Technology and Internet Access Parent Survey Report
May 2017

Introduction

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, in alignment with organization core values of student-centered and innovative, continually strives to use communication and instruction methods that best serve students and families. Technology and online tools play an increasingly important role in these functions.

To better assess how readily available technology and internet access are for our students, the Community and Public Relations Department conducted a districtwide parent/guardian survey during third quarter of the 2016-2017 academic year. This report describes how the survey was conducted and presents the survey results and key patterns.

Methods

Beginning January 13, a Technology and Internet Access Survey (Appendix A) was distributed to all school district parents/guardians. A link to the online survey was provided to families via email. The survey link was posted on the district and all school websites as well as shared on the district's social media feeds. In addition to online access, printed copies of the survey were distributed to all elementary schools to be sent home with students. The survey was also mailed to the families of secondary students with a return mail envelop.

The PR department collected survey responses throughout the third quarter and received 2,386 total responses. The online link collected 1,161 responses and was closed March 13. The PR department received 1,225 printed responses and manually entered the last batch of paper surveys on March 28.

Data

The survey prompted responses from parents/guardians at all 34 schools included in the survey and reflected input from families of students from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Overall Technology Access
Overall survey results indicate that 89% of students have access to a computer (desktop or laptop) for schoolwork outside of school and that 11% do not (Figure 1).
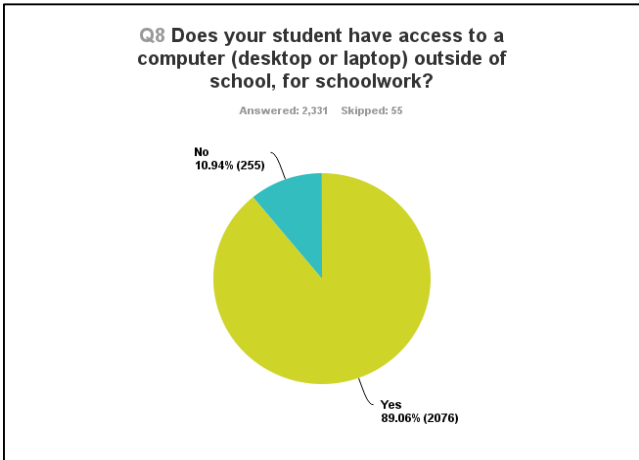
Figure 1: Student access to a computer (desktop or laptop) for schoolwork outside of school overall results
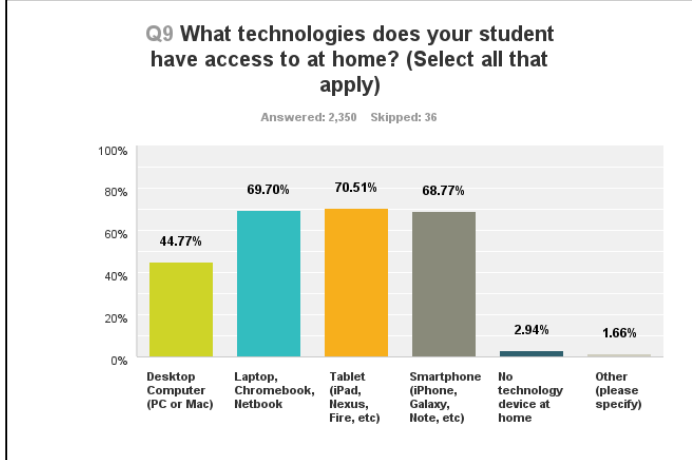
Figure 2: Devices students have access to at home overall results.

At home, students have the highest rate of access to the following devices: tablets (71%), laptops (70%) and smartphones (69%). Approximately 45% of respondents indicated their student had access to a desktop computer. Nearly 3% of respondents reported their student had no access to a device at home (Figure 2). A small number of respondents reported their student had access to other devices such as video game consoles, e-readers and smart TV, or that their student wasn't allowed access to the devices in the home.

