

# The Digital Equity Gap: March 2020 to June 2020



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# What is the *Digital Equity Gap*?

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- **Governed by assumptions in:**
  - Device availability* (computers vs. smartphones)
  - Infrastructure* (broadband vs. hotspots)
  - Knowledge* (teacher, parent, student)
- **Assumptions lead to decisions**
  - Low-income communities adapt or fall behind

# What is the *Digital Equity Gap*?

Educators make decisions when they assign schoolwork



# What is the *Digital Equity Gap*?

**2018-19: Nationally representative sample of teachers**

*How often do you assign technology-based homework to your students?* (Never/rarely vs. Sometimes/often)

- **Elementary:** 37% as often  
**Middle:** 78% as often
- **Compared to Suburbs:**
  - City schools just as as likely
  - Towns/rural half as likely



# Whom does it harm?

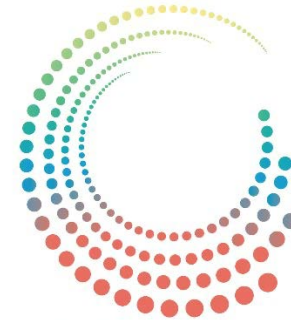
## When school comes home: How low-income families are adapting to distance learning

A report from the USC Rossier School of Education and the  
USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

October 2020

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PARTNERSHIP  
FOR LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS

- Manage 10 LAUSD Schools
- Approx 14,000 students

# Whom does it harm?

## When school comes home: How low-income families are adapting to distance learning

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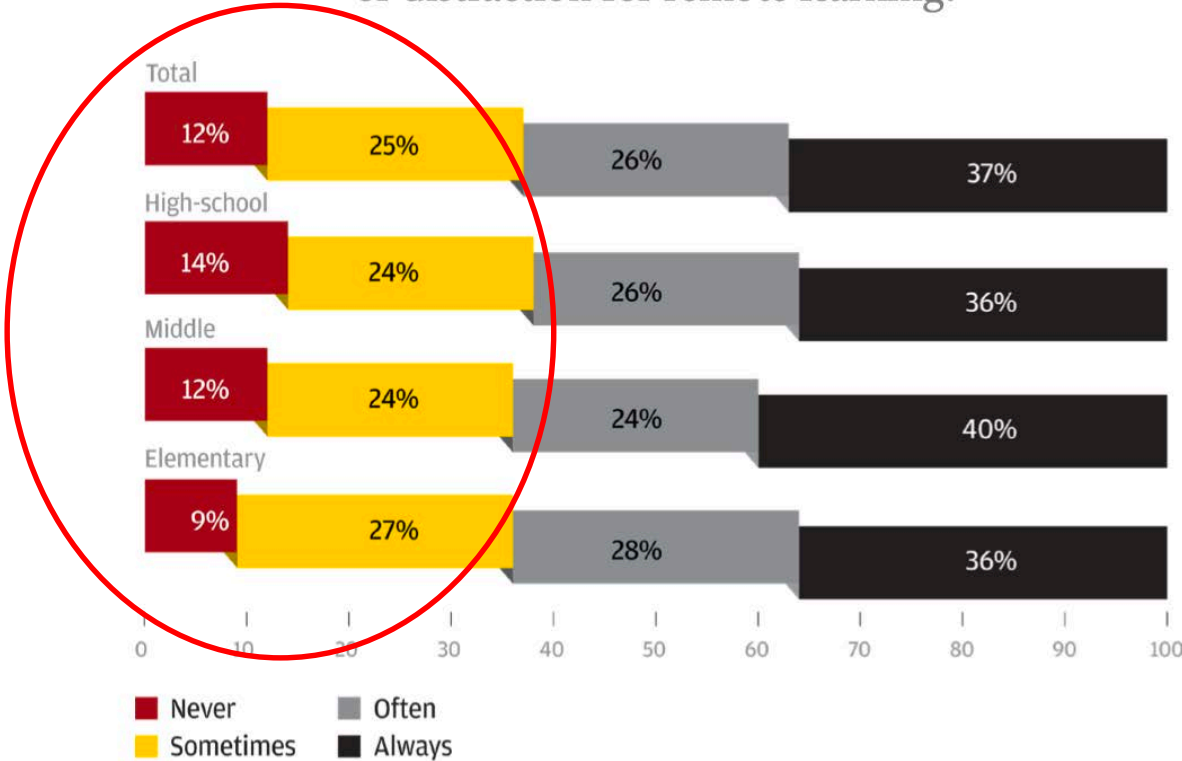
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- >1,000 low-income LAUSD families
- Predominately Hispanic
- Surveys in Spanish
- March – June 2020

