

Underconnected yet Eager to Learn: Confronting Digital Inequities

Learning Loss Recovery Challenge
May 26, 2020

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Internet Access & Early Learning during COVID-19

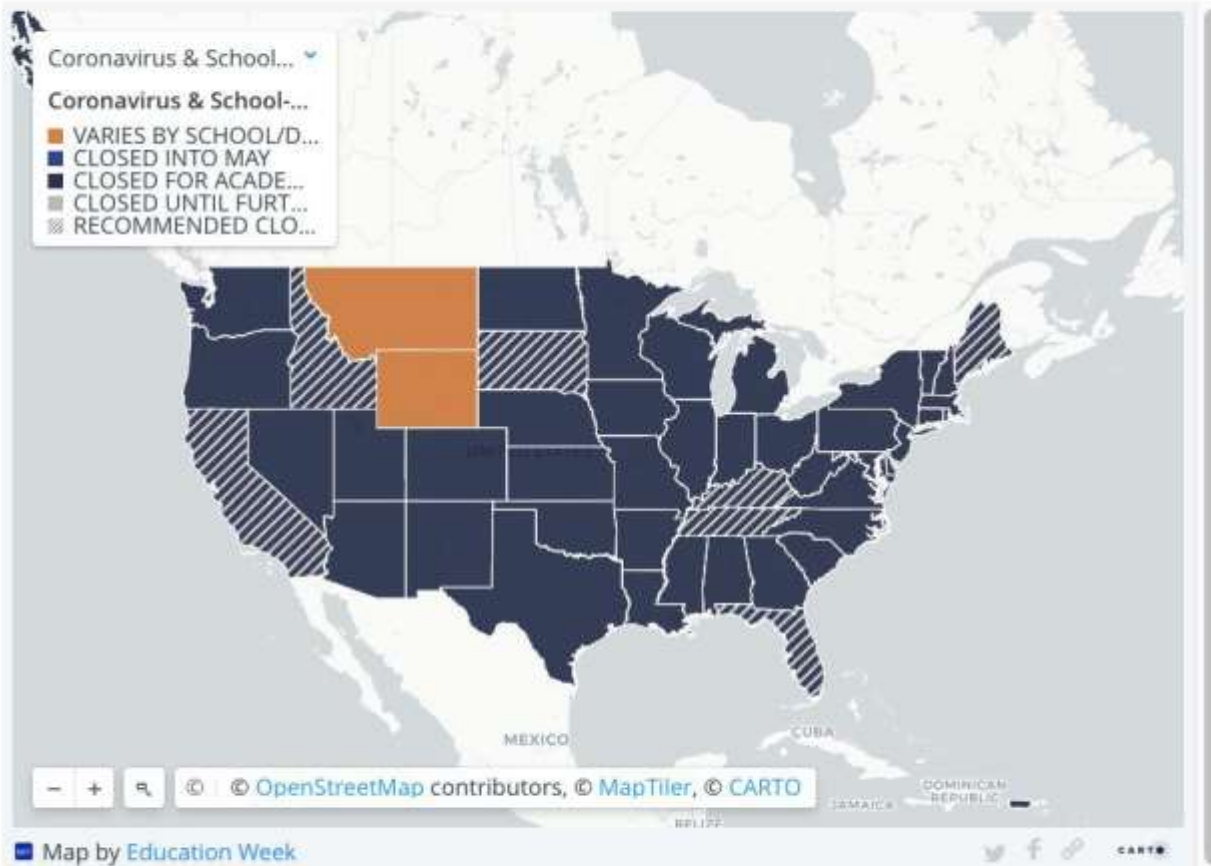
What Is Lost When Families with Young
Children Can't Get Online At Home

Lisa Guernsey

May 26, 2020

State-by-State Map of School-Building Closures

Zoom in to see the status of individual states. Click a state to view more details.



Sources: Staff reporting; National Center for Education Statistics; government websites and communications | [Click here to view enlarged map.](#)

48 states and 4 territories (plus DC) have ordered school buildings closed until the end of the academic year.

