

# Assessment 1 - COVID-19 impact on digital learning

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During the COVID - 19 pandemic, more than 56 million students in the United witnessed the interruption in their education. In the spring of 2020, the US government decided to shut educational institutes to stop the virus from widely spreading. Schools and teachers started teaching students remotely by adapting several online tools and digital platforms. In other words, online teaching became a necessity and widely adopted by educational institutions during the lockdown. Until today, concerns of the exacerbating digital divide and long-term learning loss among America's most vulnerable learners continue to grow.

This report attempts to explore digital learning trends by analyzing a dataset from various U.S. districts to see how students use different tools and platforms. To be more specific, the relationship between engagement in digital learning for different states will be conducted to work on this matter.

## 1. Data Cleaning and Wrangling

### a. Importing data files:

In the very first stage, this report is working on importing the different datasets into the data frame. The construction of each files is following on the below observation on the raw data file:. Firstly, the districts data file is imported to the working workspace.

```
districts <- read_csv(file = 'districts_info.csv') # import the district file to working space in R_studio
```

```
## Rows: 233 Columns: 7
## — Column specification
```

---

```
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (6): state, locale, pct_black/hispanic, pct_free/reduced,
county_connect...
## dbl (1): district_id
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
message.
```

```
head(districts) # See the first few lines of the districts file
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 × 7
##   district_id state      locale `pct_black/hispanic` `pct_free/reduced`
##         <dbl> <chr>    <chr>    <chr>                <chr>
## 1         8815 Illinois Suburb [0, 0.2[          [0, 0.2[
```

```
## 2      2685 NaN      NaN      NaN      NaN
## 3      4921 UTAH      Suburb [0, 0.2[      [0.2, 0.4[
## 4      3188 NaN      NaN      NaN      NaN
## 5      2238 NaN      NaN      NaN      NaN
## 6      5987 Wisconsin Suburb [0, 0.2[      [0, 0.2[
## # i 2 more variables: county_connections_ratio <chr>, pp_total_raw <chr>

colSums(is.na(districts)) # check the NA for each column in the data file

##          district_id          state          locale
##          0          0          0
## pct_black/hispanic      pct_free/reduced county_connections_ratio
##          1          28          14
##          pp_total_raw
##          58

knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE)
```

Then, the products file is imported.

```
products <- read_csv(file = "products_info.csv") # import the products file

## Rows: 372 Columns: 6
## — Column specification
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (5): URL, Product Name, Provider/Company Name, Sector(s), Primary
## dbf (1): LP ID
## Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
## message.

head(products) # See the first few lines of the products file

## # A tibble: 6 × 6
##   `LP ID` URL          `Product Name` Provider/Company Nam...1
##   `Sector(s)`
##   <dbl> <chr>          <chr>          <chr>          <chr>
## 1 13117 https://www.splashm... SplashLearn    StudyPad Inc.    PreK-
## 122
## 2 66933 https://abcmouse.com ABCmouse.com   Age of Learning, Inc PreK-
## 12
## 3 50479 https://www.abcya.c... ABCya!        ABCya.com, LLC   PreK-
## 12
## 4 92993 http://www.aleks.co... ALEKS         McGraw-Hill PreK-12 PreK-
## 12; H...
## 5 73104 https://www.achieve... Achieve3000    Achieve3000      PreK-
## 12
## 6 37600 http://www.actively... Actively Learn Actively Learn   pre
## kinder...
```

```
## # i abbreviated name: 1`Provider/Company Name`
## # i 1 more variable: `Primary Essential Function` <chr>

colSums(is.na(products)) # check the NA for each column in the data file

##          LP ID          URL
##          0          0
## Product Name  Provider/Company Name
##          0          1
## Sector(s) Primary Essential Function
##          18          20
```

*# After review, the products file needs to change the column name from LP\_ID to lp\_id to match the format used in five district files within the engagement data. This reformatting is crucial for merging the files correctly.*

```
names(products)[names(products) == "LP ID"] <- "lp_id"

knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE)
```

Lastly in this stage, each file in the folder represents data from individual schools, and the engagement data are aggregated at the school district level will be imported. Moreover, it has been observed that for effective merging of datasets, a 'district\_id' column must be added to each school's data file. This addition provides a corresponding district identifier for each school, ensuring that data can be accurately aligned and combined across the district level.

```
df1000 <- read_csv(file = "1000.csv") # Import data file district 1000

## Warning: One or more parsing issues, call `problems()` on your data frame
## for details,
## e.g.:
##   dat <- vroom(...)
##   problems(dat)

## Rows: 104003 Columns: 4
## — Column specification
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (1): time
## dbl (3): lp_id, pct_access, engagement_index
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
## message.

df1000$lp_id <- as.numeric(df1000$lp_id) # change lp_id
engage1 <- mutate(df1000, district_id = 1000) # add the district_identifier
engage1 # re name the data file to engage 1
```

```
## # A tibble: 104,003 × 5
##   time      lp_id pct_access engagement_index district_id
##   <chr>    <dbl>    <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>
## 1 1/01/2020 93690      0             NA             1000
## 2 1/01/2020 17941     0.03          0.9            1000
## 3 1/01/2020 65358     0.03          1.2            1000
## 4 1/01/2020 98265     0.57          37.8           1000
## 5 1/01/2020 59257      0             NA             1000
## 6 1/01/2020 90153     0.06          3.9            1000
## 7 1/01/2020 41587      0             NA             1000
## 8 1/01/2022 29322     0.06          5.1            1000
## 9 1/01/2020 37479      0             NA             1000
## 10 1/01/2020 51340    0.09          1.2            1000
## # i 103,993 more rows

df1039 <- read_csv(file = "1039.csv") # Import data file district 1039

## Rows: 38791 Columns: 4
## — Column specification

