



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

# 2019-20 District-Wide Survey Results: Technology Access

Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

# In this Slide Deck:

## Results for Five District-Wide Survey Items Related to Technology



Students

- [I access the internet from a computer at home.](#)
- [I access the internet from a smartphone or tablet.](#)



Parents/  
Guardians

- [I have internet at home.](#)



Teachers

- [How much of a challenge is a lack of computers or other technological resources?](#)



Principals

- [How much of a challenge is a lack of computers or other technological resources?](#)

## Overview of Respondents and Questions

- Across District and Charter schools, in the spring of 2019-20, 47,439 students (32%) in grades 3-12 and 25,915 parent/guardians representing 16% of student households responded to survey questions about internet access.
- Additionally, 6,986 teachers (64%) and 168 principals (48%) responded to a question about technology as a school-level challenge to student learning.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school buildings were closed and all students transitioned to digital learning on March 16, 2020. This was in the middle of the survey window. Respondents who had not already completed the survey were instructed to answer survey questions based on their overall experience for the entire school year.

## Results Summary: Student Survey Questions

- About 53% of District students in grades 3-5 reported *accessing the internet from a computer at home*, compared to 67% of students in grades 9-12 (slide 8). About 61% of Charter students in grades 3-5 reported accessing the internet from a computer at home, compared to 64% of students in grades 9-12 (slide 10).
- District students in grades 3-5 reported *accessing the internet from a smartphone or tablet* less often than students in grades 9-12 (55% compared to 81%, respectively) (slide 12). Similarly, Charter students in grades 3-5 reported accessing the internet from a smartphone or tablet less often than students in grades 9-12 (72% vs. 82%) (slide 14).

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

## Results Summary: Parent/Guardian Survey Questions\*

- Over the past three years, about 90% of District and Charter parent/guardian respondents reported they access the internet at home (slides 16 and 18).
- In 2019-20, 88% of District parent/guardian respondents and 87% of Charter parent/guardian respondents reported they access the internet at home.
- The areas where District respondents reported limited internet access were concentrated in Northwest, North, and Southwest Philadelphia (slide 17).

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates, the response rate for the parent/guardian survey was 16%.

## Results Summary: Teacher & Principal Survey Questions

- In 2019-20, teachers and principals did not view technology resources and access at school as a barrier to student learning.\*
  - 64% of District teachers and 72% of Charter teachers who responded to the survey reported it was either “a slight challenge” or “not a challenge.” (slides 20 and 21)
  - 59% of District principals and 69% of Charter principals who responded to the survey reported it was either “a slight challenge” or “not a challenge.” (slides 22 and 23)

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

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\*this is likely related to teacher and principal access to laptops.

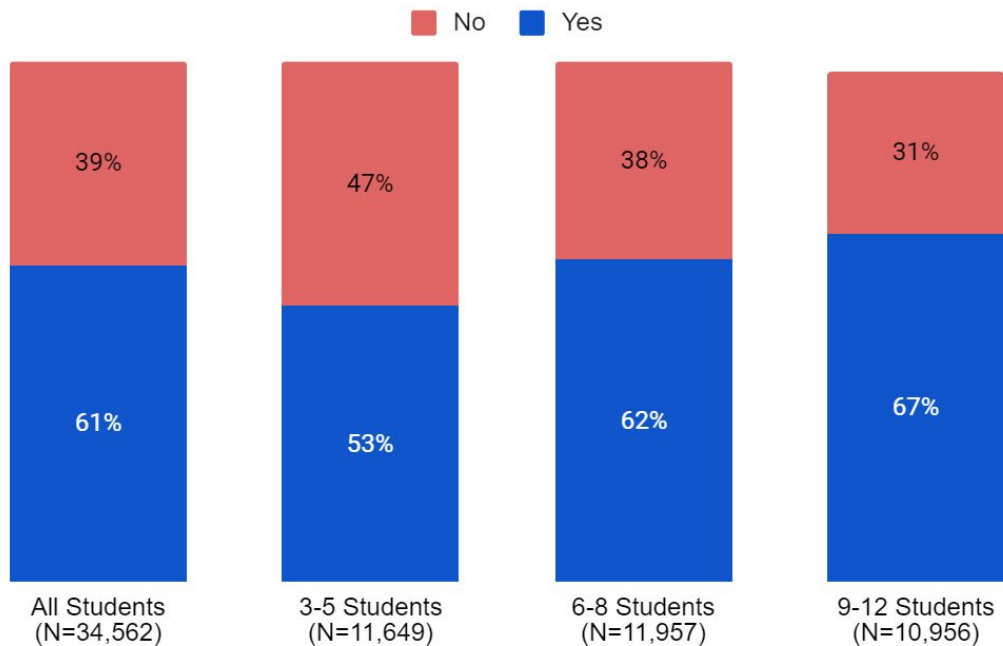
## 2019-20 Response Rates for District & Charter Schools by Respondent Group

Respondents	Percentage District	Number District	Percentage Charter	Number Charter
Parents/Guardians	15%	15,262	20%	10,327
Students (Grades 3-12)	37%	34,562	24%	12,042
Teachers	66%	5,257	58%	1,592
Principals	51%	109	42%	45

**Note:** Parent/Guardian and student response percentages are based on student enrollment records as of March 13, 2020, the last day of school before schools closed due to the COVID pandemic. Teacher and principal response percentages are based on District teachers/principals of record as of March 13, 2020 and all teacher/principal emails provided by Charter schools during the survey administration period.

# About 60% of District students in grades 3-5 reported accessing the internet from a computer at home, compared to almost 70% of students in grades 9-12.