Map by EdWeek

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/map-coronavirus-and-school-closures.html>



Photo by Brad Flickinger, CC BY license



Facebook Live Storytime!

Recorded Live

Roanoke Public Libraries



0:12 / 2:52



Like Comment Share

4 · 2 Comments

I am an educator - looking for (Preschool — Grade 5 -)



Here's a screenshot from a page within **WideOpenSchool.org**, showing digital resources available to teachers and families working with PreK-5th grade students.

Online Learning Only Works if Students Have Home Internet Access. Some Don't.

BLOG POST



By **Sabia Prescott**

March 31, 2020

While some states are settling into the second full week of online learning, important questions remain about not only the best methods and tools for remote instruction, but

- As many as 12 million children in the United States don't have Internet access at home.
- 17 percent of students do not have broadband at home.
- Not all teachers have high-speed Internet access at home either.

What's Next? We Need to:

- Expand access to and the quality of online learning & digital materials
- Modernize teacher preparation and professional development
- Build stronger supports for the most vulnerable students
- Elevate the vital connection between care and learning -- in the early years and up through the grade levels

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/>

Support NDIA's COVID-19 Efforts

DONATE NOW



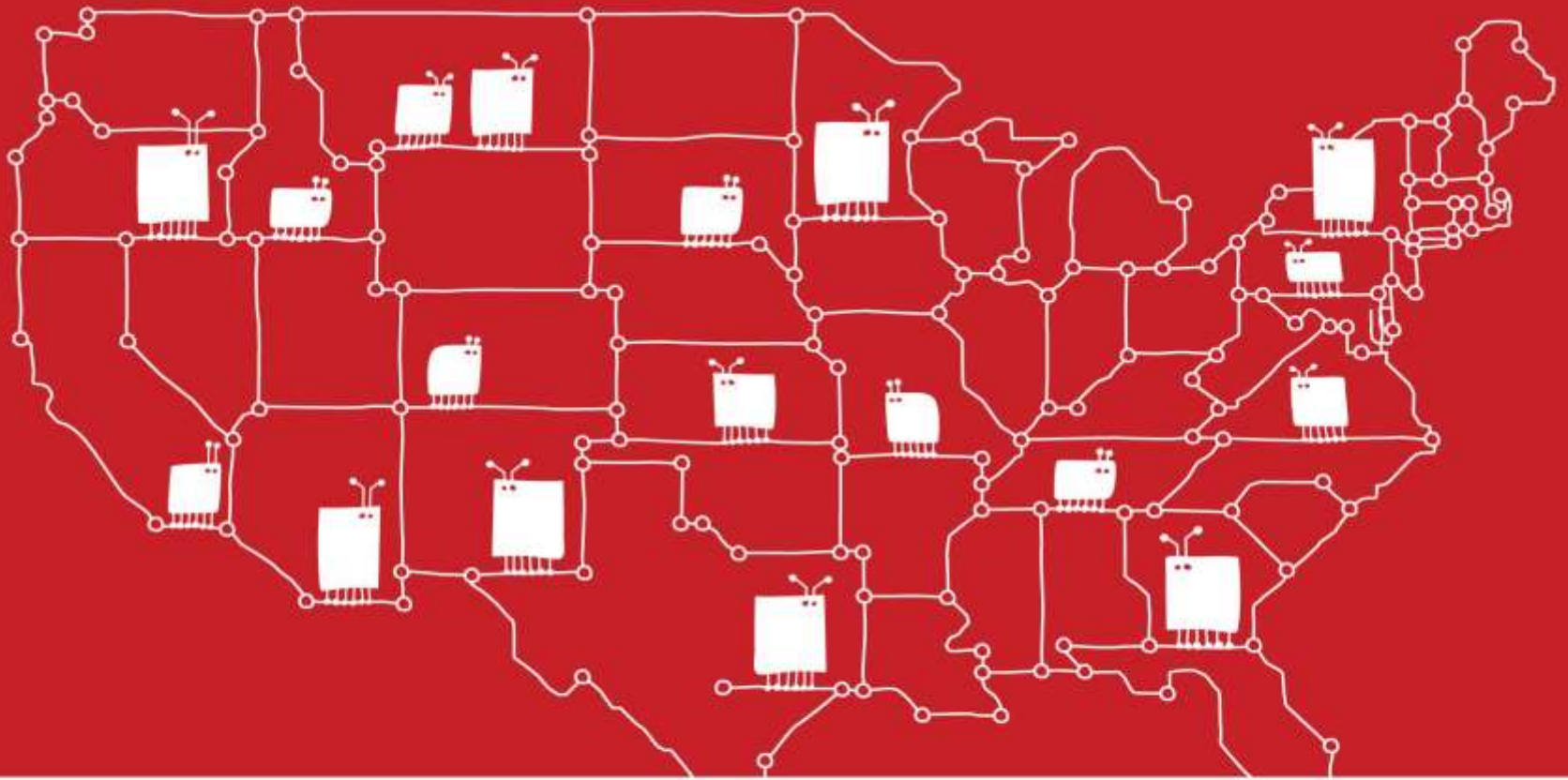
[COVID-19](#) | [WHAT WE DO ▶](#) | [WHO WE ARE ▶](#) | [GET INVOLVED ▶](#) | [CONFERENCE](#) | [HIRE NDIA](#)

