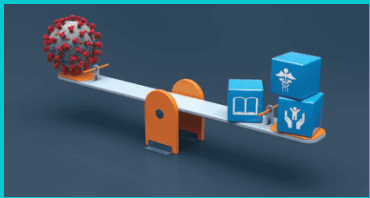


THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP & THE EFFECTS OF COVID 19

Emily DeSpain

University of North Carolina
at Pembroke



School Closures

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close and to begin working remotely.

Prior to the pandemic, instruction was centered around an in class experience and many school systems were not prepared for the abrupt and swift changes that occurred.

Research supports that due to the changes, students are behind and the academic achievement gap has widened.

Access & Quality of Instruction

While all students are being impacted, those who do not have access to quality instruction are being impacted the most.

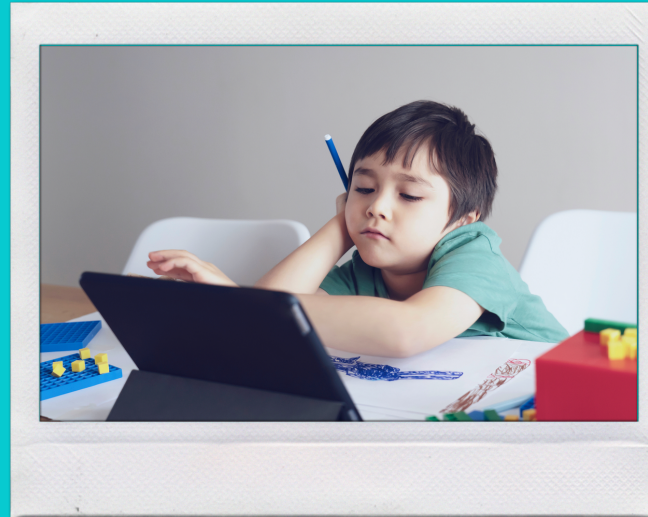
There is a disparity among students when it comes to having devices, as well as access to internet.

In addition, not all students have parental support at home. In some families, both parents are working or may be English Language Learners.

Physical & Emotional Well Being

Since the Pandemic there has been an..

- Increase in rates of depression & anxiety
- increase in children who are housing insecure
- 1-4 children at risk of hunger



Impacts on Learning

Students on average could lose 5-9 months of learning by the end of June 2021.

Students of color could be 6-12 months behind, compared with 4-8 months for white students.

Moving Forward

Schools will need to address the opportunity gap to address the achievement gap -- ensure students have devices, as well as access.

Keep students immersed in grade level content -- "Reteaching" earlier grade content can reinforce low expectations & underachievement.

School Counselors in Action

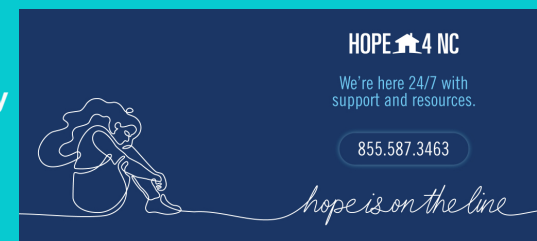
For students working remotely, counselors can provide virtual check-ins on a group or individual basis. Hosting virtual meet up groups can allow for students to maintain social connections with their peers and help to build resilience.

Furthermore, counselors can host meetings for parents providing tools and resources for e-learning during the pandemic.

As schools begin to re-open, counselors can collaborate with other support staff - Administration, School Nurse, School Social Worker & Teachers to ensure the needs of students are being met.

Early Warning Signs for Students Include: mood swings, acting out, lack of interest & withdrawal, pushing limits or boundaries, disrespect for others & non-participation in activities

With some students having experienced greater trauma, referring students out to community agencies and or making reports might also be necessary.



Resource:

Dorn, E., Hancock, B., Sarakatsannis, J., & Viruleg, E. (2021, March 1). Covid-19 and learning loss -- disparities grow and students need help.