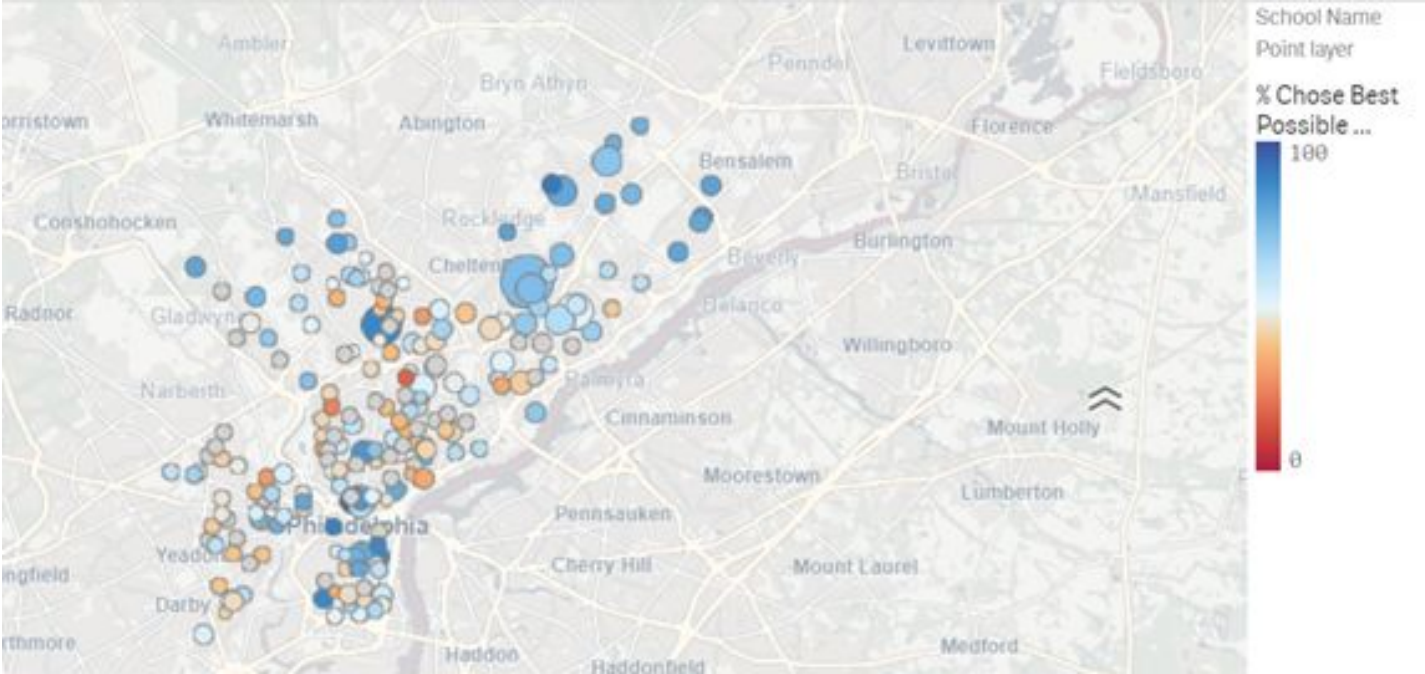
I access the internet from a computer at home



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.



**District schools where 50% or less of students reported accessing the internet on a computer at home (darker orange dots) are concentrated in the North, West and Southwest.**

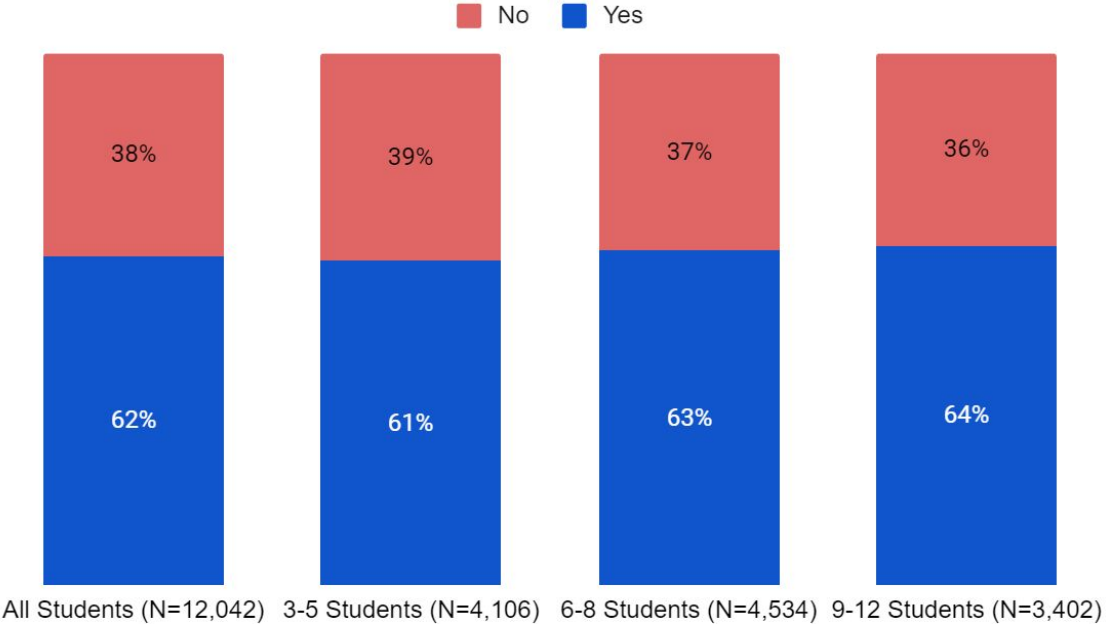


**Note:** Circles are sized by number of potential respondents and colored by percent of most positive responses. Grey dots indicate schools with no data.