```

---

```
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (2): time, lp_id
## dbl (2): pct_access, engagement_index
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
message.

df1039$lp_id <- as.numeric(df1039$lp_id) # change lp_id to numerical:

## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion

engage2 <- mutate(df1039, district_id = 1039) # add the district_identifier
engage2 # re name the data file to engage 2

## # A tibble: 38,791 × 5
##   time      lp_id pct_access engagement_index district_id
##   <chr>    <dbl>    <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>
## 1 1/1/2020 64947     0.09          0.91          1039
## 2 1/1/2020 52758     0.09          1.83          1039
## 3 1/1/2020 25559     0.09          13.7           1039
## 4 1/1/2020 13496     0.09          4.57           1039
## 5 1/1/2020 94984     0.09          1.83           1039
## 6 1/1/2020 95731     0.91          59.4           1039
## 7 1/1/2020 80616     0.27          6.4            1039
## 8 1/1/2044 47364     0.18          10.0           1039
## 9 1/1/2020 57949     0.09          1.83           1039
## 10 1/1/2020 68019     0.09          3.66           1039
## # i 38,781 more rows

df1044 <- read_csv(file = "1044.csv") # Import data file district 1044
```

```
## Warning: One or more parsing issues, call `problems()` on your data frame
for details,
## e.g.:
##   dat <- vroom(...)
##   problems(dat)

## Rows: 255722 Columns: 4
## — Column specification

```

---

```
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (1): time
## dbl (3): lp_id, pct_access, engagement_index
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
message.

df1044$lp_id <- as.numeric(df1044$lp_id) # change lp_id
engage3 <- mutate(df1044, district_id = 1044) # add the district_identifier
engage3 # re name the data file to engage 3

## # A tibble: 255,722 × 5
##   time      lp_id pct_access engagement_index district_id
##   <chr>    <dbl>    <dbl>          <dbl>         <dbl>
## 1 1/01/2020 99792      0.02            2.26          1044
## 2 1/01/2020 80493      0.01            0.17          1044
## 3 1/01/2020 16164      0.03            0.35          1044
## 4 1/01/2020 61384      0.01           16.5          1044
## 5 1/01/2020 88925      0.02            0.17          1044
## 6 1/01/2020 30114      0.01            0.35          1044
## 7 1/01/2020 57293      0.01            0.09          1044
## 8 1/01/2020 85603      0.01            0.52          1044
## 9 1/01/2020 83248      0.01            0.26          1044
## 10 1/01/2020 52409      0.01            0.7           1044
## # i 255,712 more rows

df1052 <- read_csv(file = "1052.csv") # Import data file district 1052

## Rows: 91977 Columns: 4
## — Column specification

```

---

```
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (1): time
## dbl (3): lp_id, pct_access, engagement_index
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
message.
```

```
df1052$lp_id <- as.numeric(df1052$lp_id) # change lp_id
engage4 <- mutate(df1052, district_id = 1052) # add the district_identifier
engage4 # re name the data file to engage 4
```

```
## # A tibble: 91,977 × 5
##   time      lp_id pct_access engagement_index district_id
##   <chr>    <dbl>    <dbl>          <dbl>        <dbl>
## 1 1/01/2020 57513      0.49          141.         1052
## 2 1/01/2020 42091      0.04           0.41         1052
## 3 1/01/2020 53399      0.04           8.19         1052
## 4 1/01/2020 32213      0.9           44.2         1052
## 5 1/01/2020 85836      0.04           0.41         1052
## 6 1/01/2033 94158      0.04           0.41         1052
## 7 1/01/2020 26488      0.41          118.         1052
## 8 1/01/2020 99916      1.19          80.7         1052
## 9 1/01/2020 92867      0.04           2.05         1052
## 10 1/01/2020 16164      0.04           0.41         1052
## # i 91,967 more rows
```

```
df1131 <- read_csv(file = "1131.csv") # Import data file district 1131
```

```
## Rows: 32963 Columns: 4
## — Column specification
```