Technology Access by Income

Comparing student computer access by income range shows that the rate of students without access to a computer outside of school is just over 32% for families in the lowest income bracket. Nearly 6% of respondents reported a total household income of less than $24,999 (Figure 3).
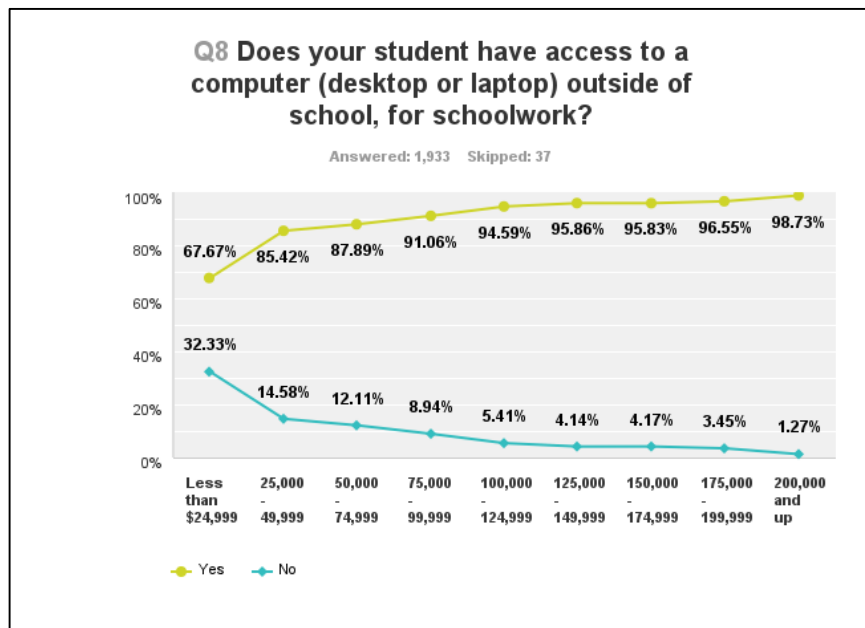

Figure 3: Student access to a computer outside of school for schoolwork compared by reported household income.

Technology Access by School

A school to school comparison of student computer access is illustrated below (Figure 5). Secondary schools show access rates at or above the district average, except for Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School. Elementary school rates demonstate more fluctuation from school to school.
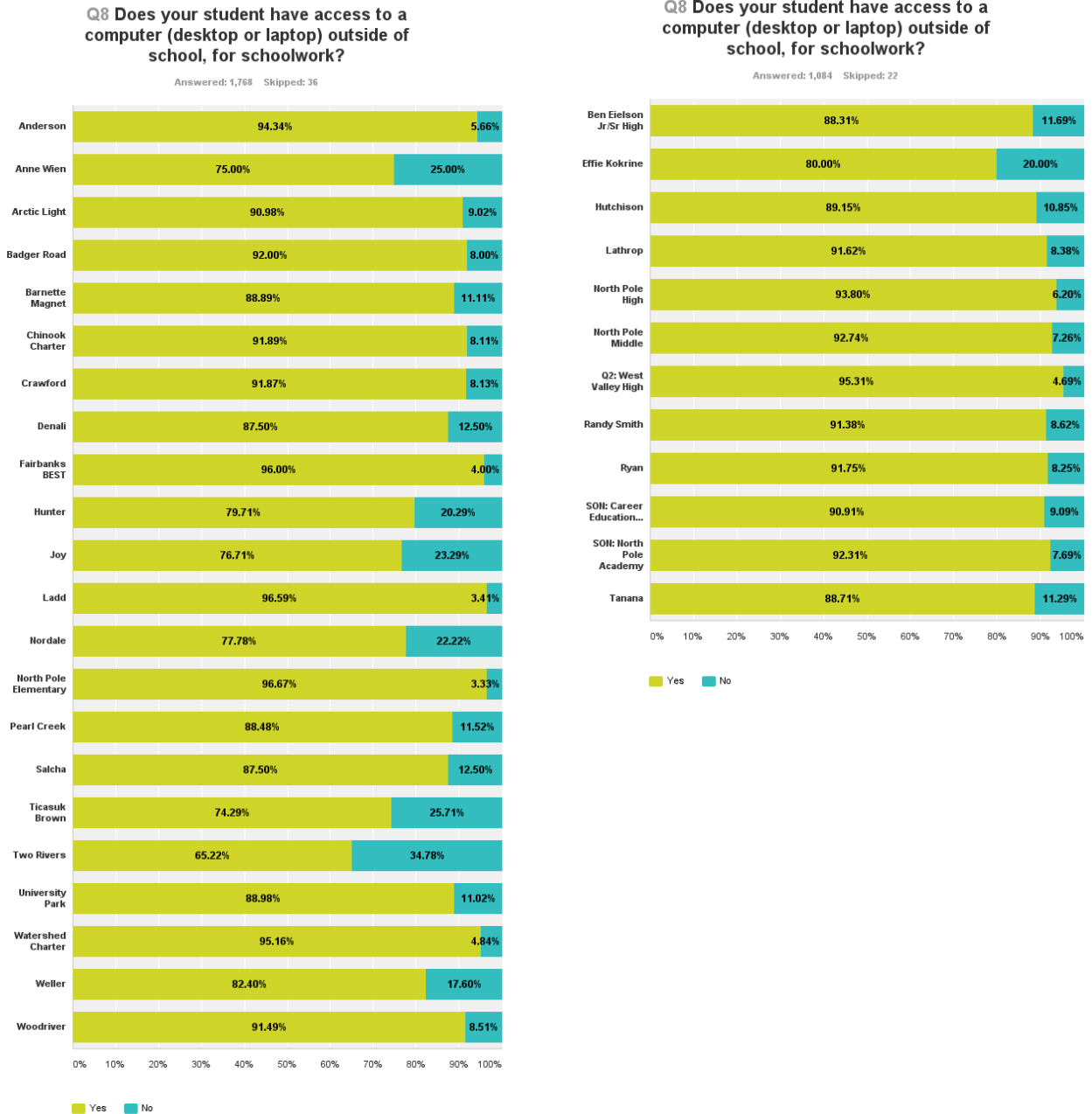
Q8 Does your student have access to a computer (desktop or laptop) outside of school, for schoolwork?