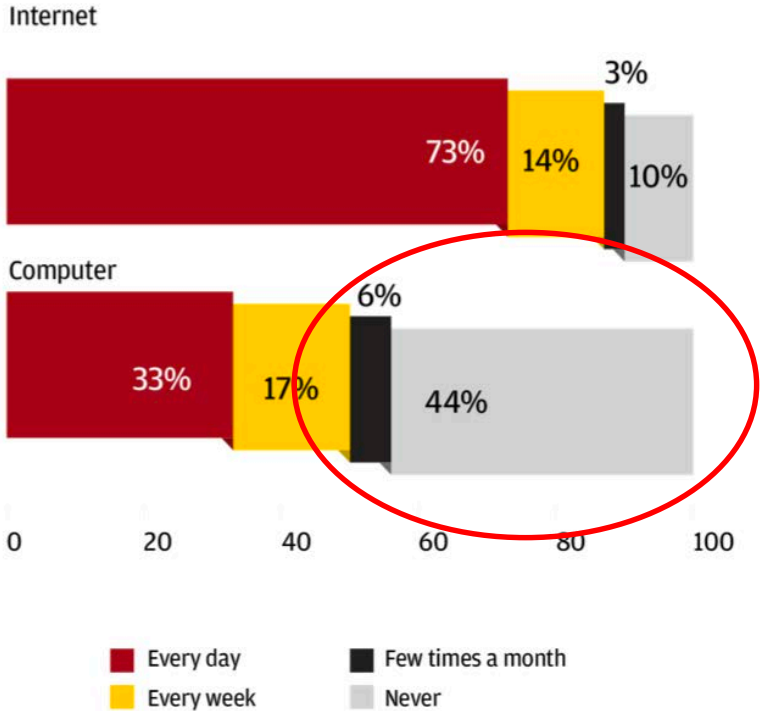
# Distance learning infrastructure at home

On a typical school day, did your child have a space free of noise or distraction for remote learning?



# Distance learning infrastructure at home

How often do you use a computer/  
the Internet?



50% of parents **never or seldom** use a computer.

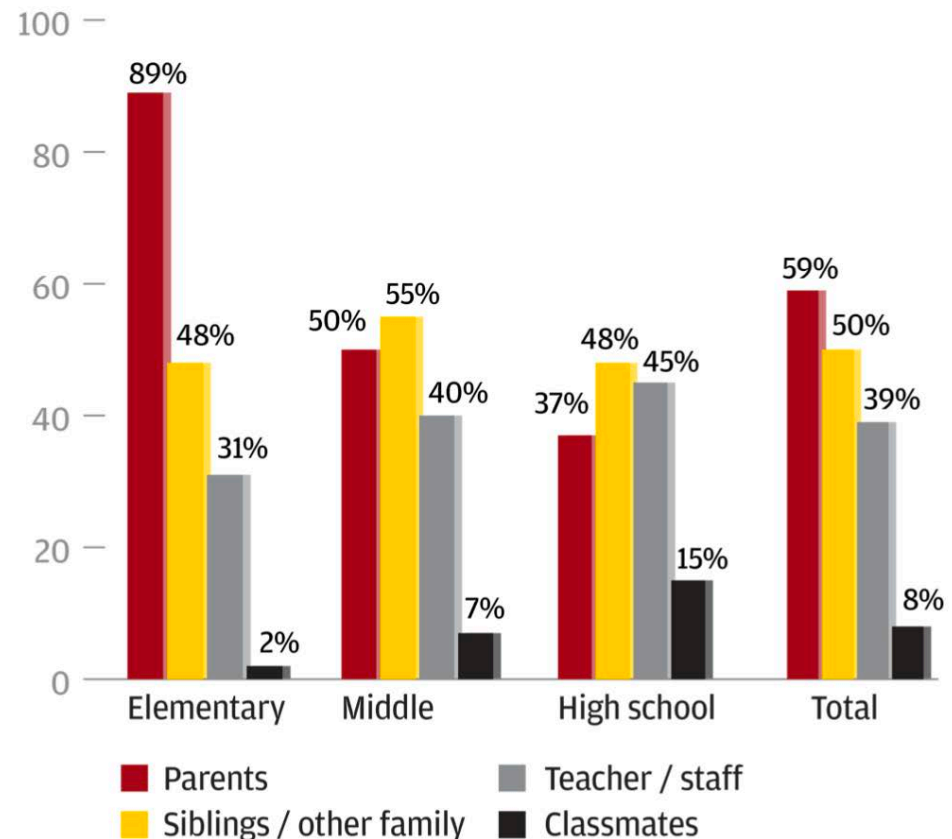


# Distance learning infrastructure at home

Across grades, **siblings** played a large role.