---

```
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (1): time
## dbl (3): lp_id, pct_access, engagement_index
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this
message.
```

```
df1131$lp_id <- as.numeric(df1131$lp_id) # change lp_id
engage5 <- mutate(df1131, district_id = 1131) # add the district_identifier
engage5 # re name the data file to engage 5
```

```
## # A tibble: 32,963 × 5
##   time      lp_id pct_access engagement_index district_id
##   <chr>    <dbl>    <dbl>          <dbl>        <dbl>
## 1 1/01/2020 16753      0.04           3.58         1131
## 2 1/01/2020 80560      0.09           8.94         1131
## 3 1/01/2020 85682      0           NA           1131
## 4 1/01/2020 95731      0.09           2.24         1131
## 5 1/01/2020 28504      0           NA           1131
## 6 1/01/2020 57084      0.04           0.89         1131
## 7 1/01/2020 25298      0.04           0.45         1131
## 8 1/01/2020 32213      0.04           0.45         1131
## 9 1/01/2020 50479      0.04           0.45         1131
## 10 1/01/2020 96111      0           NA           1131
## # i 32,953 more rows
```

```
knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE)
```

After importing the whole datafiles, it can be seen that there are 230 districts across US in this data set in 2020. Moreover, it is reported that there are 372 most used products or tools for digital learning. It can be seen that products and districts files has a missing values (values). Specifically, for the districtts files, there are several values are marked with “NaN” suggesting that the annoymization of the dataset is maximized.

## b. Merging data:

In the next stage of this report, we will first merge all school files from each district in the engagement data to form a single dataframe. Subsequently, we will merge this with the relevant products and district data, using ‘district\_id’ from the district files and ‘lp\_id’ from the product files. This will create a final, comprehensive dataset that will be used to analyze and visualize how engagement in learning varies across different states, tools, and digital platforms.

```
engagement <- bind_rows(engage1,engage2,engage3,engage4,engage5) # create the  
data frame from files in engagement data
```

```
merged <- merge(engagement, products, by = "lp_id", all.x = TRUE) # Merge the  
'engagement' data frame with products data following lp_id
```

```
final_merge <- merge(merged, districts, by = "district_id", all.x = TRUE) #  
Merge with districts data following district_id
```

```
colSums(is.na(final_merge)) ## Check NA in each column
```

```
##          district_id          lp_id  
##          0              4  
##          time          pct_access  
##          0              2  
##          engagement_index      URL  
##          135792          256461  
##          Product Name      Provider/Company Name  
##          256461          256461  
##          Sector(s) Primary Essential Function  
##          266547          267885  
##          state          locale  
##          0              0  
##          pct_black/hispanic      pct_free/reduced  
##          0              0  
##          county_connections_ratio      pp_total_raw  
##          255722          104003
```

```
knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE)
```