Answered: 1,768   Skipped: 36

School	Yes	No
Anderson	94.34%	5.66%
Anne Wien	75.00%	25.00%
Arctic Light	90.98%	9.02%
Badger Road	92.00%	8.00%
Barnette Magnet	88.89%	11.11%
Chinook Charter	91.89%	8.11%
Crawford	91.87%	8.13%
Denali	87.50%	12.50%
Fairbanks BEST	96.00%	4.00%
Hunter	79.71%	20.29%
Joy	76.71%	23.29%
Ladd	96.59%	3.41%
Nordale	77.78%	22.22%
North Pole Elementary	96.67%	3.33%
Pearl Creek	88.48%	11.52%
Salcha	87.50%	12.50%
Ticasuk Brown	74.29%	25.71%
Two Rivers	65.22%	34.78%
University Park	88.98%	11.02%
Watershed Charter	95.16%	4.84%
Weller	82.40%	17.60%
Woodriver	91.49%	8.51%

Q8 Does your student have access to a computer (desktop or laptop) outside of school, for schoolwork?

Answered: 1,084   Skipped: 22

School	Yes	No
Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High	88.31%	11.69%
Effie Kokrine	80.00%	20.00%
Hutchison	89.15%	10.85%
Lathrop	91.62%	8.38%
North Pole High	93.80%	6.20%
North Pole Middle	92.74%	7.26%
Q2: West Valley High	95.31%	4.69%
Randy Smith	91.38%	8.62%
Ryan	91.75%	8.25%
SON: Career Education...	90.91%	9.09%
SON: North Pole Academy	92.31%	7.69%
Tanana	88.71%	11.29%

Figure 5: School to school comparison of student computer access for schoolwork outside of school.

