

# Superintendent Needs-Sensing Survey Results

## Overview

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) surveyed Superintendents on their needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic to better understand how to support schools and districts across the state. KDE administered the survey online from 6/10/2020 to 6/21/2020.

Total number of survey respondents: 146

**Table 1. Topics district leaders need state guidance for the next academic year (2020-2021)**

Item	n	%
Health and safety of students and staff	110	75.3
Student attendance (to include options for distance learning)	97	66.4
Employee attendance (to include policy on sick days, returning to work, contract requirements)	87	59.6
Determining instructional formats and schedules	69	47.3
Local building closure and reopening	62	42.5
Grading across changing instructional models (for example, all distance learning, partial distance learning, all in-person learning)	36	24.7
Emergency management plans	26	17.8
Required state or district assessments	25	17.1
Providing compensatory education	24	16.4
Graduation requirements	7	4.8
Nondiscrimination policies for employees	7	4.8
Grade promotion	6	4.1
Placement of students in the absence of end-of-year data	5	3.4
Dual credit	2	1.4
Nondiscrimination policies for students	2	1.4
GPA calculations	1	0.7

**Table 2. Implementation of a trauma-informed approach in district schools**

Item	n	%
Some or all schools are beginning to implement a trauma-informed approach	65	44.5
All schools have fully implemented a trauma-informed approach	38	26.0
Some schools have fully implemented a trauma-informed approach (i.e., a plan has been developed and implemented schoolwide)	31	21.2
No schools have implemented a trauma-informed approach	8	5.5

**Table 3. Topics district leaders need state support for the next academic year (2020-2021)**

Item	n	%
Implementing non-traditional instructional formats and schedules	90	61.6
Planning for a variety of instructional formats and schedules	90	61.6
Ensuring equitable access to effective teaching and learning for all students	73	50.0
Supporting the wellness needs of school staff	62	42.5
Identifying teaching methods or programs that can accelerate student learning	37	25.3
Implementing schoolwide programs, such as RTI, MTSS or PBIS during distance learning	35	24.0
Implementing a trauma-informed approach	31	21.2
Supporting student transitions into new schools (into kindergarten, middle school, high school)	29	19.9
Adapting Career and Technical Education programs to distance learning	28	19.2
Selecting diagnostic assessments to understand student knowledge and skills	18	12.3
Administering diagnostic assessments at reopening	16	11.0
Supporting student transitions into new grades	14	9.6

**Table 4. Information technology (IT) needs at the beginning of the next academic year (2020-2021)**

Item	n	%
Providing internet access for students	93	63.7
Identifying students without access to reliable internet	64	43.8
Assisting students and families in navigating online learning platforms	59	40.4
Addressing issues with technology during distance learning	54	37.0
Assisting students and families in using technology, such as connecting to the internet or joining video conferences	49	33.6
Providing reliable computers or other technology devices for students	49	33.6
Identifying students without access to reliable computers	23	15.8
Ensuring security of student data in a virtual environment	17	11.6

**Table 5. Greatest needs of school leaders and staff specific to distance learning for the next academic year (2020-2021)**

Item	n	%
Meeting the learning needs of students with IEPs, including making materials and resources accessible	72	49.3
Adapting instructional materials to a virtual environment	64	43.8
Enacting effective teaching for students with limited access to technology	56	38.4
Enacting effective teaching practices with technology	56	38.4
Monitoring academic progress and providing feedback to students	37	25.3
Supporting student engagement	29	19.9
Personalizing learning experiences for individual students based on needs and interests	28	19.2
Differentiating instruction for groups of students	27	18.5
Selecting rigorous, research-based instructional materials	20	13.7
Meeting the learning needs of English learner (EL) students, including making materials and resources accessible	19	13.0

**Table 6. Greatest needs of families that are specific to distance learning for the next academic year (2020-2021)**

Item	n	%
Obtaining reliable internet access	69	47.3
Establishing daily or weekly routines that work for both student and mentor	54	37.0
Obtaining reliable computers or smart devices	37	25.3
Providing meals for students during distance learning	33	22.6
Sharing effective teaching practices with mentors	28	19.2
Providing support to families and mentors dealing with challenging behavior	27	18.5
Identifying mentors for students	14	9.6
Engaging mentors in assessment at the beginning of the school year	7	4.8