### c. Data cleansing & wrangling:

Once the data files are merged, the data cleansing and Wrangling is conducted to ensure the accuracy and usability of the final data frame. Once the above steps are performed, we can get to visualize and analyze the data to get the insight from the investigated data sets.

```
#CLEANING:
final_merge <- final_merge %>% drop_na(`Product Name`) # drop NA values in column Product Name

final_merge <- final_merge %>% # Change this values into NA for cleaning
  mutate(state = replace (state, state
                          == "don\x92t know", NA))
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
  mutate(state = replace (state, state
                          == "whereabouts", NA))
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
  mutate(state = replace (state, state
                          == "NaN", NA))

## Re format percentage in column 'pct_black/hispanic':
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
  mutate (
    `pct_black/hispanic` = case_when(
      `pct_black/hispanic` == "[0, 0.2[" ~ "0 - 20%",
      `pct_black/hispanic` == "[0.2, 0.4[" ~ "20% - 40%",
      `pct_black/hispanic` == "[0.4, 0.6[" ~ "40% - 60%",
      `pct_black/hispanic` == "[0.6, 0.8[" ~ "60% - 80%",
      `pct_black/hispanic` == "[0.8, 1[" ~ "80% - 100%"
    )
  )

## Re format percentage in column 'pct_free/reduced':
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
  mutate (
    `pct_free/reduced` = case_when(
      `pct_free/reduced` == "[0, 0.2[" ~ "0 - 20%",
      `pct_free/reduced` == "[0.2, 0.4[" ~ "20% - 40%",
      `pct_free/reduced` == "[0.4, 0.6[" ~ "40% - 60%",
      `pct_free/reduced` == "[0.6, 0.8[" ~ "60% - 80%",
      `pct_free/reduced` == "[0.8, 1[" ~ "80% - 100%"
    )
  )

## Re format percentage in column 'county_connection_ratio':
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
  mutate (
    county_connections_ratio = case_when(
      county_connections_ratio == "[0.18, 1[" ~ "<1",
      county_connections_ratio == "[1, 2[" ~ ">1",
    )
  )
```



```
## Re format percentage in column 'pp_total_raw':
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
  mutate(
    pp_total_raw = case_when(
      pp_total_raw == "[10000, 12000[" ~ "10-12",
      pp_total_raw == "[12000, 14000[" ~ "12-14",
      pp_total_raw == "[14000, 16000[" ~ "14-16",
      pp_total_raw == "[16000, 18000[" ~ "16-18",
      pp_total_raw == "[18000, 20000[" ~ "18-20",
      pp_total_raw == "[20000, 22000[" ~ "20-22",
      pp_total_raw == "[22000, 24000[" ~ "22-24",
      pp_total_raw == "[32000, 34000[" ~ "32-34",
      pp_total_raw == "[4000, 6000[" ~ "4-6",
      pp_total_raw == "[6000, 8000[" ~ "6-8",
      pp_total_raw == "[8000, 10000[" ~ "8-10",
      TRUE ~ pp_total_raw
    )
  )
```

```
## Re format values in column 'Sector(s)':
```

```
unique(final_merge$`Sector(s)`)
```

```
## [1] "PreK-12; Higher Ed"      "PreK-12; Higher Ed; Corporate"
## [3] "PreK-12"                 NA
## [5] "PreK-112"                "PPreK-12"
## [7] "pre kindergarten to year 12" "Corporate"
## [9] "Higher Ed; Corporate"    "PreK-12; Higher; Corporate"
## [11] "pre kindergarten to yr 12" "not sure"
## [13] "PreK-122"
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
  mutate(`Sector(s)` = replace (`Sector(s)`, `Sector(s)`
                                == "PreK-122", "PreK-12"))
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
  mutate(`Sector(s)` = replace (`Sector(s)`, `Sector(s)`
                                == "PPreK-12", "PreK-12"))
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
  mutate(`Sector(s)` = replace (`Sector(s)`, `Sector(s)`
                                == "PreK-112", "PreK-12"))
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
  mutate(`Sector(s)` = replace (`Sector(s)`, `Sector(s)`
                                == "pre kindergarten to yr 12", "PreK-12"))
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
  mutate(`Sector(s)` = replace (`Sector(s)`, `Sector(s)`
                                == "pre kindergarten to year 12", "PreK-12"))
```

```
# Re format values in column 'time'/ make sure all the time in this data set
is during 2020:
```

```
final_merge <- final_merge %>%
```

```
mutate(
  time = case_when(
    time == "1/01/2022" ~ "1/01/2020",
    time == "31/12/1020" ~ "31/12/2020",
    time == "1/1/2044" ~ "1/01/2020",
    time == "1/01/2050" ~ "1/01/2020",
    time == "1/01/2033" ~ "1/01/2020",
    time == "2/01/2050" ~ "2/01/2020",
    TRUE ~ time
  )
)
```

`head(final_merge)` *# The few lines of the data frame*

```
## district_id lp_id time pct_access engagement_index
## 1 1000 12803 11/05/2020 0.00 NA
## 2 1000 10650 23/11/2020 0.00 NA
## 3 1000 32213 3/11/2020 10.40 2201.73
## 4 1000 12803 3/06/2020 0.00 NA
## 5 1000 25559 24/06/2020 0.37 47.17
## 6 1000 28525 16/09/2020 0.08 0.80
## URL Product Name Provider/Company Name
## 1 http://www.slideshare.net/ SlideShare LinkedIn
## 2 http://www.loc.gov Library of Congress Library of Congress
## 3 https://classroom.google.com Google Classroom Google LLC
## 4 http://www.slideshare.net/ SlideShare LinkedIn
## 5 http://www.lexialearning.com/ Lexia Core5 Reading Lexia Learning
## 6 https://www.renaissance.com Renaissance Learning Renaissance Learning
## Sector(s) Primary Essential Function
## 1 PreK-12; Higher Ed LC - Sites, Resources & Reference
## 2 PreK-12; Higher Ed; Corporate LC - Sites, Resources & Reference
## 3 PreK-12; Higher Ed; Corporate SDO - Learning Management Systems (LMS)
## 4 PreK-12; Higher Ed LC - Sites, Resources & Reference
## 5 PreK-12 LC - Digital Learning Platforms
## 6 PreK-12 LC - Digital Learning Platforms
## state locale pct_black/hispanic pct_free/reduced
## 1 Connecticut Suburb 60% - 80% 20% - 40%
## 2 Connecticut Suburb 60% - 80% 20% - 40%
## 3 Connecticut Suburb 60% - 80% 20% - 40%
## 4 Connecticut Suburb 60% - 80% 20% - 40%
## 5 Connecticut Suburb 60% - 80% 20% - 40%
## 6 Connecticut Suburb 60% - 80% 20% - 40%
## county_connections_ratio pp_total_raw
## 1 <1 <NA>
## 2 <1 <NA>
## 3 <1 <NA>
## 4 <1 <NA>
## 5 <1 <NA>
## 6 <1 <NA>
```

```
summary(final_merge)
```

```
## district_id      lp_id      time      pct_access
## Min.      :1000    Min.      :10533    Length:266995    Min.      : 0.0000
## 1st Qu.:1039    1st Qu.:30851    Class :character    1st Qu.: 0.0000
## Median :1044    Median :55032    Mode  :character    Median : 0.0500
## Mean   :1042    Mean   :55262                Mean   : 0.8978
## 3rd Qu.:1052    3rd Qu.:77713                3rd Qu.: 0.2300
## Max.    :1131    Max.    :99916                Max.    :77.6200
##                                     NA's      :2
## engagement_index      URL      Product Name      Provider/Company
## Name
## Min.      : 0.05    Length:266995    Length:266995    Length:266995
## 1st Qu.: 0.91    Class :character    Class :character    Class :character
## Median : 5.27    Mode  :character    Mode  :character    Mode  :character
## Mean   : 240.22
## 3rd Qu.: 37.00
## Max.    :64818.66
## NA's     :57546
## Sector(s)      Primary Essential Function      state
## Length:266995    Length:266995                Length:266995
## Class :character    Class :character                Class :character
## Mode  :character    Mode  :character                Mode  :character
##
##
##
## locale      pct_black/hispanic    pct_free/reduced
## Length:266995    Length:266995    Length:266995
## Class :character    Class :character    Class :character
## Mode  :character    Mode  :character    Mode  :character
##
##
##
## county_connections_ratio    pp_total_raw
## Length:266995                Length:266995
## Class :character                Class :character
## Mode  :character                Mode  :character
##
##
##
##
```