Overall Internet Access

Overall, 6% of respondents reported no internet access at home. Approximately 51% of respondents reported using cable modem for home internet access. Additionally, 28% of respondents indicated they use DSL and almost 10% indicated their only internet access was through a cell provider data plan. Almost 1% of respondents are using dial-up internet service (Figure 6). Other ways to access the

internet include satellite dish and mobile hotspots. Frustration over slow, unreliable, limited or unavailable internet access was a common theme in respondent comments.
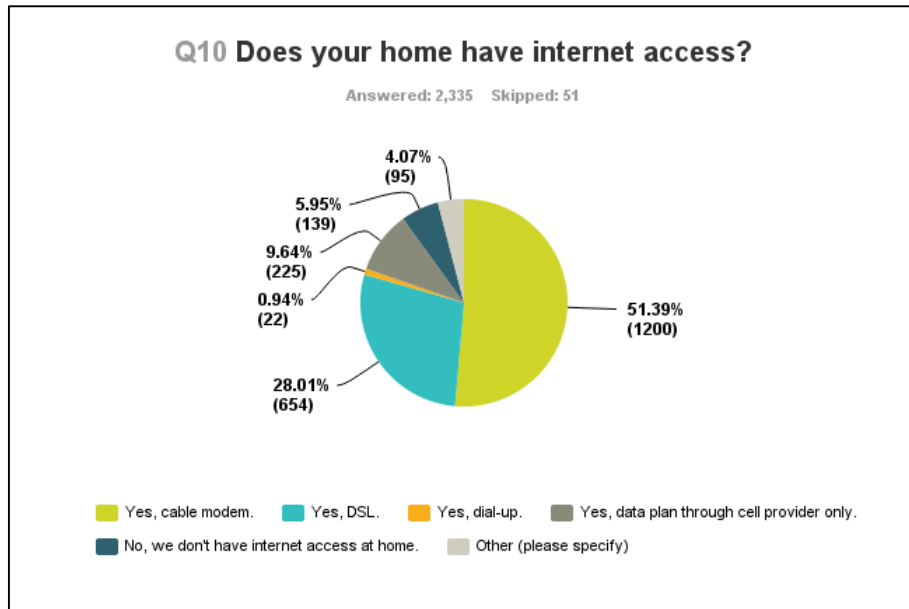

Figure 6: Student home access to internet overall results.

Of families facing connectivity challenges at home, the top alternative methods for accessing the internet included at public libraries, through a family member or friend, and by staying after or going in early to school. Smaller numbers of respondents said their student accesses the internet through a parent or guardian's workplace, at a restaurant or business, or had no alternative way to access the internet (Figure 7).
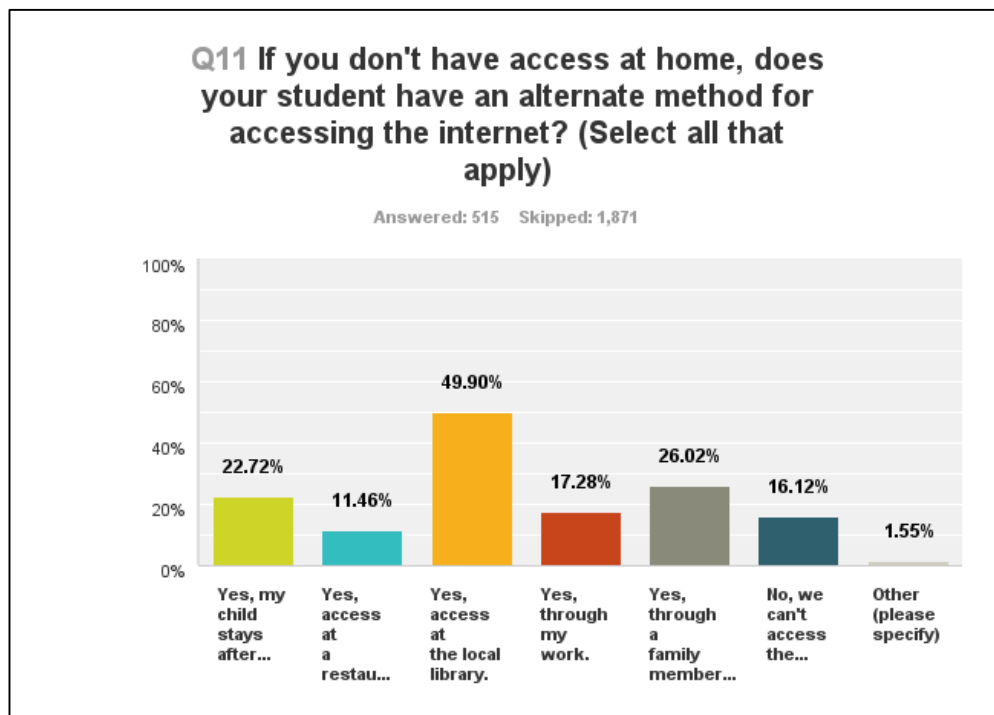
Figure 7: Alternate methods for accessing the internet overall results

Internet Access by Income

Comparing student internet access by income range shows comparable internet access rates across all reported income brackets. (Figure 8).