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

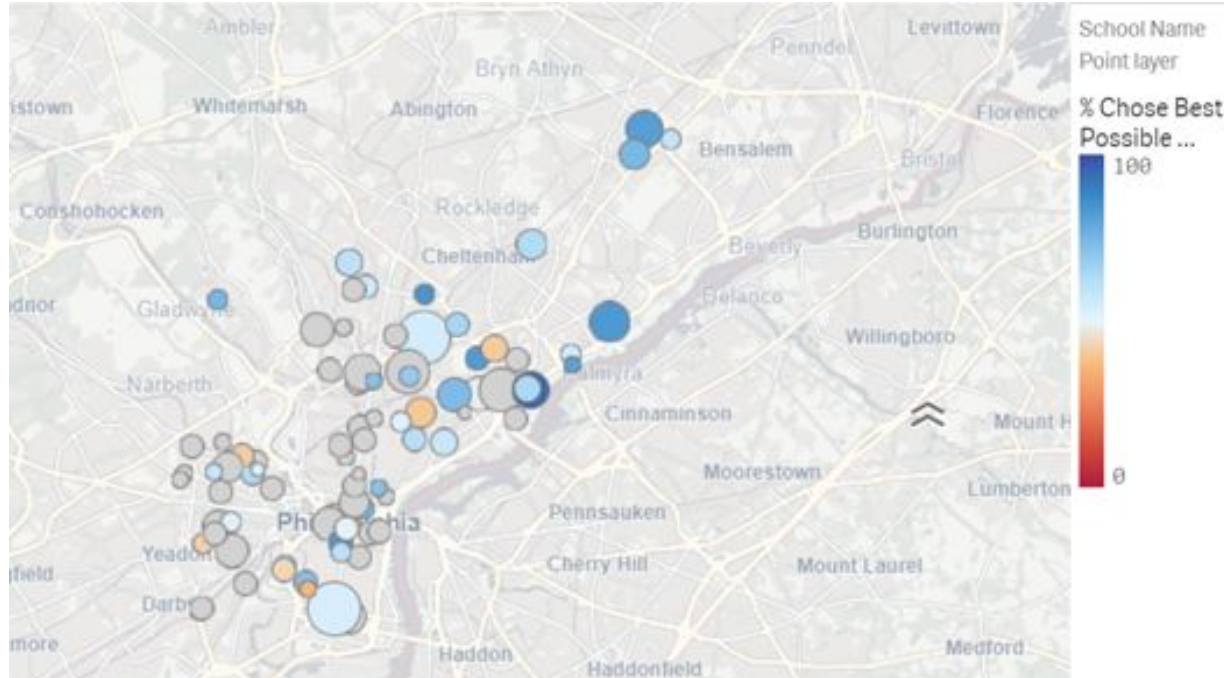
# Between 61% and 64% of Charter students in all grade bands reported accessing the internet from a computer at home.

I access the internet from a computer at home



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

## Charter schools where 50% or less of students reported accessing the internet on a computer at home (orange dots) are concentrated in West and North Philadelphia.

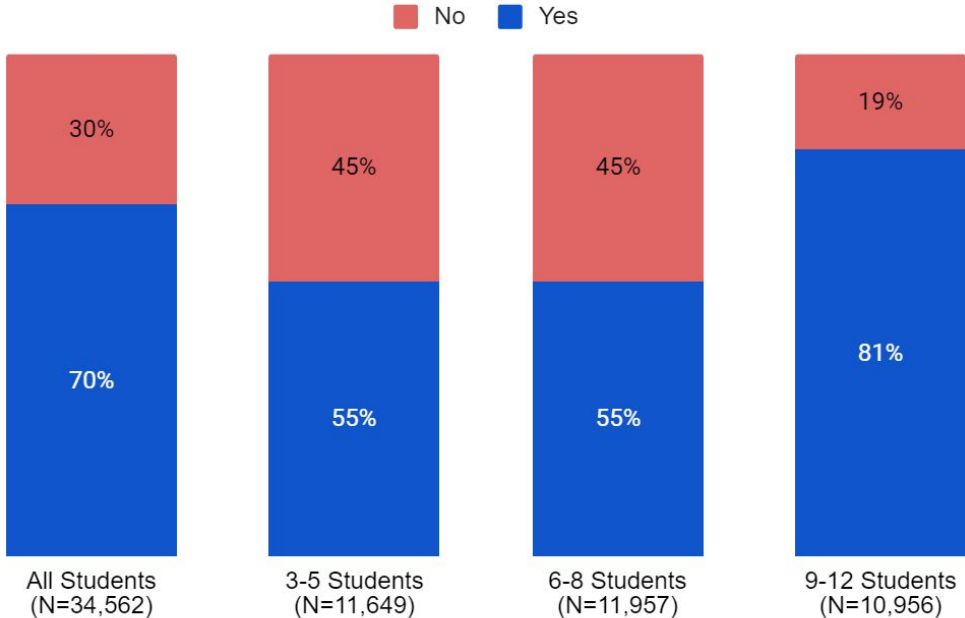


**Note:** Circles are sized by number of potential respondents and colored by percent of most positive responses. Grey dots indicate schools with no data.