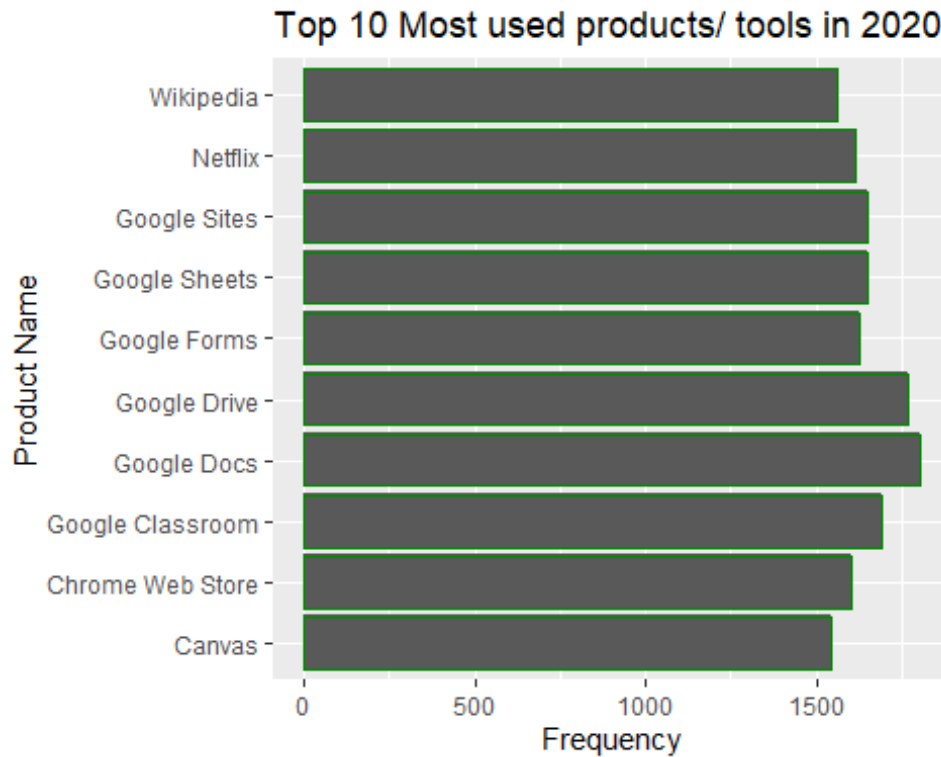
```
knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE)
```

## 2. Data Visualisation:

### 2.1. Products/ Tools most used across states:

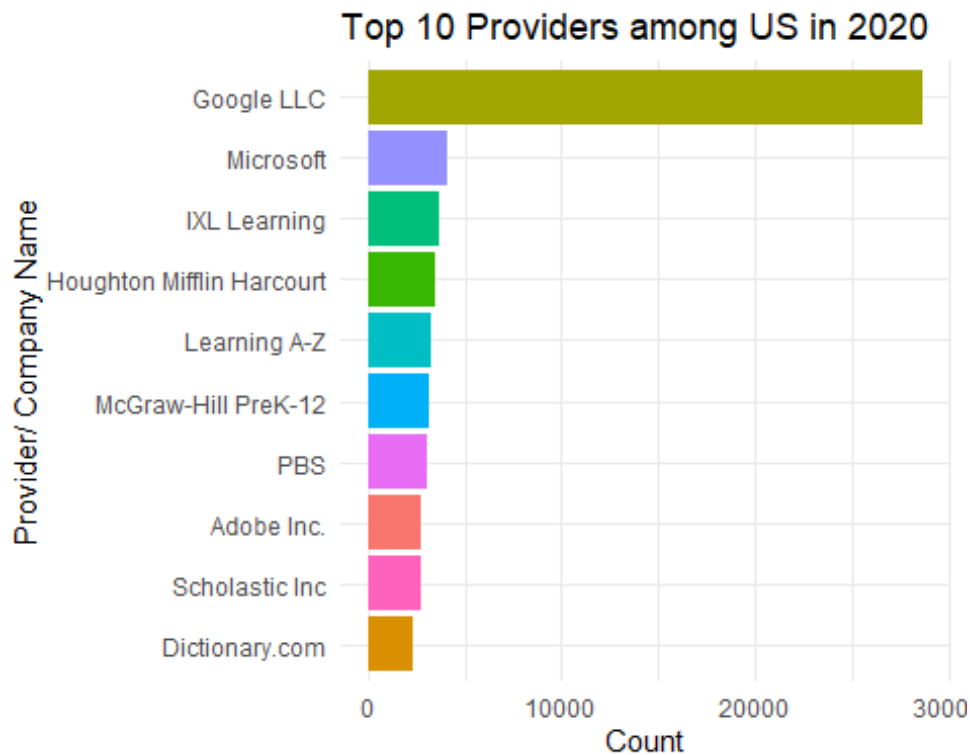
- a. Most used products among students across states:

