



EQUITY DATA SNAPSHOT

REMOTE LEARNING TAKES CENTER STAGE

Who's relying on remote instruction, do they have the technology they need, and what are they learning?

A month into the new school year, new data reveal that students from low-income backgrounds and students of color are much more likely than wealthier students and White students to be learning fully online. The disproportionate reliance on remote learning for students who were underserved even before the pandemic raises significant educational equity questions.

The school reopening guidelines issued by state education leaders this summer included important steps to prioritize educational equity. Now that the school year is underway, it is imperative that all students have access to the resources and support they need to fully participate in learning, whether remote, in-person, or a blend of the two.

But the ability of policymakers, educators, parents, and other stakeholders to know whether this is happening is limited by the lack of public statewide data on critical remote learning issues like the availability of personal learning devices and high-speed internet, the amount of live instruction and extended learning, and student attendance and engagement.

Pandemic school closures have already worsened the pre-existing inequities in public education, and inequitable reopening strategies stand to destabilize our education system further. Unless New York State gets remote learning right, the opportunity gaps in our education system will continue to widen, with lifelong consequences for the children

and communities who have already suffered the consequences of persistent inequities.

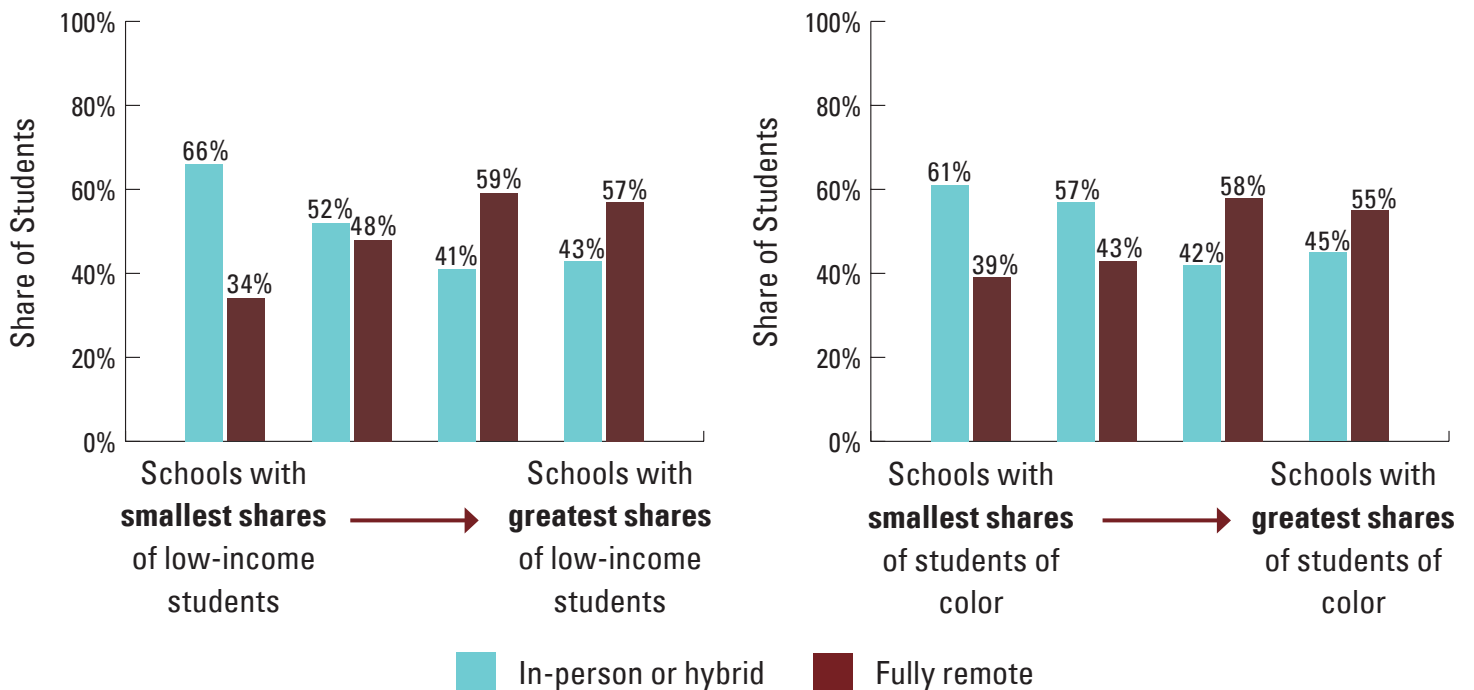
The New York State Department of Health has developed a “COVID-19 Report Card” with data submitted from each school district. This “COVID-19 Report Card” provides — for the first time — a limited window into enrollment in remote and in-person learning. This analysis draws on the enrollment data included in the report cards as of October 7, 2020.

New data show students from low-income backgrounds and students of color are disproportionately likely to be learning remotely this fall.

Across New York State, the data indicate that half of students are learning in person (including students who are fully in person and students who are in hybrid or blended models) and half of students are learning entirely remotely.

This data masks significant disparities. Students enrolled in the schools with the **greatest share of students from low-income backgrounds** are 1.7 times more likely to be learning remotely than students in schools with the smallest share of students from low-income backgrounds. Students in the schools with the **greatest share of students of color** are 1.4 times more likely to be learning remotely than students in schools with the smallest share of students of color.

Share of students learning in person and remotely, by school demographics:



- In **New York City**, about half of all students are learning fully remotely in schools with varying shares of students from low-income backgrounds and students of color.
- In the **Big 4 (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers)**, 82% of all students are remote, with only Yonkers reporting significant hybrid learning during this period.
- In the **rest of the state**, there are major disparities in remote vs. in-person and hybrid learning for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds.

Outside of New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers...

...students in the schools with the **greatest share of students from low-income backgrounds** are

2.1x

more likely to be learning remotely than students in the schools with the smallest share of students from low-income backgrounds.

...students in the schools with the **greatest share of students of color** are

1.6x

more likely to be learning remotely than students in the schools with the smallest share of students of color.

About this data: Enrollment data accessed from NYS Department of Health "COVID-19 Report Card" website on October 7, 2020. On-site enrollment includes students receiving hybrid/blended and fully in-person instruction, or who attend school for extra-curricular activities. The dataset represents 96% of all district-run public schools in New York State, which enrolled 98% of all students in district-run schools in 2019-20.