

After School Matters COVID-19 Teen Survey

Research Brief | April 2020

Summary:

- More than three in four teen respondents who are currently enrolled in an ASM program say they have been in contact with their instructors since the pause in programming began.
- Almost all teens have access to mobile phones, but access to other technological resources like computers, software, or printers may be limited, which could affect their ability to participate in online programming.
- In open-ended responses, many teens had questions and comments about their stipend, noting its importance in helping provide for themselves and their families.

Teen Characteristics

2,982 teens completed the survey.

Of these teens, 77.2% reported being currently enrolled in an ASM program. Most teens that reported not being currently enrolled participated in the Summer 2019 session (Figure 1).

Teens in nearly every Chicago neighborhood participated in the survey, with most teens reporting they live on the west and south sides of the city (Figure 2). **76.5% of teen respondents currently enrolled in an ASM program say they have been in contact with their instructors since the pause in programming began.**

Technology Access

Results from the teen survey suggest that teens have varying access to technological resources. Although nearly all teens reported having access to a mobile phone, more than one-third of teens do not have a computer (Figure 3). While only 2% of responding teens reported not having access to any technology, the actual number of teens lacking access to technological resources is likely higher than these findings suggest since many teens without access to technology may not have been able to respond to an online survey.

Nearly 30% of teens do not have access to WiFi internet. Two-thirds of teens reported accessing the internet through a cell phone data plan (66.7%), while a few reported accessing the internet through a mobile hotspot (13.4%). Teens' capacity for online interactions appear to be limited (Figure 4) – while most teens report being able to chat online or complete forms, a majority of teens cannot print and more than 40% cannot download documents or stream video.

Figure 1
Program Participation by Session

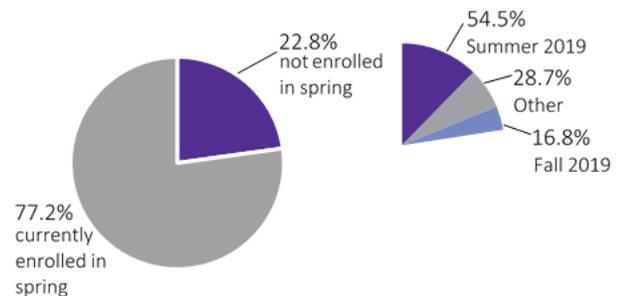


Figure 2
Map of Responding Teens' Zip Codes

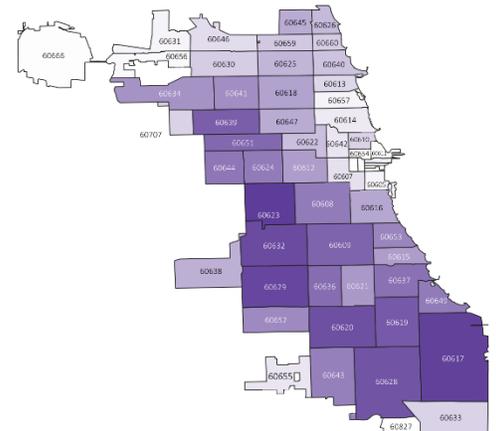


Figure 3
Teen access to technological resources

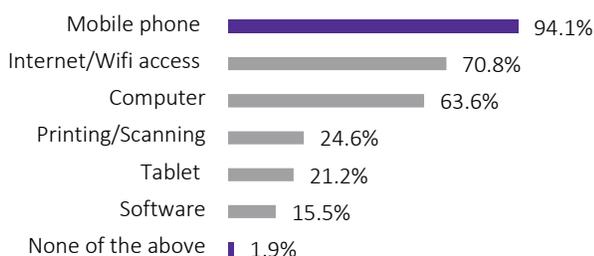
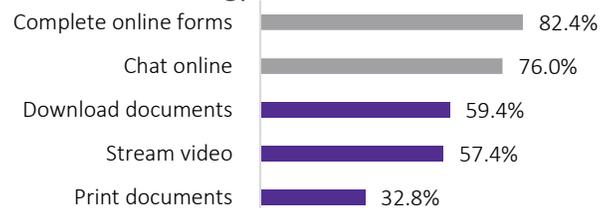


Figure 4
Teen technology functions from home



Student Comments

At the end of the survey, teens were asked for any additional feedback. Their comments fell into several broad categories.

Stipend

Teens had questions about pay logistics during the program pause, as well as comments about the importance of receiving their stipend in providing for themselves and their families.

- “Will we be getting paid during the quarantine?”
- “One question I have is, how are we going to revive our checks? Will it be sent to our wisely account or will they be mailed in?”
- “Hi it's been hard as my mom is a self-employed she is a hair dresser and there is no income also I have 5 siblings and I see how my mom is struggling for us I wish I can do more to help her but I can't I'm glad I still have a stipend which I give it to her as she buys us food”

Accessing Programs Through Technology

In addition to questions and comments about their stipend, teens were concerned about their access to resources that may help them participate in schoolwork or programming.

- “I don't have Wi-Fi at home so during the zoom calls I am using all my data”
- “I have a cellphone it's hard to complete schoolwork with my cellphone. I realized from using computers at school it easier to type on a keyboard.”
- “Sometimes I can't go chat videos with my instructor due to chores and taking care of siblings on the daily.”

ASM Spring Session

Additionally, teens left comments asking for clarity about what the remainder of the spring session might look like.

- “I'm hoping they reschedule the ASMU program as soon as it's all over. I want to understand the whole college process before I start my senior year this September. My mom and I are truly lost.”
- “When the confirmation for school classes to resume is announced, will ASM programs also resume at the same time?”
- “Will we be making up the days of the program that we couldn't go to due to covid 19?”

ASM Summer Session

Teens were also concerned about what might happen during the summer session given the current program pause.

- “What happens if this goes into the summer slot for programs? I usually just do the summer session and I'm wondering what that'll look like if this goes into summer.”
- “Are we still encouraged to apply to summer 2020 programs?”
- “Will we be completing the interview for the Summer 2020 interviews online if quarantine goes on for longer?”

Connecting with Instructors & Peers

Many teens left encouraging comments about the connections they have maintained with peers and instructors.

- “I Love Video Chatting with [Program Name]”
- “Even without being with the group it feels like we never took the pause since we stay in touch every day.”
- “I haven't had the time to talk to my instructors because I have been catching up with my schoolwork and the fact of there being too much and them to still expect to do their work too”
- “This is a little different from what we usually do I miss my friends and instructors I prefer going to ASM Physically than through a cell phone but I would rather be safe than not safe”