To illustrate the most used products in 2020, a bar graph is particularly suitable as it offers a clear and direct comparison of the data. In this dataset, the products or tools frequently used in digital learning will each be represented by individual bars, providing a straightforward comparison of the most popular tools.



b. Top providers in digital learning across US:

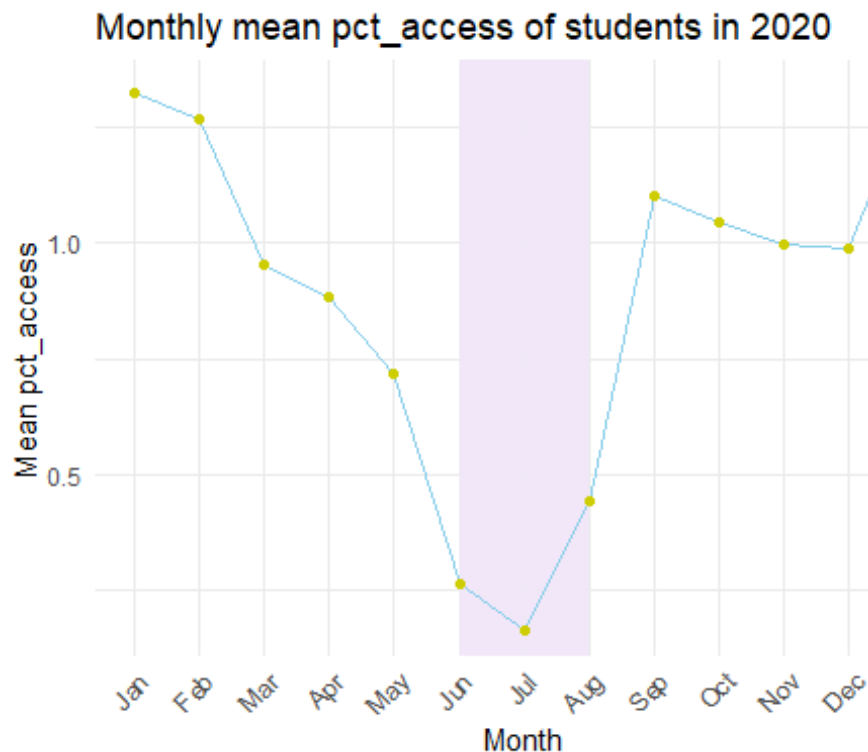
The bar graph chosen here effectively highlights the leading company in supplying digital tools and platforms for educational purposes across five districts in the U.S. It aims to showcase the comparative usage of digital tools provided by different companies for online learning. Additionally, the graph reveals which company offers the highest number of products that are widely adopted by students in these districts.



## 2.2. Student engagement and digital learning access:

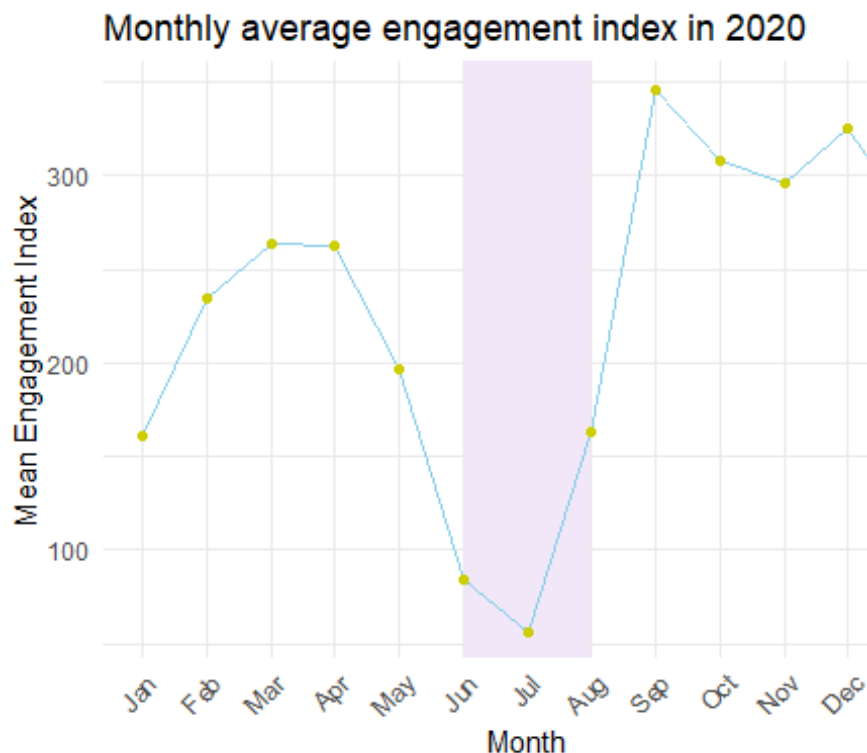
### a. Monthly percentage of students accessing online learning tools:

The following visualization represents the average mean percentage of students accessing digital learning tools. Then, a line graph tends to be the most optimal graph excellently displays trends over time. This type of graph presents a clear visual tracking of student assessment with digital tools throughout a specific time (during 2020). Besides, line graphs excel in showing increases, decreases, and plateaus, making it efficient to identify patterns or significant changes at a glance. This is crucial for companies providing digital platforms for online learning to understand temporal variations in student engagement, helping them to pinpoint times of higher or lower usage and adjust strategies or resources accordingly.



b. Monthly engagement of students with digital learning tools:

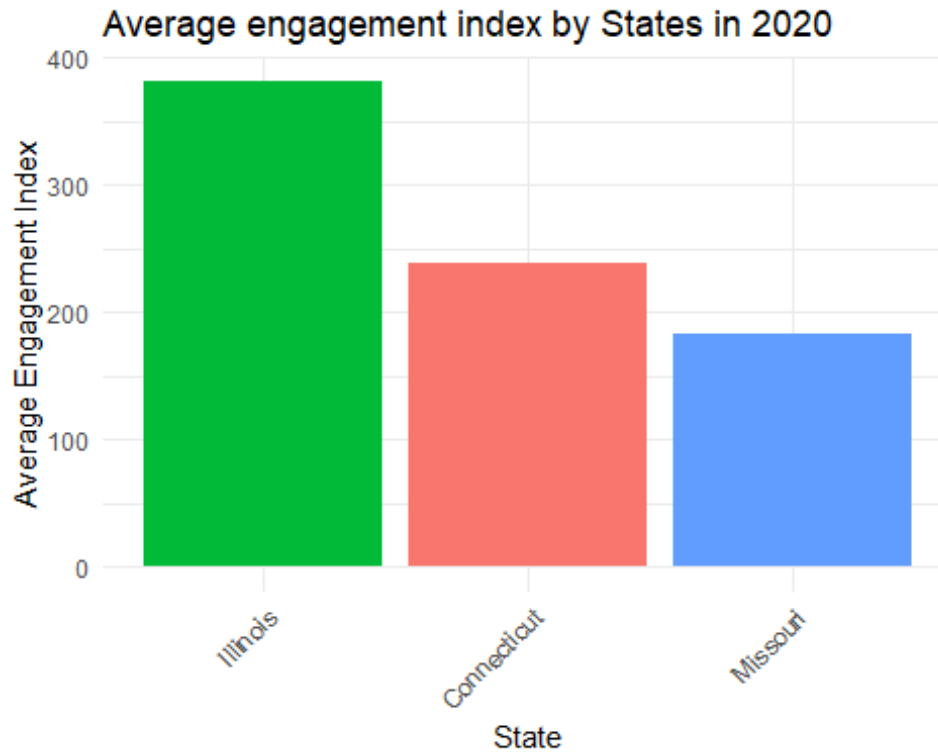
The visualization below displays the average engagement index of students with digital learning tools across districts using a line graph, similar to the earlier student access percentage. This format effectively shows trends and changes over time.



## 2.3. Engagement of students in digital learning in different states:

a. Engagement index by states:

This visualization employs a bar graph to compare the average engagement index of students, based on at least one daily product page-load event, across different states. The bar graph is particularly effective for this purpose as it clearly delineates differences between states, allowing for direct and straightforward comparisons. However, it should be noted that districts 1039 and 1131 are excluded from this analysis due to the missing information of state name and other relevant data in the district files.



b. Engagement index by state monthly:

This following visualization follows a line graph format. This graph effectively captures the trend in student engagement indices across various states throughout 2020. The use of a line graph is particularly advantageous for this analysis as it highlights temporal changes and facilitates the identification of patterns over time, making it ideal for observing trends in data across a specified period.