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

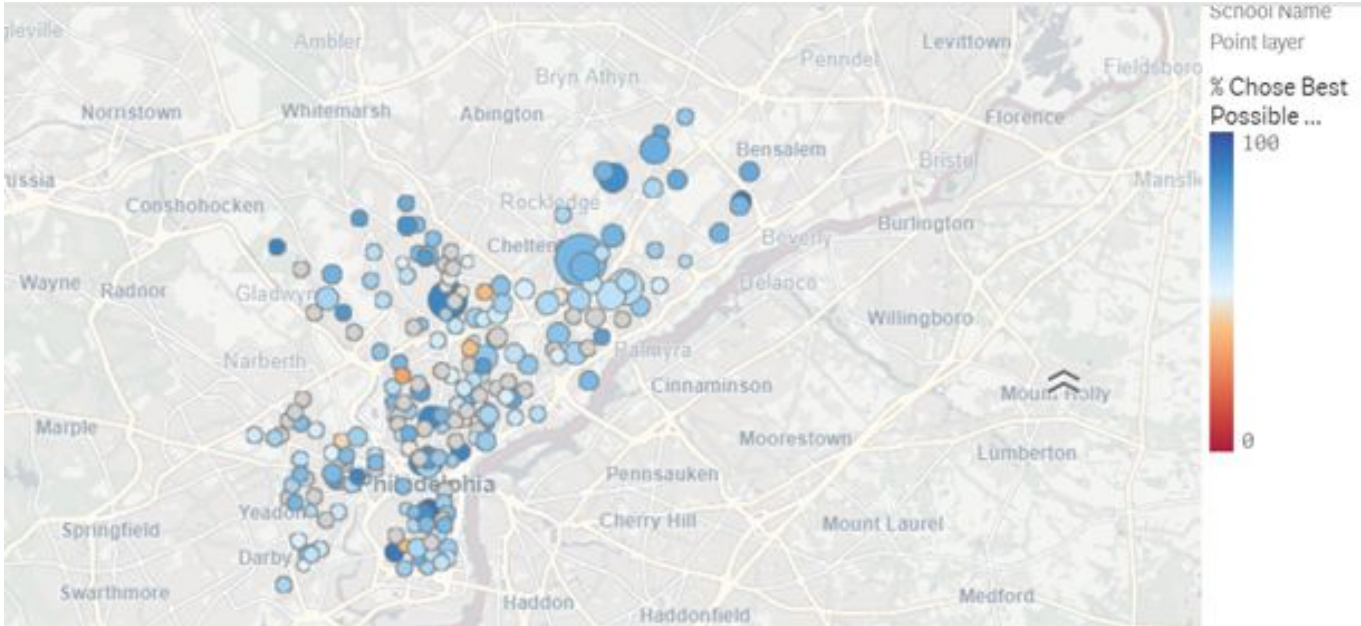
# District students in grades 3-5 reported accessing the internet from a smartphone or tablet less often (55%) than students in grades 9-12 (81%).

I access the internet from a smartphone or tablet



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

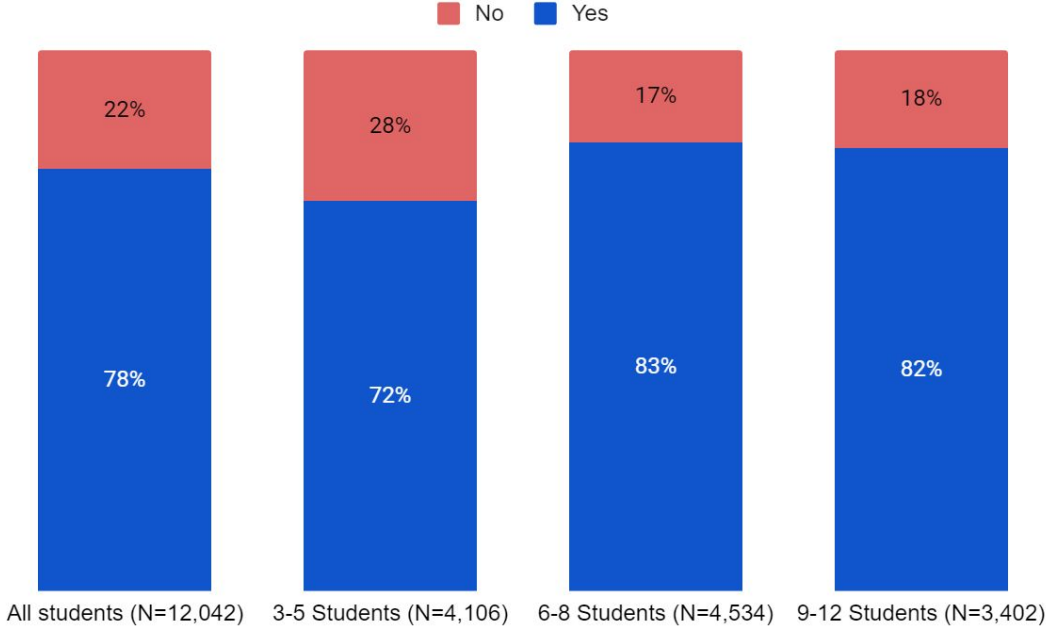
**District schools where 50% or less of students reported accessing the internet on a smartphone or tablet (light blue and orange dots) are concentrated in the Northwest and Southwest.**



**Note:** Circles are sized by number of potential respondents and colored by percent of most positive responses. Grey dots indicate schools with no data.  
**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