Q10 Does your home have internet access?

Answered: 1,932   Skipped: 38
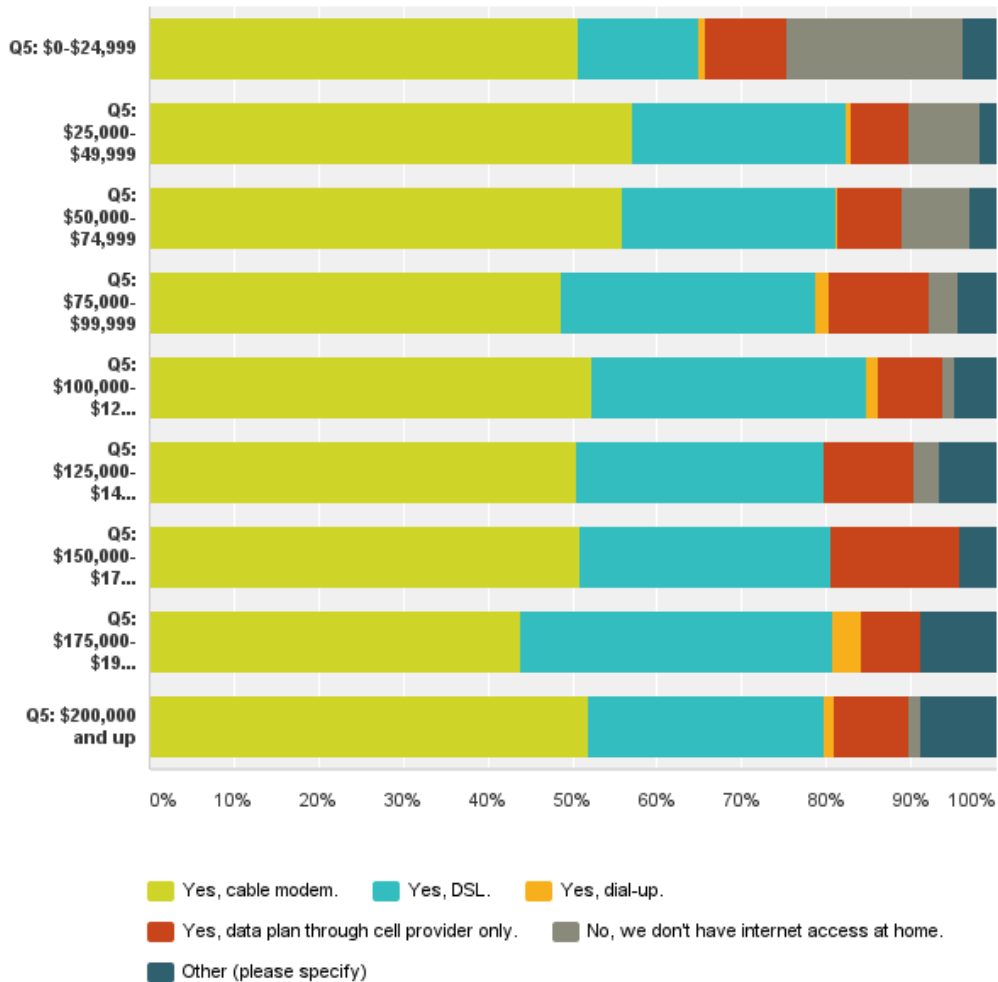
Figure 8: Student home internet access compared by reported household income.

Internet Access by School

A school to school comparison of home internet access shows the varied rate of accessibility based on local geography. The reliance on data plans through cell providers among Salcha Elementary School respondents is of particular note (Figure 9).

