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Superintendent of Schools

April 20, 2020

To: Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent
From: Dr. Antoine Hickman, Chief, Office of Student Support Initiatives and Recovery
Phillip Dunn, Chief, Office of Information Technology
Dr. Valerie Wanza, Chief of School Performance and Accountability
Daniel Gohl, Chief, Office of Academics
SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, AS A PROXY FOR ATTENDANCE, DURING REMOTE LEARNING**

As of Friday, April 17th, **98.4% of students have demonstrated successful engagement** in distance learning on at least one school day since March 30th. The District is now able to provide school level and aggregate data on student engagement in distance learning. Beginning today, data aggregation is being made available by individual school, grade band, Innovative Zone, and demographic sub-group. There are two publicly available websites providing engagement information in searchable form.

- Daily engagement (unique Single Sign-On data (Clever) from March 30 – April 17) is available as a [searchable database](#).
- Daily engagement (combining SSO (Clever) and course (Canvas) data since April 15) is [now on a dashboard](#).

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) continues to provide high-quality instruction to all students while under the modified conditions of physical distancing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Information on the District's use of engagement as a proxy measure for attendance, how staff are reaching out to parents when student engagement is not detected, and supporting resources are available at <https://www.browardschools.com/attendance>.

Beginning on March 30th, and through April 17th, the District has been focused on ensuring that each student is engaged. This remains the highest priority. The District is sending daily *ParentLink* messages to the parents/guardians of students that have not had a new, unique single sign-on through the Clever Portal each day. Schools continue to be provided with data files of students who have not engaged the previous day, and students who have not engaged in several days so that they can reach out to these students, as well as students that have yet to engage and those students who have had an interruption in their engagement. Using BASIS, school attendance teams can sort all students by the number of "No Online Login" codes to efficiently identify students that have not registered unique logins for a selected number of days to help identify possible barriers to daily access.

In addition to the centralized District services outlined above, each teacher's monitoring of their students' progress is occurring as the third layer of ensuring student engagement.

We will continue to collaborate to promote, monitor and intervene to maximize student engagement in learning. In addition to the reporting methods described above, we will provide updates via memorandum as appropriate.



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Daily Student Engagement as measured by single sign-on (SSO) through Clever (03/30 – 04/17)

- Clever produces a daily report of student logins between 12:00 AM and 11:59 PM. The Clever Portal, sso.browardschools.com, is the single point of entry for students in virtual learning.
 - This report does not have Head Start nor non-ESE VPK students;
 - This report does not include: Bright Horizons Center, Broward Virtual School, College Academy at Broward College, Sheridan Technical High School, Wingate Oaks Center;
 - Atlantic Technical High School was placed within the Clever data capture on April 9, 2020;
 - This system monitors login capabilities for approximately 210,000 of the 220,000 students in the District;
 - This report represents the minimum level of engagement. This method does not capture students who are using a persistent connection. Families have been asked to ensure students have a new login registered each school day.
- Head Start and non-ESE VPK students have engagement recorded by their teacher for each day and submitted by the end of each week. This engagement is reported in the Child Plus data system.
- Sheridan Technical High School takes attendance through a separate learning management system (D2L).
- Broward Virtual School monitors student progress and participation, per Florida Statute for virtual instruction (1002.45(6)(a)) to comply with compulsory attendance laws.

This first metric for measuring the engagement of students has been recording unique, new log-ins through Clever since March 30th. This technique produces a known undercount of students in the following ways:

- i) Students who stay logged into Canvas from day to day are only counted on the first day, and then are not counted in subsequent days even though they may be accessing courses; and
- ii) Students who access Canvas through the Canvas Student app (available in iOS or Android) are not counted at all because they do not access Clever to enter Canvas in this method. This information is updated each Monday using data from the previous week.

The daily engagement rate of students, as measured by Clever, is now available by school, and in aggregate form at <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/52804>.

This site can present data for specific school locations, grade levels, and/or Innovation Zone. In addition to site group and site-specific daily engagement percentages, the search results present the enrollment of the school/grade level/zone, percentage of unique users within each specified week, and a cumulative count of the percentage of students engaged at least once since March 30th. Staff within the Office of Student Services have provided innovative and effective leadership in providing information on student engagement to schools and establishing protocols for reaching out to students and families.



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Class/Period Student Engagement as measured by student access to Canvas course(s)

- Canvas can produce a daily report of student access to each of a student's courses.
- This Canvas file serves as a proxy for period attendance.
- Prior to April 6th, students were able to use a direct URL to access Canvas, thereby bypassing the SSO through Clever
- Canvas can also be accessed directly through the Canvas Student application (for iOS and Android), thereby bypassing the SSO through Clever
- Thus, the Canvas File has been consistently showing higher degrees of engagement than the Clever file. One day of comparison showed that 40% of students showing as non-engaged through Clever were showing as engaged in Canvas.

This second metric for measuring student engagement has been recording each student entry into Canvas course(s) and was initially only available as a single district data file for a given date with a 48-72 hour delay from a given date. This technique also produces a known undercount due to students who engage in learning on a particular day by using resources that are accessible on their personalized LaunchPad and thus do not access Canvas. This count does record students who access Canvas directly from the Canvas Student app. Additionally, until April 15, Instructure, the publisher of Canvas, was working with BCPS to provide a daily file formatted to District specifications within hours of the 11:59 PM conclusion of the redefined instructional day. These challenges have now been overcome thanks to the efforts of staff in the Office of Informational Technology in collaboration with staff at Instructure.

Beginning today, a dashboard of student engagement, as measured by merging the data available from Clever and the data available from Canvas, is available and will be updated on a daily basis. This dashboard is available at <https://bit.ly/2Y3nsCn>.

Course progress (Assignment Completion)

- Students are issued assignments, discussion boards, and other work in their Canvas courses.
- Teachers are to reach out to non-engaged, poorly engaged, or low achieving students. Persistent patterns of these behaviors are to be referred for follow-up by school administration and District staff.
- Staff are connecting families with resources and social services as appropriate. Parents receive a daily ParentLink phone call, email, and/or text.
- BCPS is seeing success with this effort of reaching out to families as the count of non-engaged students has gone from 6,600 as of April 6 to 4,626 as of April 9. As of April 17, the number of non-engaged students has been reduced to 3,324. This represents 1.58% of students eligible to be tracked by Clever/Canvas and 1.51% of all students to be engaged. Staff efforts have reduced the count of yet-to-engage students by 49.6%.
- Staff is committed to engaging with every student to ensure learning never closes for them. Individual, non-digital engagement systems are being arranged when family circumstances necessitate.
- Student progress is the goal as gauged by effort and achievement level.
Third quarter report cards, which included three days of remote instruction, will be made available to parents via Virtual Counselor, <http://bcps.browardschools.com/VirtualCounselor/>, and the BCPS app (available for iOS and Android) beginning on Wednesday, April 22.
- Quarter 4 Interim reports will be available to parents via Virtual Counselor, <http://bcps.browardschools.com/VirtualCounselor/>, and the BCPS app (available for iOS and Android) beginning on Monday, May 4.
- Final Report Cards, including quarter 4 grades and quarter grades substituting for EOC or final exam grades, are anticipated to be available on or before June 10 via Virtual Counselor, <http://bcps.browardschools.com/VirtualCounselor/>, and the BCPS app (available for iOS and Android).