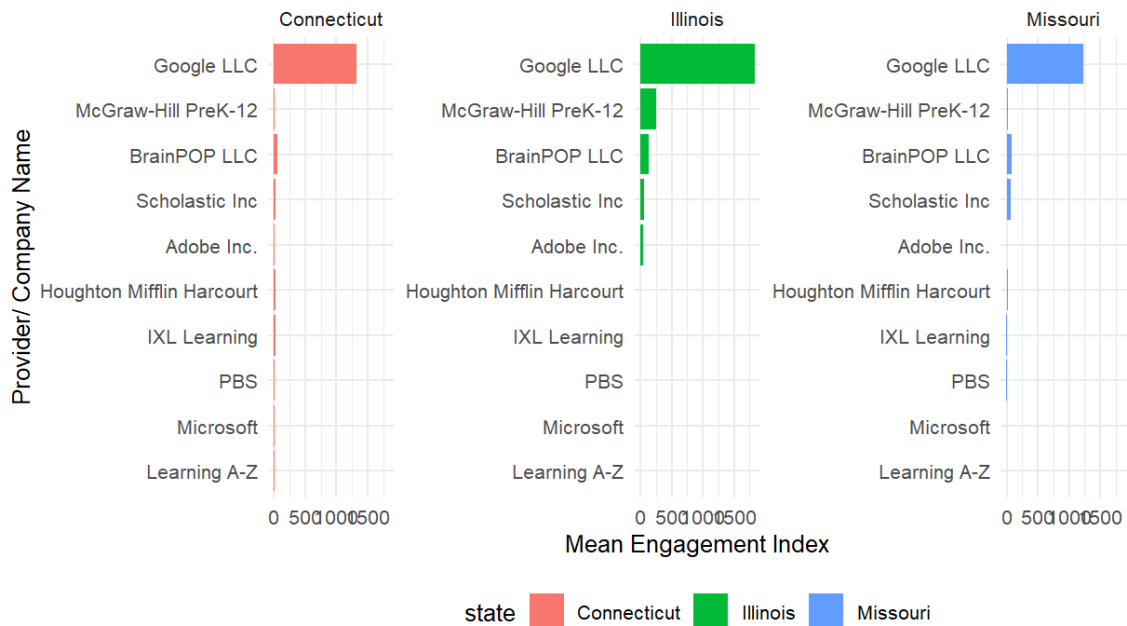
Monthly average engagement index by states



## 2.4 Engement index with provider in digital learning by states:

To investigate the relationship between student engagement and digital tool providers, we will use a series of three bar graphs. These graphs will clearly compare student engagement across the top 10 providers in three states, effectively highlighting differences.

Mean Engagement Index by Provider for Top 10 Providers



### 3. Findings:

#### 3.1. Products/ Tools most used across states:

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to shift from face-to-face to online teaching, a significant rise in the use of digital tools occurred within the educational sector. During this time, a variety of digital platforms became essential for adapting to the new demands of remote education. The analysis of the top 10 products and providers clearly shows Google's dominance in the online learning landscape. According to the data, Google not only features prominently but also accounts for seven out of the top ten most utilized products across schools in the U.S. This significant presence underscores its leading role in equipping students with necessary digital resources.

However, it's worth noting that Google's strong showing in the top used online tools is not entirely surprising. Given its pre-pandemic prevalence in both personal and professional spheres, its continued prominence in the educational sector during the crisis was expected, reflecting its already established base rather than a sudden surge in utility or popularity.

#### 3.2. Student engagement and digital learning access:

The analysis of digital learning trends in 2020 showcases a marked seasonality in student engagement with educational platforms. The engagement index and the percentage of students accessing digital tools followed a similar downtrend during the summer months (practically from June to August), indicating a decrease in digital learning activities during the school break. However, a notable difference emerges in the timing of peak activities; while the highest percentage of students accessing the tools occurred in January, the engagement index reached its peak later in the year, in August. This disparity highlights a divergence in how frequently students log onto digital platforms versus how intensively they engage with content, suggesting that while fewer students may initiate sessions at certain times, those who do are more actively involved.

#### 3.3. Engagement of students in digital learning in different states:

To analyze student engagement across different regions in the US, this study compares the engagement index among students in Illinois, Connecticut, and Missouri. The data reveal that students in Illinois engage more intensively with digital learning content, as evidenced by an engagement index significantly higher than that observed in the other two states. Additionally, the trend in the engagement index across these states mirrors the overall pattern observed in the broader dataset of investigated districts, with a notable decline during the summer break. This similarity suggests that student engagement consistently decreases during this period across various states.

#### 3.4. Engement index with provider in digital learning by states:

Google emerges as the dominant digital platform provider across Illinois, Connecticut, and Missouri, consistently leading in engagement. Specifically, in Illinois, Google not only leads but does so by a significant margin, with an average daily page load event nearing 1500,

underscoring its popularity. Although McGraw-Hill ranks far behind Google, it holds the position of the second most utilized provider in Illinois.

In conclusion, Google's dominance in the digital learning space is evident across the studied states, with Illinois showcasing particularly high engagement levels. Despite a considerable gap, McGraw-Hill remains a significant secondary provider within Illinois.