Local Government COVID-19 Digital Inclusion Response

State Government Responses

COVID-19 Resources

Under-connected yet eager to learn: How low-income families confront digital equity challenges



Vikki Katz Associate Professor
School of Communication & Information, Rutgers University

digital equity + opportunity for all

Access to the Internet and digital devices is no longer a simple yes/no question. Whether families have consistent, quality connections and the capabilities to make the most of being connected is becoming just as important.

For lower-income U.S. families with children in school, being meaningfully connected is especially important to ensuring equal access to learning opportunities.

Opportunity for all?

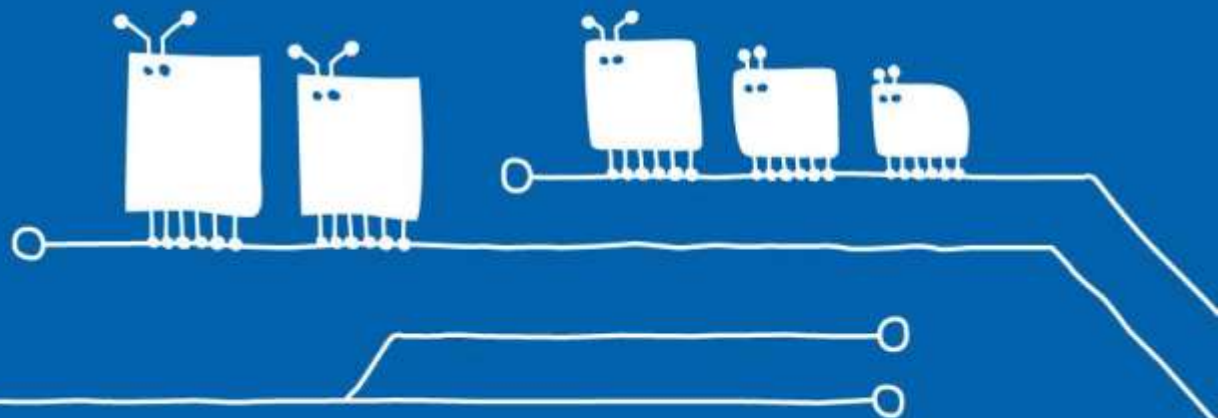
Technology and learning
in lower-income families

