SCHOOL & EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

How challenges of virtual education are affecting youth and ways to overcome them
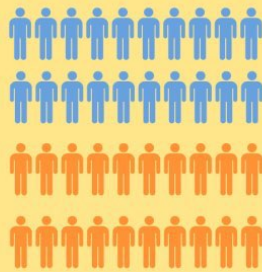### Part 1

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF VIRTUAL LEARNING?

~50%

Nearly 50% of low-income families lack sufficient devices at home to access distance learning (Kuhfeld et al.).

FAMILIES

COMMUNITIES

Many children have also lost out on group activities, sports, and other recreational activities like going to playground that may not be in their community (García & Weiss).

Parental engagement/learning coach is necessary to help guide offline activities and monitor progress, especially with early elementary students. Many working parents have trouble filling this "learning coach" role while working full time (Potential Advantages and Challenges of Online Schooling).

PARENTS

STUDENTS

Too much time online for school can be overwhelming. Independent offline work is less monitored and students must adjust to receiving more delayed feedback (Potential Advantages and Challenges of Online Schooling).

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Life circumstances (Coronavirus, family issues, economic hardship, lack of resources) can be hard on the children, so it is important to encourage teachers and parents to keep in contact if circumstances aren't productive to learning (Morin).

SCHOOL & EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

How challenges of virtual education are affecting youth and ways to overcome them
Part 2

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES?

FAMILIES

- Discuss student progress with students, parents, and teachers (10 Tips for Assessing and Monitoring Students' Academic Progress During COVID-19)
- Stress can affect executive function and the ability to self-regulate emotion. This, in turn, preoccupies the mind and disrupts the learning process. Incorporate learning breaks throughout lessons (Morin).

TEACHERS

- Set specific realistic goals for each class session and have 2-3 assessment questions per session (10 Tips for Assessing and Monitoring Students' Academic Progress During COVID-19)
- Keep cultural/personal differences in mind when assessing outcomes (10 Tips for Assessing and Monitoring Students' Academic Progress During COVID-19)
- It is important to make all learning material accessible whether it be images, documents, programs, or even mailed paper work, as the children are still learning this new way of learning in distance (Morin).

PARENTS

- Planning and communicating with teachers can help the child learn more effectively (K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home).
- Attention and praise from parent helps child keep and maintain higher levels of attention and motivation (K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home).
- Create a schedule that helps the child be productive and actively engaged in learning (Smith).

STUDENTS

- Kids do well with verbal instruction and are responsive to engaging visual stimuli (K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home).
- Maintaining social bonds with both peers and teachers is important for success with virtual schooling (K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home).
- Using scaffolding techniques on children in developing independent practice in the academic setting can improve learning outcomes (K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home).

MAIN TAKEAWAY

It is important to build a community of learning with constant feedback and interaction between teacher, child, and parent. Support with frequent check ins and interactions with peers increase the virtual learning experience (Morin).

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

10 Tips for Assessing and Monitoring Students' Academic Progress During COVID-19. (n.d.). Retrieved November 10, 2020, from https://www.apa.org/topics/covid-19/parenting-caregiving/academic-progress-covid-19.pdf

García, E., & Weiss, E. (n.d.). COVID-19 and student performance, equity, and U.S. education policy: Lessons from pre-pandemic research to inform relief, recovery, and rebuilding. Retrieved November 22, 2020, from https://www.epi.org/publication/the-consequences-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-for-education-performance-and-equity-in-the-united-states-what-can-we-learn-from-pre-pandemic-research-to-inform-relief-recovery-and-rebuilding/

K-2: Tips for Supporting Learning at Home. (2020, May 07). Retrieved November 22, 2020, from https://childmind.org/article/k-2-tips-for-supporting-learning-at-home/

Kuhfeld, Megan, James Soland, Beth Tarasawa, Angela Johnson, Erik Ruzek, and Jing Liu. (2020). Projecting the potential impacts of COVID-19 school closures on academic achievement. (EdWorkingPaper: 20-226). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: https://doi.org/10.26300/cdrv-yw05

Morin, A. (2020, August 14). 5 Reasons Students Aren't Engaging in Distance Learning. Retrieved November 22, 2020, from https://childmind.org/article/5-reasons-students-arent-engaging-in-distance-learning/

Potential Advantages and Challenges of Online Schooling. (n.d.). Retrieved November 21, 2020, from https://cava.k12.com/general-faqs/potential-advantages-and-challenges-of-online-schooling.html

Smith, S. J. (2020, November 05). Distance Learning: 8 Tips to Help Your Child Learn at Home. Retrieved November 22, 2020, from https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/homework-study-skills/online-learning-how-to-prepare-child?_ul=1%2Aevrfae%2Adomain_userid%2AYW1wLUc0OUk5WkszcUpUMGR6YU5ZVii1rSVE.

CREATED BY BLAKE BARNHILL, TROY DAVIS, MARY-ANGEL EKEZIE, AND AMY HEARD
MERCER UNIVERSITY, NOVEMBER 2020