



COLORADO
Department of Education

Presentation to the Joint Education Committee

September 23, 2020

Overview and Statewide Snapshot

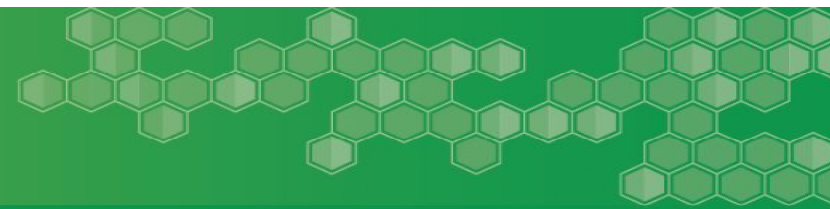
CDE's Role During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Communicating to the field, stakeholders, and the public
- Assessing needs of districts
- Adjusting process and policy as appropriate
- Distributing CARES Act funding
- Providing technical assistance to the field and other stakeholders
- Coordinating with CDPHE and Governor's office on health guidance
- Coordinating Stakeholder Group

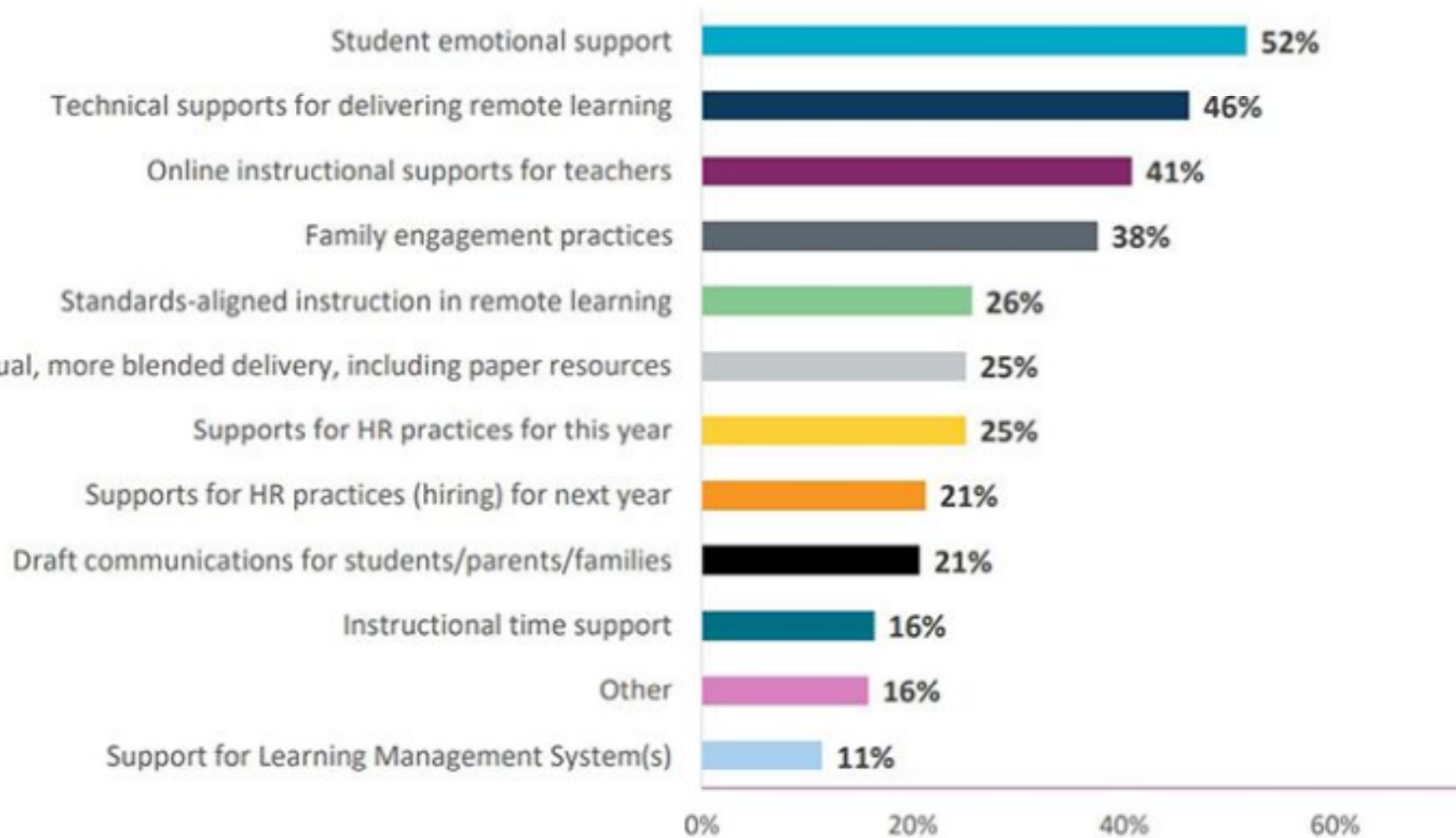
- Increasing broadband access across the state
- Adapting to a new daily realities and helping our districts do the same
- Regularly communicating and establishing feedback loops with the field
- Developing a comprehensive 2020-21 Toolkit and Health guidance with CDPHE
- Planning for October Count and ability to account for students engaged in remote learning
- Distributing all federal relief funds
- Securing \$16 million federal Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant

- Broadly assessed needs, including instructional supports, technology, and student health
- Administered from late March to early April 2020. Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) provided data management, analysis, reporting, and follow-up support
- Statewide, top priorities were:
 - student emotional support
 - technical supports for delivering remote learning
 - online instructional support for teachers
 - family engagement practices
- Approximately 6% of students (52,918) did not have access to a Wi-Fi-enabled device and approximately 8% (65,860) of students did not have access to the internet at home





Percentage Selecting the Following Education Supports as Top Needs



Status as of April- May 2020



- To date, CDE staff are tracking district plans when it comes to school settings (in-person, hybrid, remote)
- District plans have and many continue to change quickly and frequently based on local conditions and outbreaks
- Commissioner and CDE staff on daily calls with superintendents and district staff to assess changing needs
- Engagement with stakeholders (including the legislature) to assess if any additional or adjusted data should be collected in response to the current crisis

School Reopening Plans: Preliminary Information

- CDE has reviewed the public information for 173 of the 185 districts and BOCES, representing 890,308 (98%) students across the state
- Of the districts reviewed, CDE found that a large majority of districts (73%) are offering an in-person option
 - Many of these districts are small or rural districts, and CDE estimates that 37% of students statewide have access to in-person learning
 - Plans are changing quickly
- For districts with multiple options, elementary schools are more likely to be in-person than middle schools and high schools
- There are many districts that offer in-person or hybrid instruction that also have an online option that families can select if they are not comfortable returning in person
 - Some district leaders estimated as many as 25% of families choosing remote learning options, even with an in-person or hybrid option available



2020-21 School Year: What Don't We Know? What Should We Know?

- At the statewide level (including SBE and CDE), there is significant interest in better understanding the learning formats being offered to students and how well we are serving the academic and other needs of students. This desire is and should be student focused.
- Traditionally and under existing statute, CDE has not monitored or collected data from districts regarding real-time attendance, student engagement or specific learning formats.
- What data are needed at the state level in order to best support our students this school year? How do we balance the need for districts to focus on student learning with any potential data reporting requirements?
- If we need more information from districts, collectively, we need to identify the “why” and the “what” of any data collection. How will we use the information?