Q10 Does your home have internet access?
Answered: 1,768   Skipped: 36
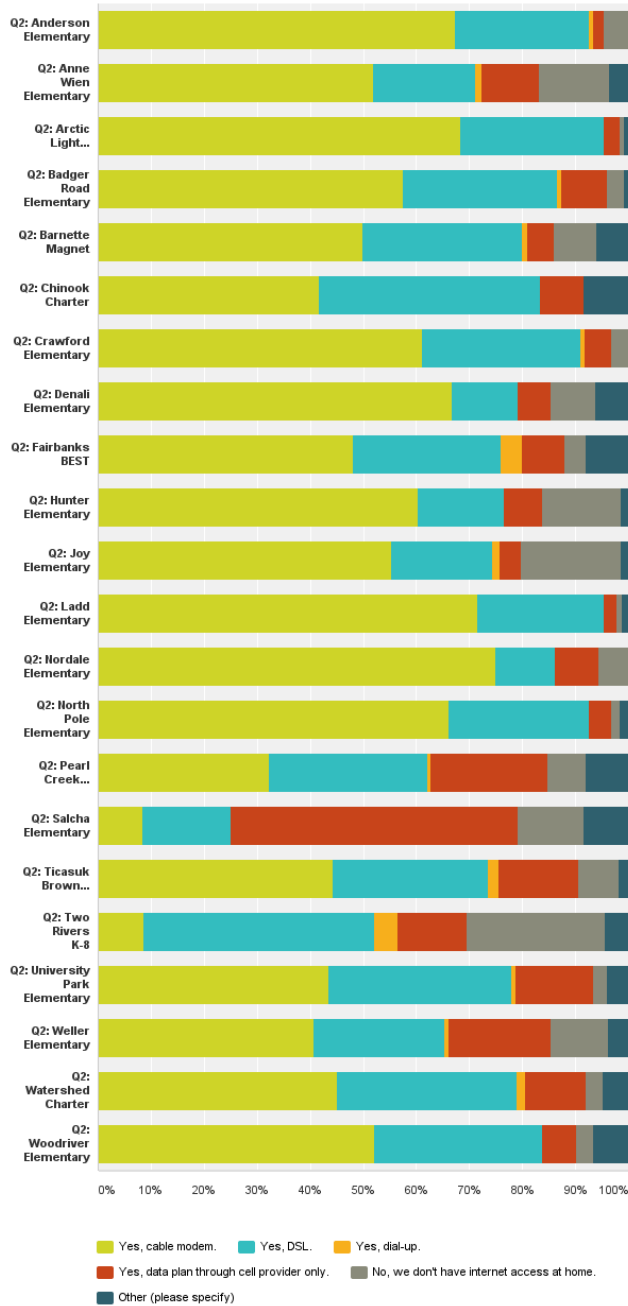
Q10 Does your home have internet access?
Answered: 1,089   Skipped: 17
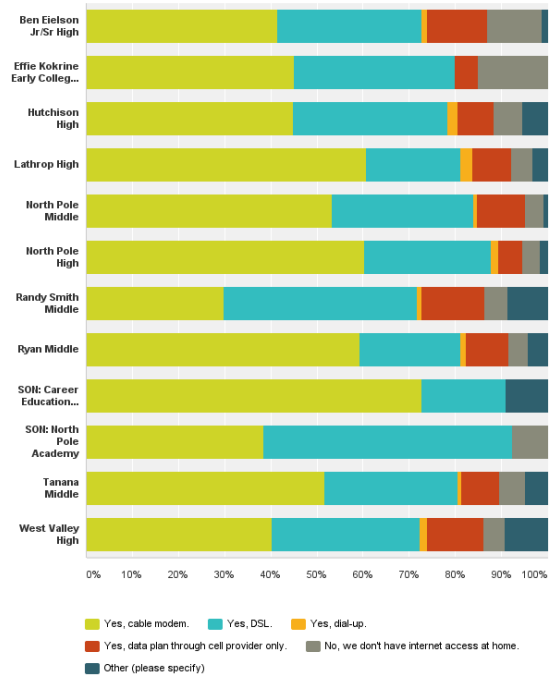
Figure 9: School to school comparison of student home internet access.

Conclusion
The data collected in this survey will provide valuable context for district efforts to continue improving communication methods and crafting successful personalized learning strategies for the unique needs and circumstances for each school community.

