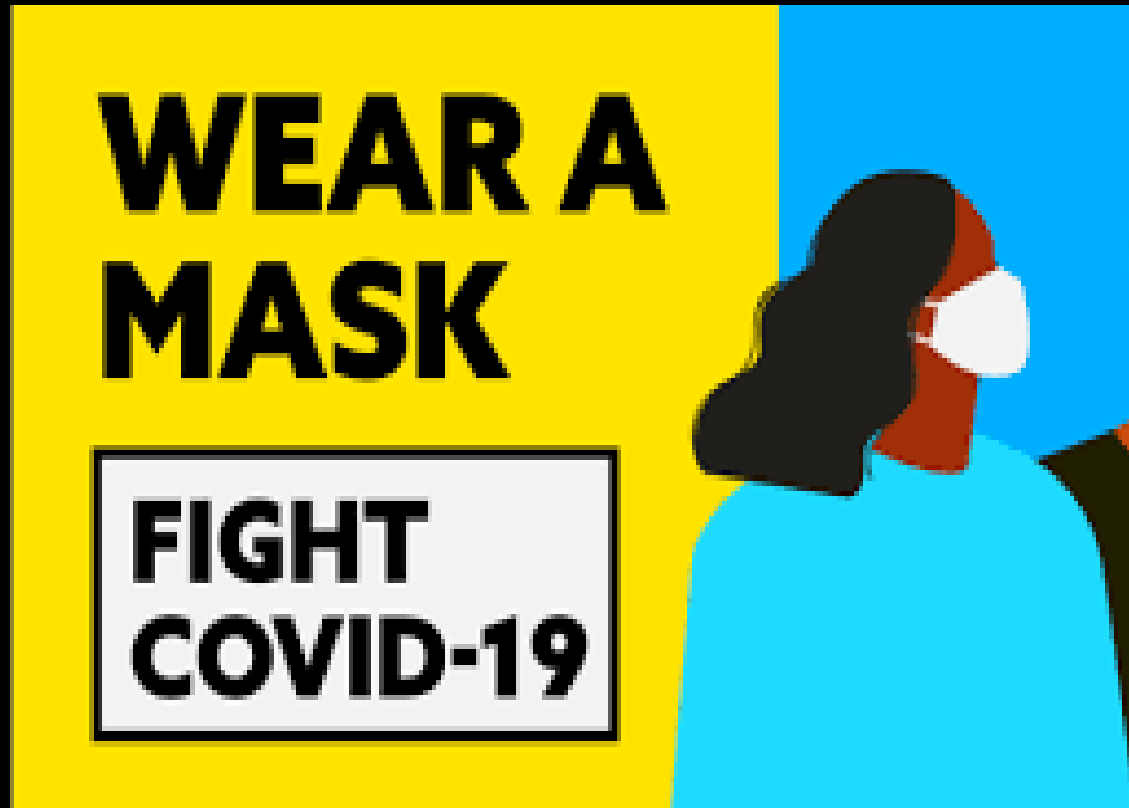
<https://www.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/grants-grant-management/every-student-succeeds-act-essa-implementation/elementary-and-secondary-education-act-esea>



By: Victor Masick

Why Is this an issue?

By: James Weaver



- No area should have a lack of anything. Me and my group believe all areas that require something shall obtain it to better increase the ceiling level as to which that area and those around that area have a better chance of learning at a substantial pace. Not having internet wouldn't usually be a major problem but due to Covid 19 spreading through proximity with one another in America, the Board of Education wanted safety precautions for children, which meant not going to school. Education must be taught in a form that can keep kids safe but allow them to still learn, hence schools using the internet and teachings through apps.

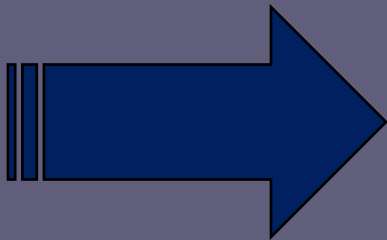
Technological Divide: Poll Results

By: Adamaris Gonzalez

Students at J. Sterling Morton East High School took a poll regarding their technological usage for educational purposes.

They were asked how technology affects quality education.

This was their response:



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How important do you think technology is within education? Why?
23 responses

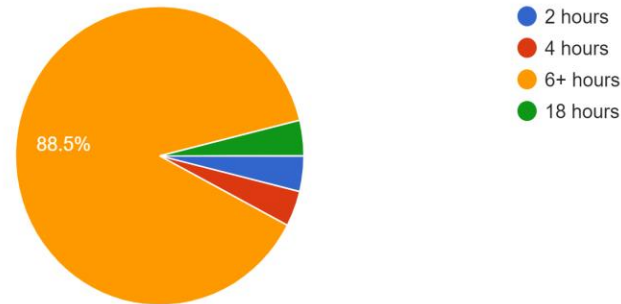
- Very because it helps students read or listen something in the outside
- I think it is very important, since everything that we do is through technology, especially during the pandemic where we can't socialize, it is very necessary for someone's education.
- I think it's kind of important because it helps make math easier
- I feel paper is better because it doesn't make people struggle as much
- Not that important tbh it does help but there was a time in which we earned without technology
- its important now because its our way of doing school but if we were in school i wouldve perfer to do paper and pencil and chalkboards
- Pretty important, given that most or pretty much everything is done using technology for either class or homework
- Technology is extemely important within education, especially during the 21st century because school is

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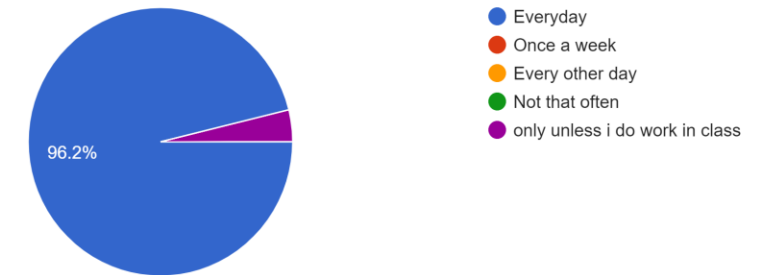
About how many hours do you spend on the internet everyday?

