

Key Insights

Distance Learning's Impact on Education IT

The changes taking place in the education technology landscape as a result of the coronavirus school closures are extensive — and many will be permanent or evolving. However, the rapid speed of change is creating new challenges for IT teams.

New research by Absolute examines the effects of distance learning on endpoint health, device usage, safety, and security as schools adapt to remote and hybrid learning models in the 2020/21 school year.

COVID-19 caused an acceleration of K-12 education's digital roadmap in three key areas:

- Closing the "homework gap" to enable digital learning.**
Mobile hotspots are increasingly going home, with students, creating an "always-connected" online learning dynamic¹
- Enabling remote and hybrid learning models.**
75% of schools intend to operate remote or hybrid models²
- Protecting students, staff, and schools from cyberattacks.**
60% of all malware attacks (particularly ransomware) occur in education³

To better understand what is happening on the ground, Absolute studied:

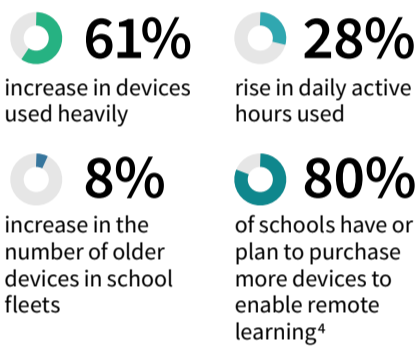
Millions of Absolute-enabled devices

10,000 Schools and districts

12 analyst reports and peer research

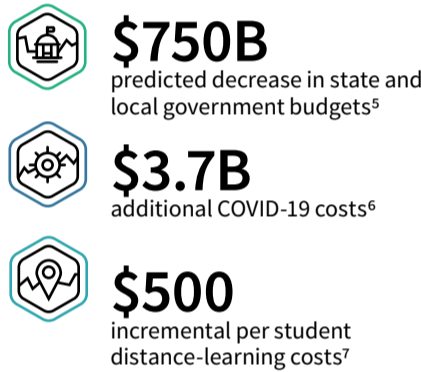
This is what we discovered...

Reliance on devices to drive learning outcomes has increased.

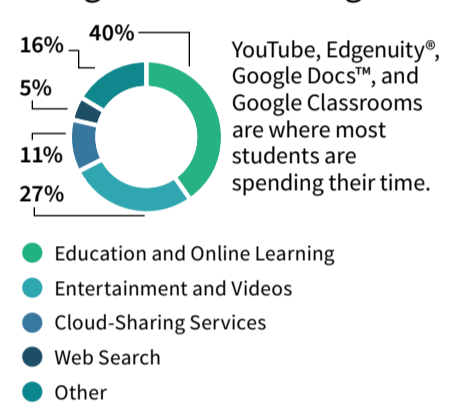


IT teams are doing more with less.

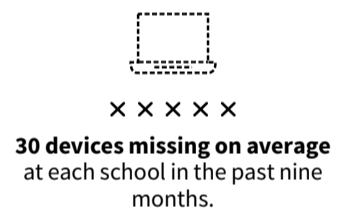
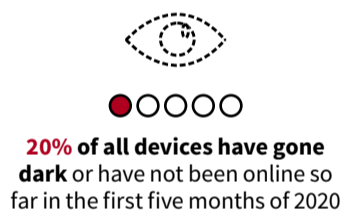
While federal stimulus packages may help in the short term, long-term budgets are uncertain:



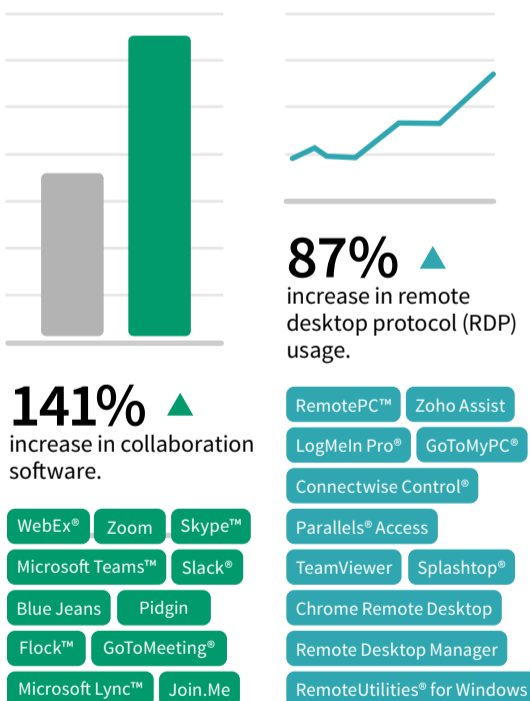
School devices are mainly being used for learning.