Travis A. Browne
March 2016
White Paper

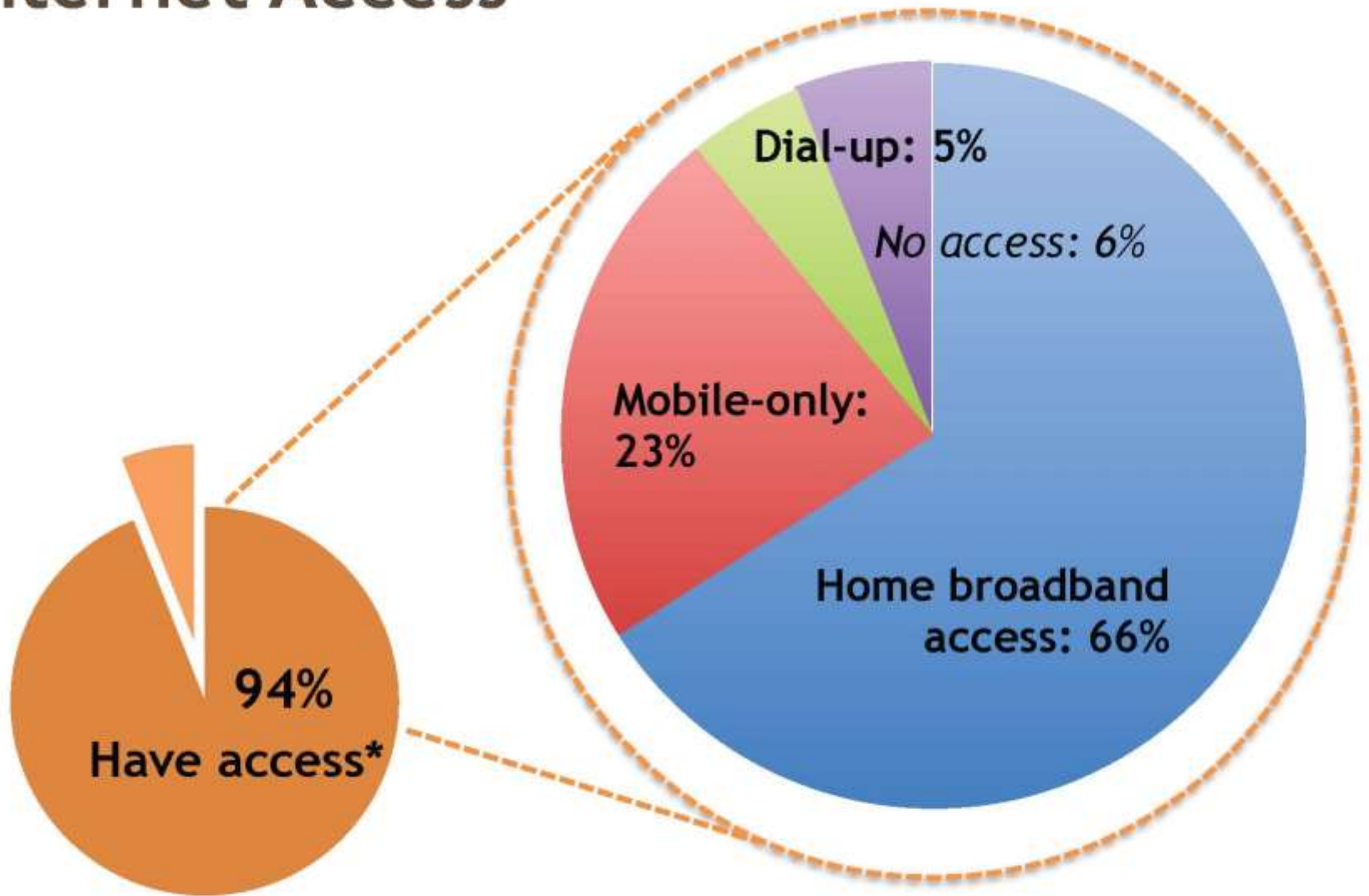
The Brookings Institute Center on Education and the Urban Future