26 responses



How often do you use technology for school and school work?

26 responses





What are some ways to solve this problem

By: James Weaver

In our research we have found 3 ways to eliminate or at least reduce this problem.

- One of the most susceptible solution is for the internet providers of any type of services, reach out to those that aren't on their plan, whether via phone call or possibly email and provide free or reduced cost internet to students. With the number of providers in many regions on the map to the left this wouldn't be a problem.

Another way would be distributing hotspot routers to students in schools. According to Broadband," the Reports finds that approximately 19 million Americans— 6 percent of the population—still lack access to fixed broadband service at threshold speeds. "Giving access to min hotspot routers would diminish this threat amongst schools. This would also be affordable and plausible considering the price which at the lowest is 20\$ on amazon.

- The last solution is for the internet providers to lower their minimum price. The minimum price on average is 50\$ a month. To many Americans this price is too high even for the minimum because according to Broadband," Even in areas where broadband is available, approximately 100 million Americans still do not subscribe." A large percentage of that is due to the price of internet being too high to keep facilitating.

- <https://broadbandnow.com/national-broadband-map>

- **Number of providers in each region**

Green= 3 providers

- **Yellow= 2 providers**

- **Red= 1 provider**

Working Together: Non-Profit and Charitable Organizations

By: Adamaris Gonzalez



Project Tomorrow Campaign

- ❑ A non-profit organization created in 2011, certified by the IRS and the state of California,
- ❑ Focused on the improvement of technological resources in K-12 schools to encourage students in their educational environment
- ❑ In 2017, the group collated information from a plethora of students, teachers, and administration discussing how modern technology is involved in American education
- ❑ They host the annual "Speak Up" event where all students and teachers can participate in national and local decisions about the technology in schools

Sources: https://go.gale.com/ps/retrieve.do?resultListType=RELATED_DOCUMENT&searchType=ts&userGroupName=cice26272&inPS=true&contentSegment=&prodId=SUIC&docId=GALE|BFYAPX780114492&it=r ; <https://tomorrow.org/about/mission.htm>

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One Laptop Per Child

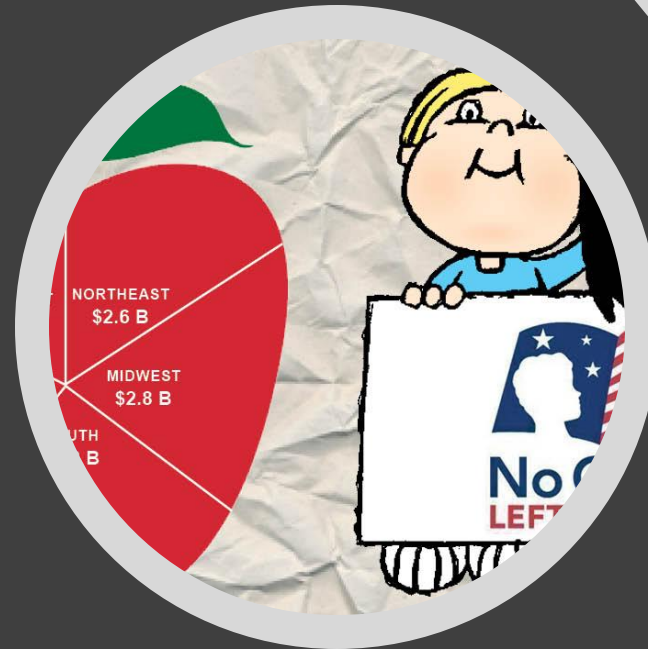
- A program funded by Fundación Zamora Terán began in 2005 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- A non-profit organization in pursuit to power children's education through low-cost and low-power connected laptops
- Created a computer called The XO designed to work in remote areas and with minimal WIFI; priced at \$100 but students get it free
- Dispersed in large numbers to over 20 third-world countries that are remote and highly impoverished, every kid gets to keep their computer

Sources: <https://www.onelaptopperchild.org/> ; <https://xconomy.com/boston/2014/03/20/one-laptop-per-child-ceo-we-have-achieved-our-goals/>



How would we help the cause?

- James: If I had the resources and time, I would create a fundraiser to lower the cost for internet in local area. This fundraiser would be aimed toward supporting internet providers, so they won't have to rely on their clients as much for revenue.
- Victor: Maybe petition the school to use our ideas in the new Title 1 funding program.
- Angel: Spread awareness about the disadvantages of not having internet access.
- Adamaris: If given the opportunity and support to help this cause, I would want to begin a fundraiser to help the students locally first, and with time advocate for an international campaign. Fundraising for a new community center would provide a safe space for children of all ages and it would be equipped with modern technology available for use.



Public Outreach- Interview

By: Adamaris Gonzalez

A discussion
on Quality
Education:

[Title 1](#)

[Funding: The
Digital Divide](#)

I sat down with Marisela Gonzalez and deliberated the concept of a technological division in the prospects of educational reform.

Questions Asked:

1. What is Title 1 Funding?
2. Do you know anything about the Digital Division between having internet and not having it?
3. Do you agree or disagree that there is a technological division between schools?
4. What do you think are some possible solutions that people can do to improve this Digital Divide?

