

64%



said parts of their district are without access to broadband or cellular networks



School Library Programs Make Virtual Learning Possible, But Investments are Needed

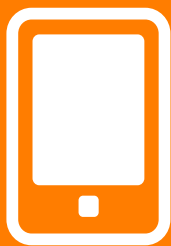
Survey data released in June 2020 by the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA)--the leading association of school library media and instructional technology professionals--revealed that while many school districts were able to provide the devices necessary to support virtual instruction during COVID-19, students often lacked the broadband or cellular network service needed to effectively use the devices. The data also highlighted the important role school library media and instructional technology professionals play in providing effective virtual instruction and the need for investments in educational technology professional development. While reports from school library media and instructional technology professionals shine light on how the COVID-19 shift to virtual instruction exacerbated the homework gap for many students in our state.

37%



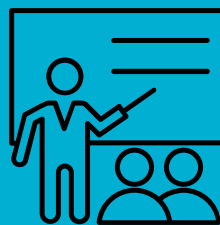
were unable to provide WiFi cards or hotspots to students

76%



provided one-to-one devices to every student who needed one

80%



said their district needs funding for instructional technology professional development

42%



are spending 16 hours or more each week helping teachers provide online learning



"Additional Professional Learning for teachers is critical. Teachers were tossed into the current situation with almost no support or training. While they handled it well, they are asking for more training."

"Many students are having a very difficult time with online school. Students in areas with no Internet access are being left behind."
-Brown County

"Funding is going to be crucial in providing the platforms and devices needed as we continue to prepare for the possibility of a hybrid or remote learning again next school year. Some of the tools that have been made free will likely not be free forever and funding will be needed to support the use of these tools for the best possible learning opportunities for kids." -Ozaukee County

"We NEED more funding for professional development as the TEACH grant is not available for this anymore. We are not able to send any teachers to any tech conferences without that money."
-Oneida County

"Quality internet for all is needed now! This is only part of the equity issue. With the chance of continued virtual school, ongoing teacher training and student devices are additional necessities."
-Iowa County

"I've not only supported teachers with distant learning issues, but families as well. I have seen a sharp divide between the haves and have-nots in our district. Many families may have some limited access to the Internet, but that access is shared with multiple siblings and parents."-Brown County

"More digital coverage is needed in remote and rural areas at an affordable price. We have students who can't access the Internet and only have paperwork which creates a digital divide where students fall behind classmates who have better access."
-Clark County

"All of our Professional Development has been cut from the district's budget. I am not sure how we'll get through if my district's proposed change in online learning platform gets implemented."
-Polk County

"Some of our students have no way of getting high speed broadband internet because of where they live. More needs to be done to help these rural and sometimes not-so-rural parts of our district to get high speed internet."
-Racine County