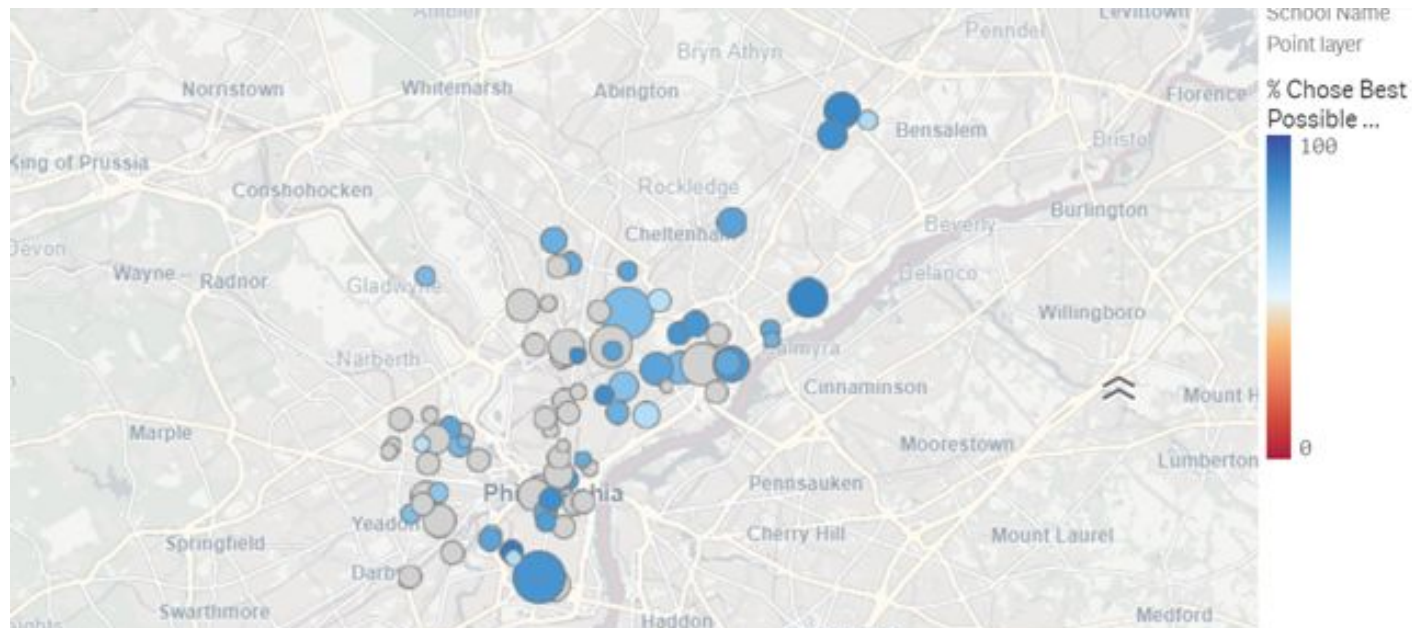
# Charter students in grades 3-5 reported accessing the internet from a smartphone or tablet less often (72%) than students in grades 6-12 (83%).

I access the internet from a smartphone or tablet



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

**Charter schools where 50% or less of students reported accessing the internet on a smartphone or tablet (light blue) are in the North.**

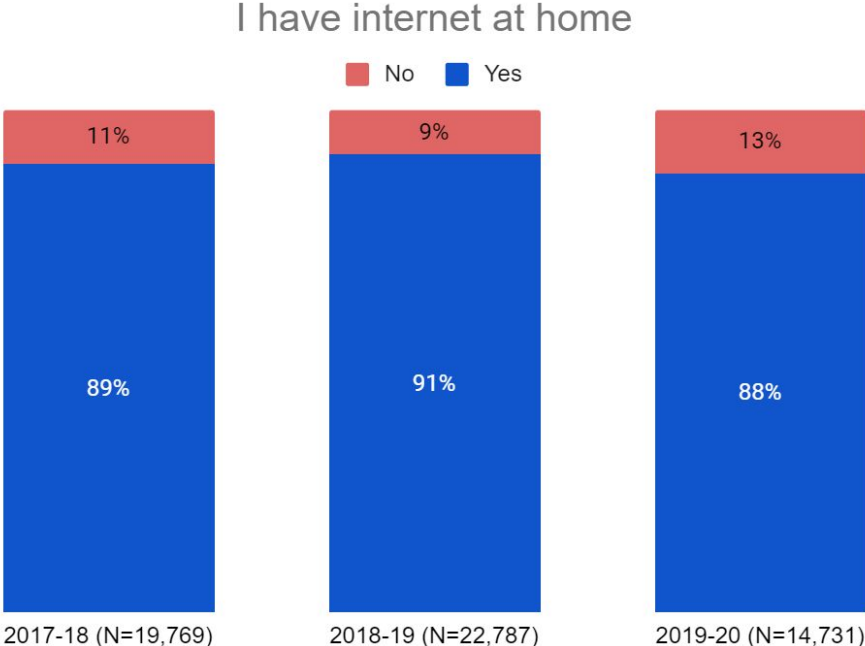


**Note:** Circles are sized by number of potential respondents and colored by percent of most positive responses. Grey dots indicate schools with no data.

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

# Over the past three years, about 90% of District parents/guardians who responded to the survey reported having internet at home.

