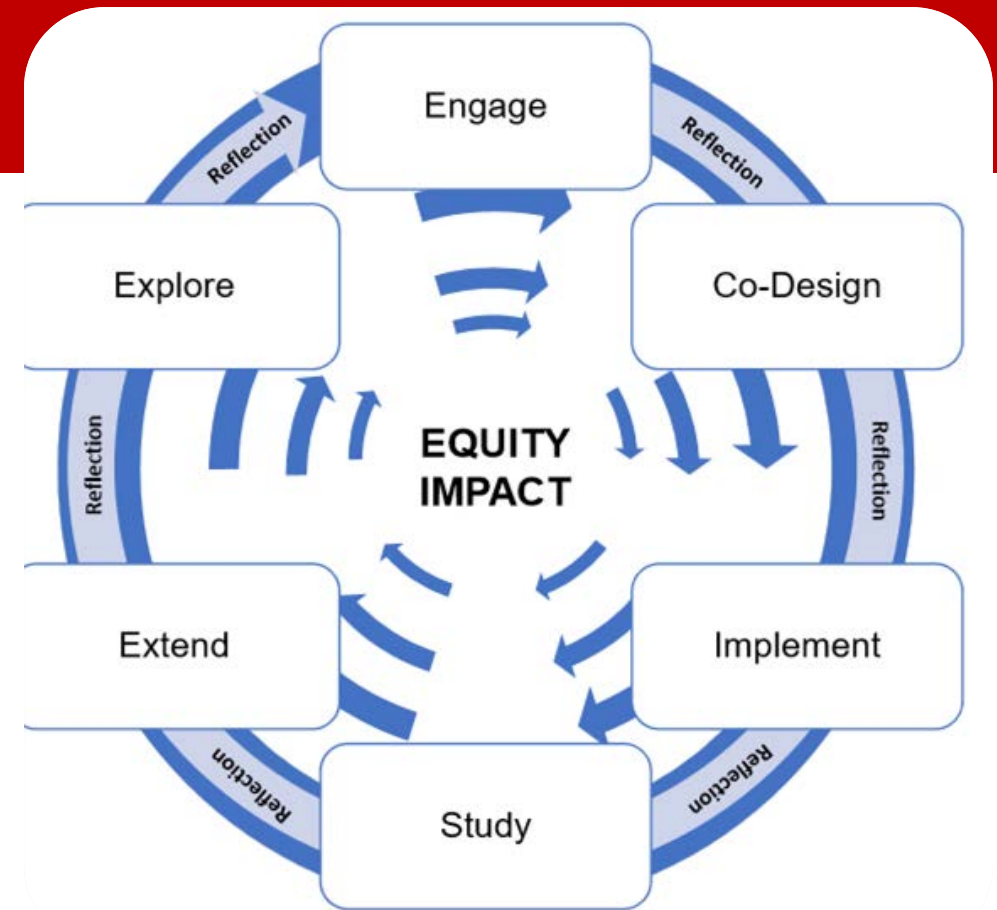


Disparities in Equitable Technology and Internet Access for students

- Due to Economic ability, many students are not able to have access to technology such as a computer or electronic device and internet access at home. This was evident in the US as students were not able to participate remotely in their continuous learning online during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020.
- Students should have access to both technology and internet at home as well as at school to assist in their learning and development.
- Schools should be able to use allocated funds to purchase technology for student use at home in addition to school.
- Federal and state agencies need to remove any barriers that impede schools from purchasing technology and tools for student to be able to access the internet (ie-hotspots) and technology (ie-chromebooks, etc.) on and off premises.



The IEL Equity Impact Framework

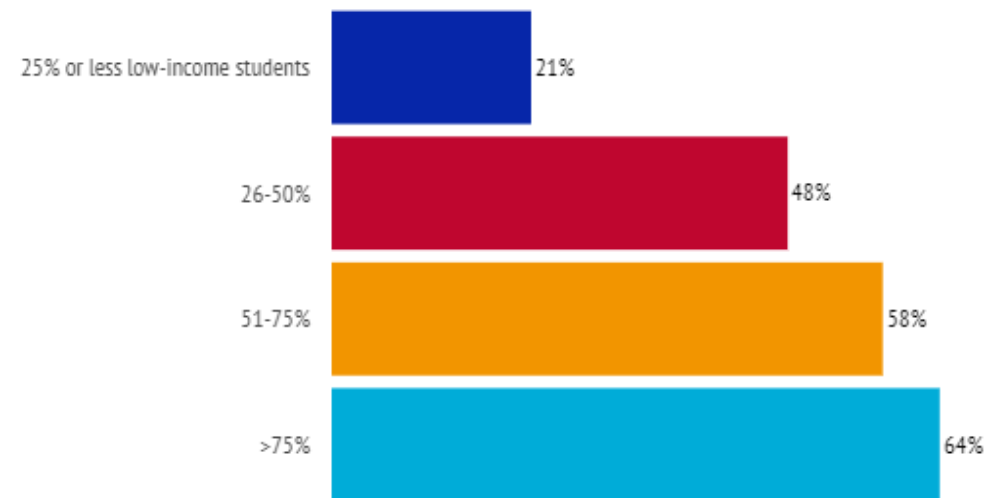


Disparities in Equitable Technology and Internet Access for students

The Disparities in Remote Learning Under Coronavirus

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/04/10/the-disparities-in-remote-learning-under-coronavirus.html>

Percentage of districts leaders who said students' lack of technology access is a major challenge to teaching during Coronavirus-related closures (March 24 & 25)



SOURCE: EdWeek Research Center

Dr. Karla Duran, Texas EPFP 2019-2020 Fellow



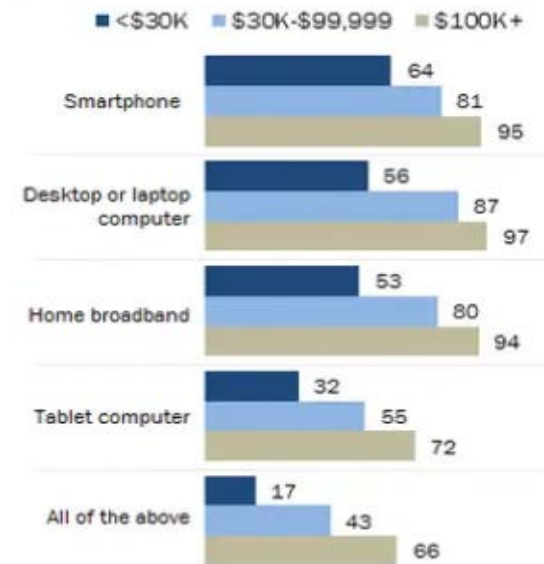
Disparities in Equitable Technology and Internet Access for students

The Pew Research Center highlighted persistent inequities in access to basic technologies in a recent report, which found nearly half of US households with incomes below \$30,000 a year **do not have access to high-speed internet at home**, while nearly one third do not own a smartphone. This makes it even harder for poorer families to catch up financially and professionally.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/07/digital-divide-persists-even-as-lower-income-americans-make-gains-in-tech-adoption/>

Lower-income Americans continue to lag behind in technology adoption

% of U.S. adults who have the following ...



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 29-Nov. 6, 2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Pew Research Center



Disparities in Equitable Technology and Internet Access for students

- In order to close the digital gap for all students, districts and schools should be able to have funding and access to purchase the needed technology and tools for their students to have access to learn both on and off campus.
- The COVID 19 pandemic highlighted the Disparities in Remote Learning for students.
- Federal and state agencies need to remove any barriers and allow more flexibility for school districts to use discretion in the spending of federal funds.