Appendix A
Technology and Internet Access Parent Survey (2 pages)

Technology & Internet Access Survey

The FNSB School District continually strives to use communication and instruction methods that best serve students and families. Technology and online tools play an increasingly important role in these functions.

We want to continue to embrace useful technological advances, but realize not all families have the same access. Help us assess how readily available technology and internet access are for your student. **Please complete one survey per family.** Thank you for taking the time to help us better serve your student.

This survey is also available at ***www.surveymonkey.com/r/fnsbsd-technology****.*

Demographic Information

1. How many of your children are currently students in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District?   _____

2. What school does your child attend?
   (If you have more than one student, list all schools)

3. What grade is your student in?
   (If you have more than one student, check all that apply)

   ☐ Pre-Kindergarten ☐ Fourth Grade ☐ Ninth Grade (Freshman)
   ☐ Kindergarten ☐ Fifth Grade ☐ Tenth Grade (Sophomore)
   ☐ First Grade ☐ Sixth Grade ☐ Eleventh Grade (Junior)
   ☐ Second Grade ☐ Seventh Grade ☐ Twelth Grade (Senior)
   ☐ Third Grade ☐ Eighth Grade

4. What is your student(s) ethnicity?
   (Check all that apply)

   ☐ Alaska Native or American Indian ☐ Hispanic or Latino
   ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander ☐ White or Caucasian
   ☐ Black or African American ☐ Prefer not to answer
   ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. What is your average household income?

   ☐ $0-$24,999 ☐ $100,000-$124,999 ☐ $200,000 and up
   ☐ $25,000-$49,999 ☐ $125,000-$149,999 ☐ Prefer not to answer
   ☐ $50,000-$74,999 ☐ $150,000-$174,999
   ☐ $75,000-$99,000 ☐ $175,000-$199,999

6. Approximately how far do you live from the nearest public school?

   ☐ Less than 1 mile ☐ 3-5 miles ☐ I don't know
   ☐ 1-3 miles ☐ More than 5 miles

7. Are you or your spouse **currently** serving in the military?

   ☐ Yes, I am ☐ Yes, my spouse
   ☐ Yes, both of us ☐ No

Technology & Internet Access

8. Does your student have access to a computer (desktop or laptop) outside of school, for schoolwork?   ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. What technologies does your student have access to at home? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Desktop Computer (Mac or PC)
- ☐ Laptop, Chromebook, Netbook
- ☐ Tablet (iPad, Nexus, Fire, etc)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Smartphone (iPhone, Galaxy, Note, etc.)
- ☐ No technology device at home

10. Does your home have internet access?

- ☐ Yes, cable modem
- ☐ Yes, DSL
- ☐ Yes, dial-up
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Yes, data plan through cell provider only
- ☐ No, we don't have internet access at home

11. If you **don't** have access at home, does your student have an alternate method for accessing the internet? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Yes, my child stays after school/goes before school
- ☐ Yes, access at restaurant or business
- ☐ Yes, access at local library
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- ☐ Yes, through my (or my spouse's) work
- ☐ Yes, through a family member or friend
- ☐ No, we can't access the internet

12. Rate each statement.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral/ No Opinion	Agree	Strongly agree
My student frequently uses technology for homework.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My student's access to technology at **home** is currently regular and adequate.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My student's access to technology at **school** is currently regular and adequate.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Technology is critical to the learning experience of students.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please share your opinion on what access older students should have to certain internet content at school.

13. Should Wikipedia.com be accessible to students in **grades 9-12**? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure/No Opinion

13. There are pros and cons to using social media in the classroom and allowing students to access social media at school. For students in **grades 9-12**, should the following social media apps be accessible at school?

	Yes	No	Unsure/ No Opinion
Ask.fm	☐	☐	☐
Facebook	☐	☐	☐
Instagram	☐	☐	☐
Kik	☐	☐	☐
Pheed	☐	☐	☐
Pinterest	☐	☐	☐
Snapchat	☐	☐	☐
Twitter	☐	☐	☐
Vine	☐	☐	☐
WhatsApp	☐	☐	☐

Additional comments or information:

Please return completed survey to your school's front office or to the Administrative Center, Superintendent's Office at 520 Fifth Avenue by **Monday, February 6, 2017**.