**Parents'** role diminished for older students

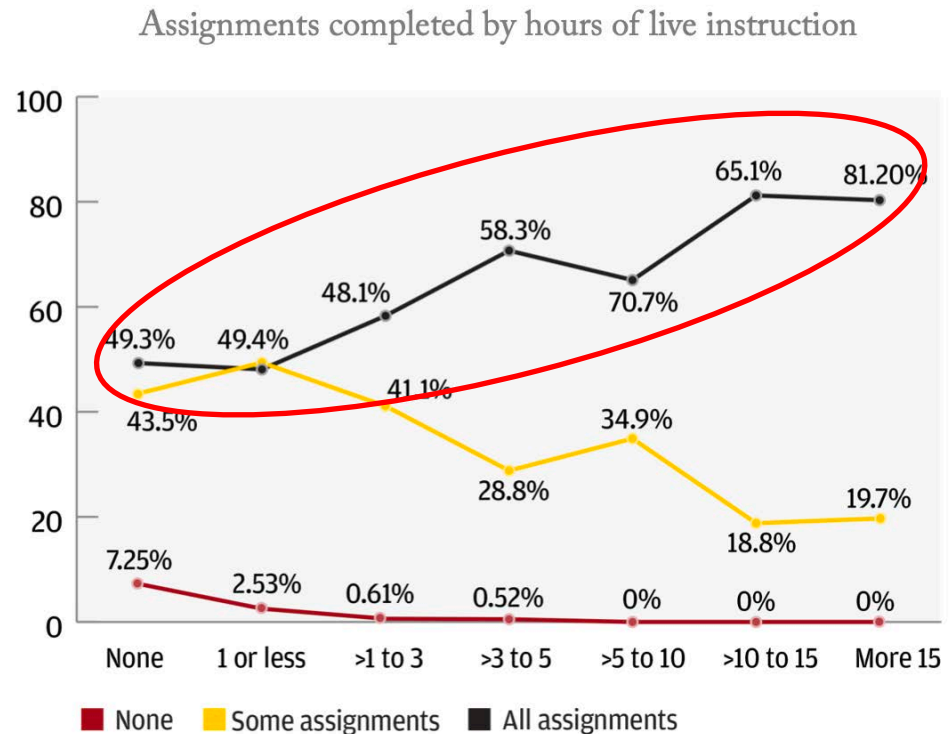
Who did your child ask for help when they had trouble with remote learning schoolwork?



(Note : multiple answers possible)

# Distance learning infrastructure at home

**Live instruction**  
predicts more  
assignment  
completion.

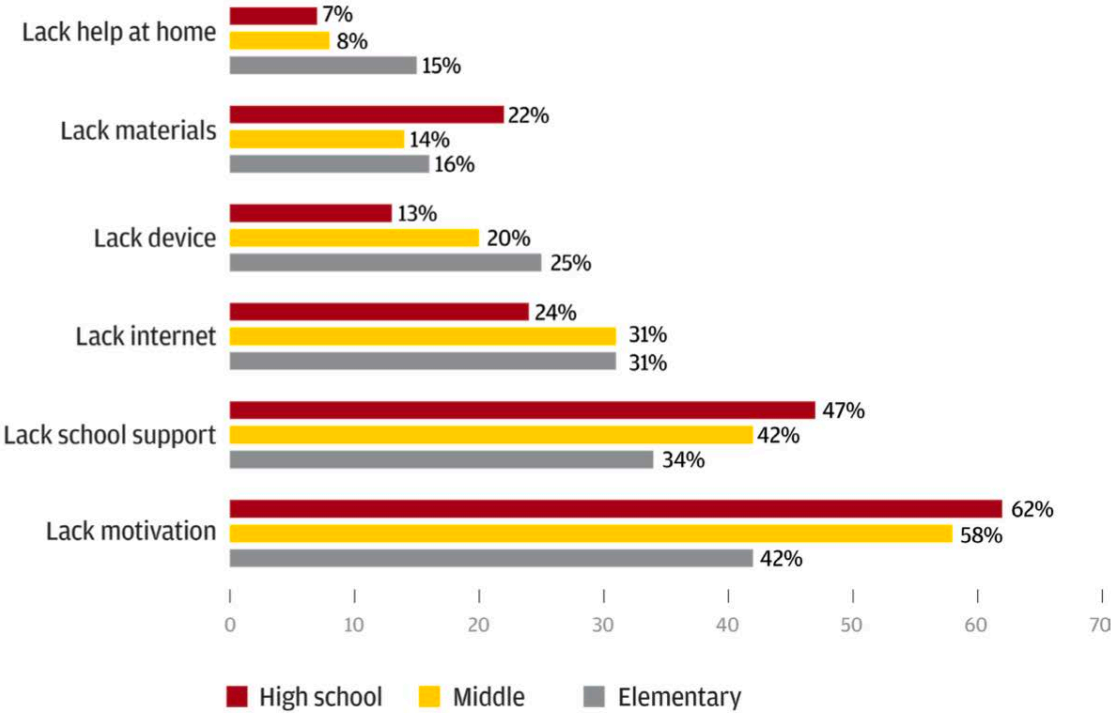


Every **additional hour** predicts a **20% increase** in the likelihood of **all assignments** completed

# Distance learning infrastructure at home

**Motivation and School support**  
key

What prevented your child from completing schoolwork during remote learning?



# What can we do about it?

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- Support municipal internet
- Establish **national** and **community specific** bases of knowledge
- Capture **best-practices** to inform interventions



# What can we do about it?

N = 14 teachers  
Experience sampling  
over 6 month;  
January 2020 to June  
2020.

**Sharing resources,  
learning, connecting  
to others all  
increased**

How Teachers Use Social Media

■ Blogs ■ Facebook ■ Instagram ■ Pinterest ■ Twitter