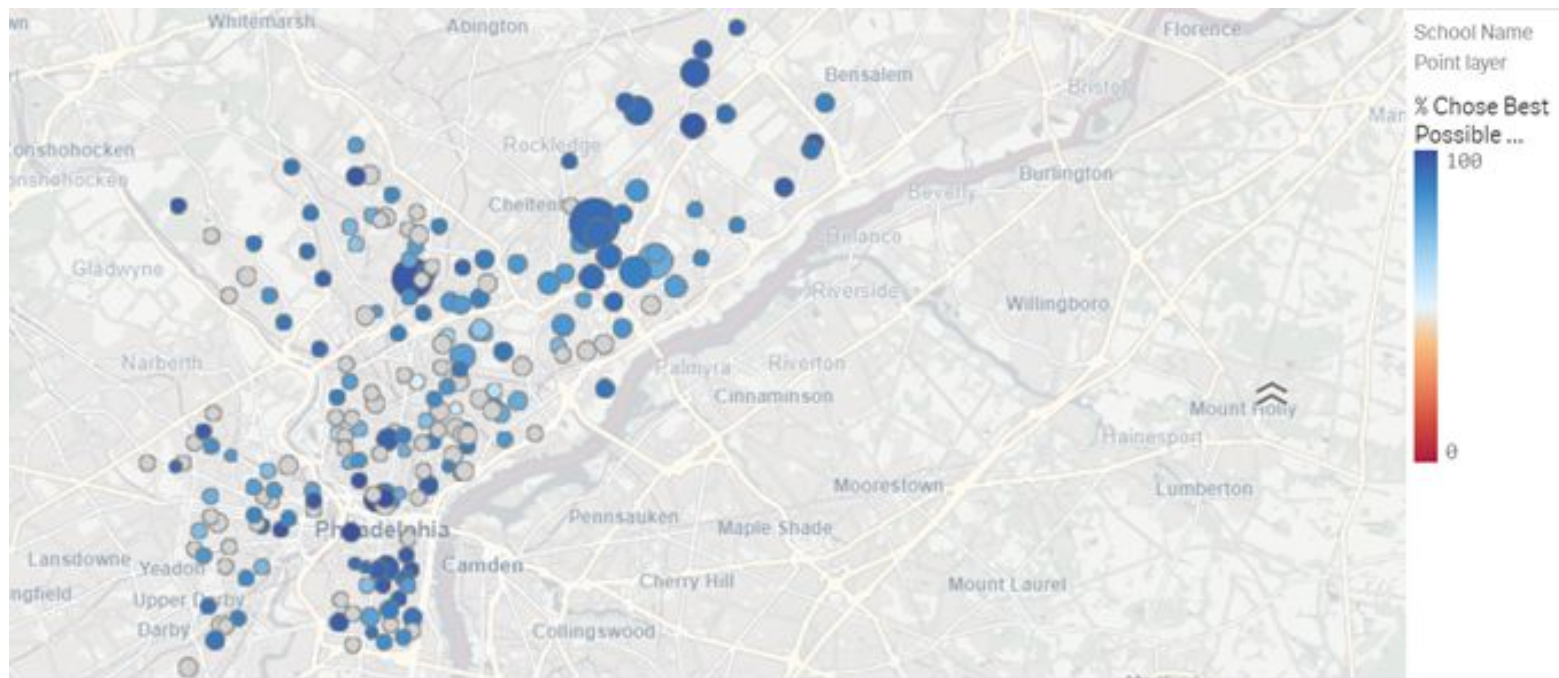
District Parent/guardian response rate for 2020: 15%



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.



The District schools where 50% or less of parents/guardians reported accessing the internet at home (light blue) are concentrated in the Northwest, North, and Southwest.

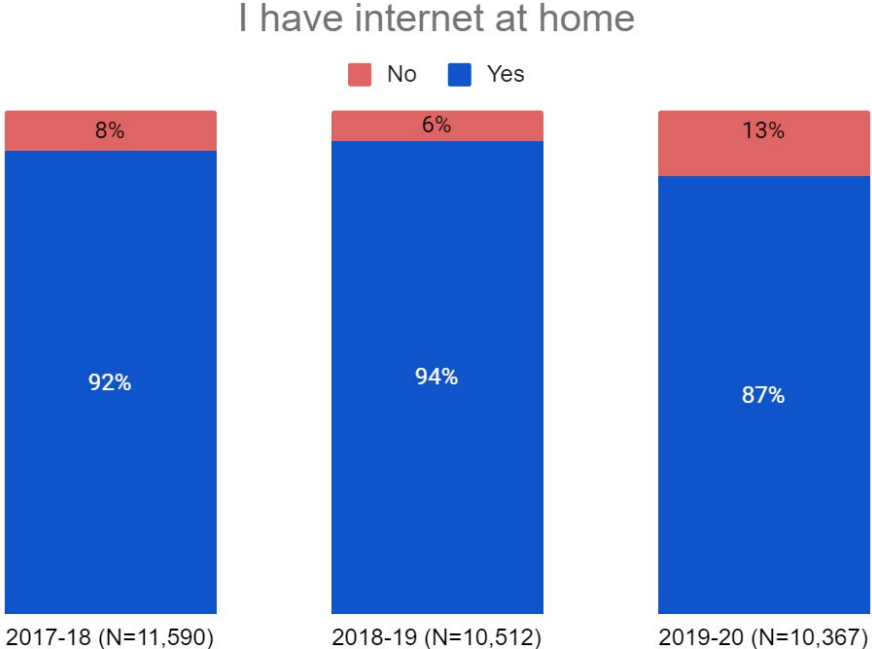


**Note:** Circles are sized by number of potential respondents and colored by percent of most positive responses. Grey dots indicate schools with no data.