Family connectivity



Internet Access

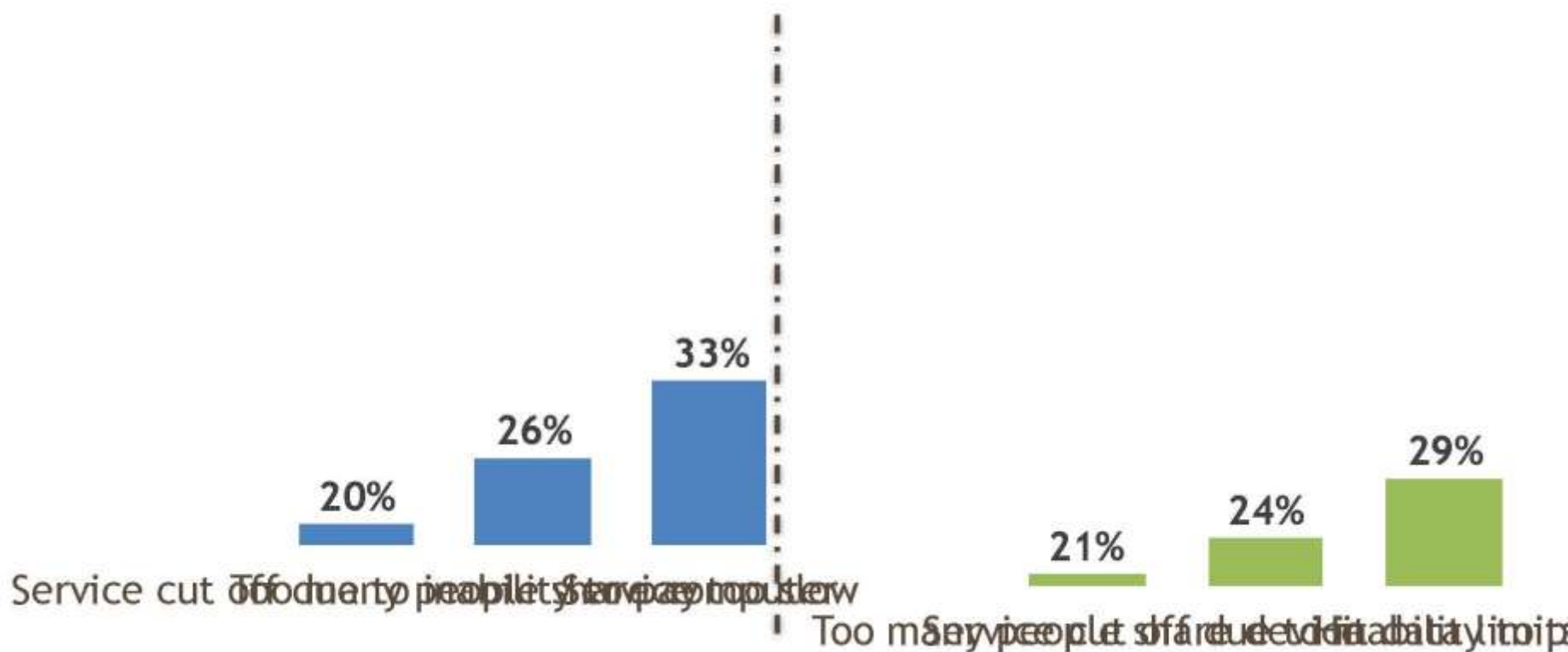


*of 1,191 surveyed parents

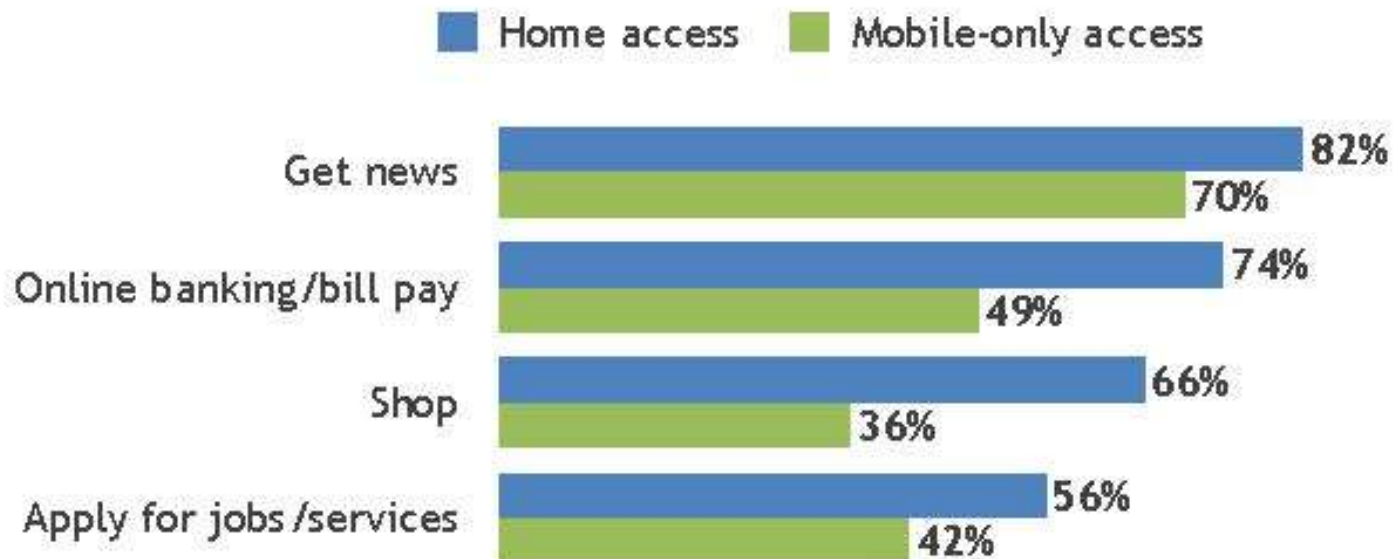
Access is not enough: Many families are under-connected

Parents with *home access*
reporting on the past 12 months:

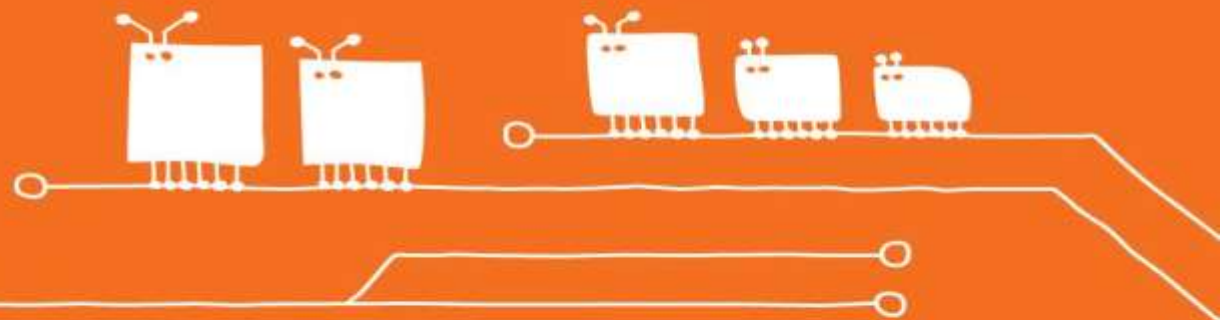
Parents with *mobile-only access*
reporting on the past 12 months:



Those with mobile-only access less likely to use it



Technology as a Catalyst for Family Learning



Parents and Children as Digital Learning Teams

**We're a team, and we
achieve things together.**

When I don't know something,
my wife helps, or we ask our
other son. We solve the
problem together.

In that aspect, technology has
helped us, because it has
made us closer.

**Father of a 5th grader
(age 10)**

Digital Learning Teams: Parents & Children



- Learning how devices work
- Troubleshooting
- Finding (and translating) information online
- Downloading apps, music, and movies

Family patterns vary by:
parent education, primary language, race/ethnicity



Siblings in households where tech use is **parent-driven** **child-driven**



- Read with or to each other**
- Do homework together*
- Do art and science projects together**



- Learn how to use digital devices together*
- Watch TV or online videos to learn new things**

* $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$

Supporting
families with
remote learning



assistance

roadband

connectivity

devices

Questions & Discussion

Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE WEBINAR

The Science of Learning Loss and Opportunities for Recovery

Tuesday, June 2, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE WEBINAR

Supporting Parents at Home — An Essential Step to Mitigating Learning Loss

Tuesday, June 9, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

Please join us!

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