As more devices go home, IT teams are challenged to manage them:

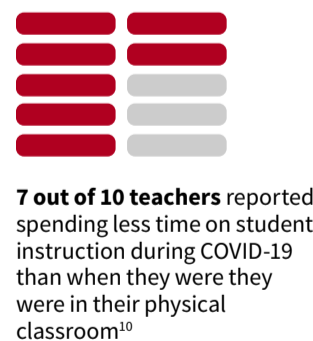
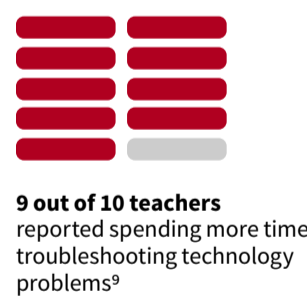


To support and manage remotely, IT teams are rolling out Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and collaboration applications.

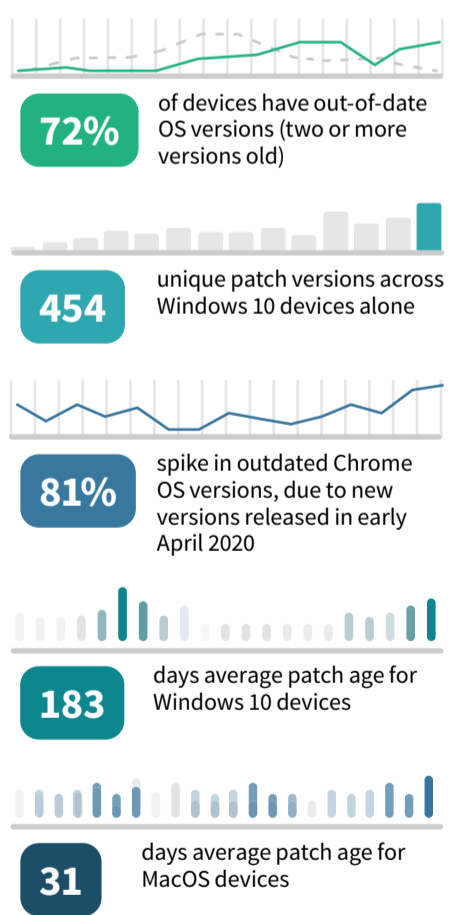


But the FBI warned schools of the increased risk of RDP as a vector for ransomware!¹¹

Remote learning is creating tech support challenges that are taking away valuable time from teachers to "teach".



With increasing complexity, device security is more challenging than ever.



Download the full report for deeper insight into the challenges facing K-12 in the 2020/21 school year, and what schools are doing to face these challenges head on.

[Download the Report](#)

References:

1. Coronavirus Pushes Schools Closer to a Computer for Every Student. *EdWeek*, 2020.
2. School Districts' Reopening Plans: A Snapshot (2020, July 28). *EdWeek*, 2020.
3. Global Threat Activity. *Microsoft*, 2020.
4. Distance Learning Study. *Hanover Research*, 2020.
5. Projected State Shortfalls Grow as Economic Forecasts Worsen. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*, 2020.
6. What Will It Take to Stabilize Schools in the Time of COVID-19? *Learning Policy Institute*, 2020.
7. What Will It Take to Stabilize Schools in the Time of COVID-19? *Learning Policy Institute*, 2020.
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9. How COVID-19 Is Shaping Tech Use. What That Means When Schools Reopen. *EdWeek*, 2020.
10. How COVID-19 Is Shaping Tech Use. What That Means When Schools Reopen. *EdWeek*, 2020.
11. FBI Warns K12 Schools of Ransomware Attacks via RDP. *ZDNet*, 2020.