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

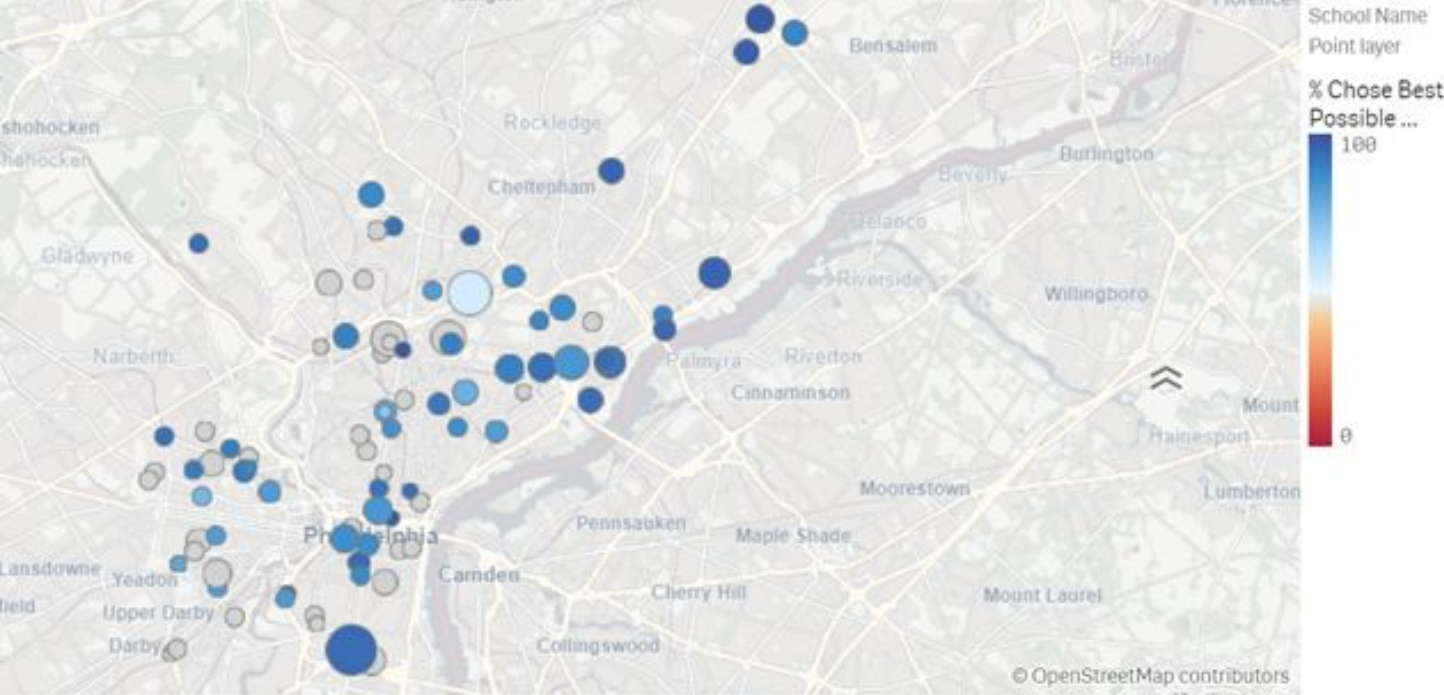
# Over the past two years, there was a decrease in the percentage of of Charter parents/guardians that reported having internet at home.

Charter Parent/guardian response rate for 2020: 20%



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

**At most Charter schools, 50% or more of parents/guardians reported having internet at home (dark blue dots).**



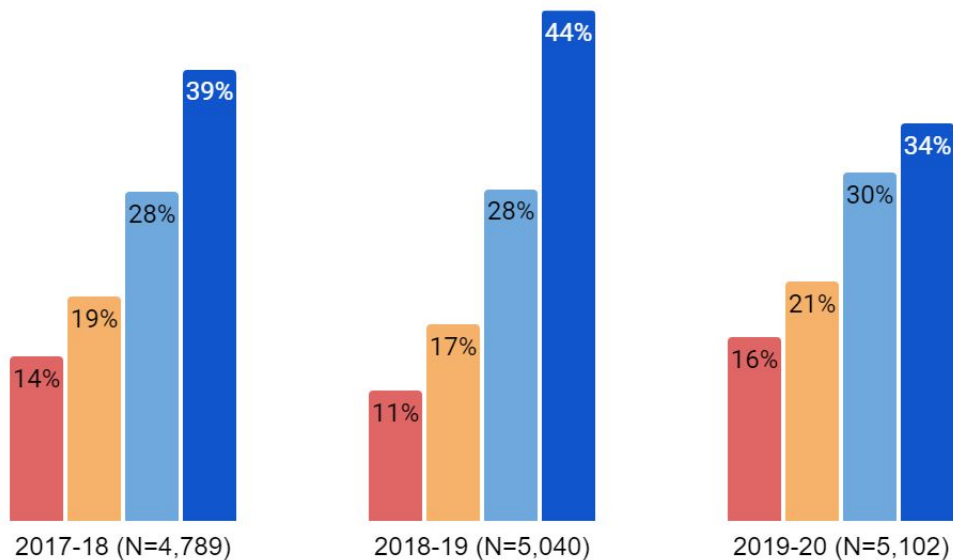
**Note:** Circles are sized by number of potential respondents and colored by percent of most positive responses. Grey dots indicate schools with no data.

**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

# In 2019-20, 64% of District teachers said a lack of technological resources was a *slight challenge* or *not a challenge*.

How much of a school-level challenge is a lack of computers or other technological resources?

■ A great challenge   ■ A moderate challenge   ■ A slight challenge   ■ Not a challenge

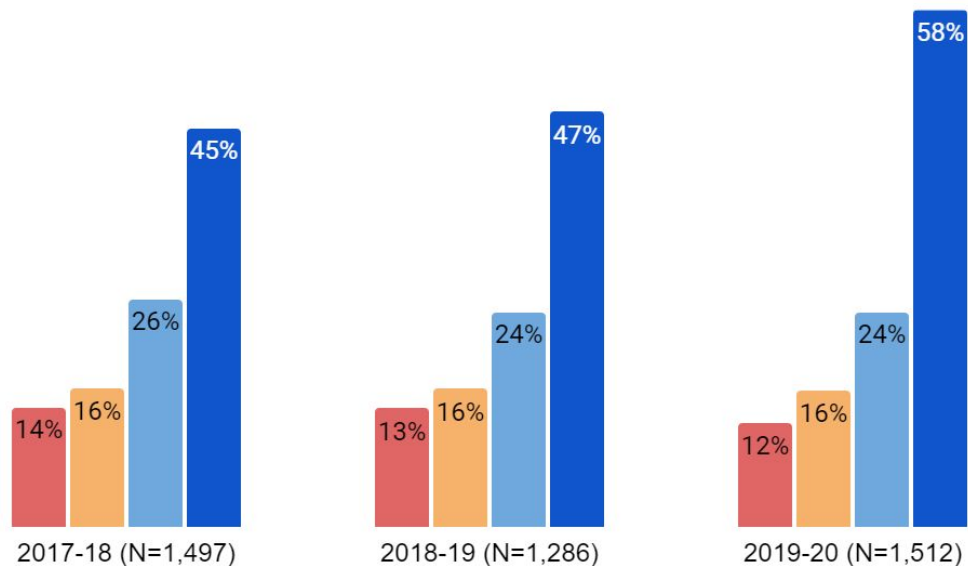


**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

# In 2019-20, 83% of Charter teachers said a lack of technological resources was a *slight challenge* or *not a challenge*.

How much of a school-level challenge is a lack of computers or other technological resources?

■ A great challenge   ■ A moderate challenge   ■ A slight challenge   ■ Not a challenge

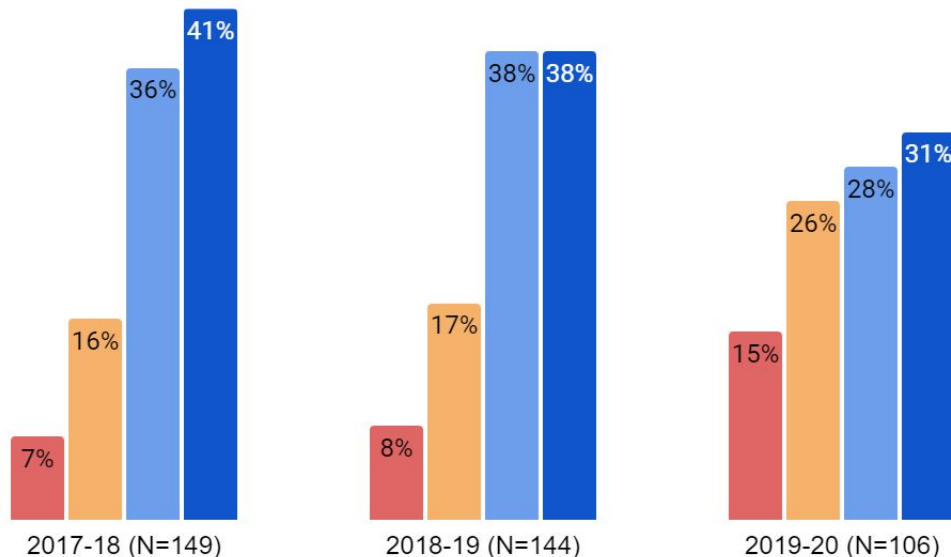


**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

# In 2019-20, there was a 15-point increase in the percentage of District principals who said a lack of technological resources was a great or moderate challenge.

How much of a school-level challenge is a lack of computers or other technological resources?

■ A great challenge ■ A moderate challenge ■ A slight challenge ■ Not a challenge

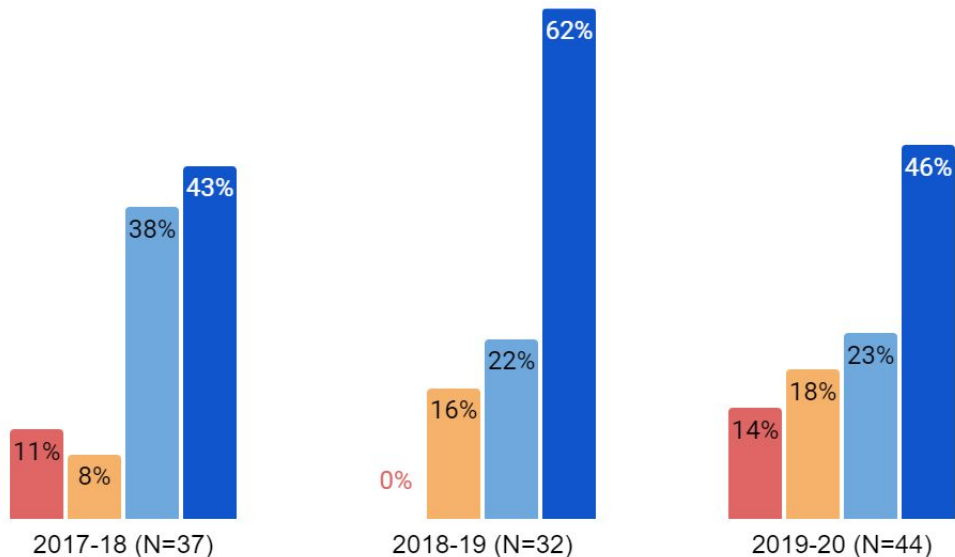


**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

# In 2019-20, there was a 16-point increase in the percentage of Charter principals who said a lack of technological resources was a great or moderate challenge.

How much of a school-level challenge is a lack of computers or other technological resources?

■ A great challenge   ■ A moderate challenge   ■ A slight challenge   ■ Not a challenge



**Note:** School closures due to the COVID pandemic were in the middle of the survey window and likely resulted in decreases in student and parent/guardian response rates.

# Additional Information

- District-Wide Survey (DWS) Interactive Results Website:  
<http://philasd.org/dwsresults>
- Additional DWS Resources:
  - [School Level Summaries](#) - Locate school-specific DWS reports.
  - [Examples of How Survey Results are Used](#) - Examine how the DWS results are used by District offices, schools, partners, and community members.
  - [Downloadable DWS Results](#) - Download DWS .zip files (including student, parent/guardian, and teacher responses in Excel files aggregated at the school level).
  - [DWS FAQs](#) - Understand the DWS design & measures, survey takers, response rates, and other frequently asked questions.
- Questions? Email us at [schoolsurveys@philasd.org](mailto:schoolsurveys@philasd.org).