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As an analyst, supporting learning and development, the impact of COVID-19 to students has been an especially important topic in recent years. One of the major employee benefits is education assistance. Due to the pandemic, major aspects of a student’s life has experienced change in ways such as caregiver responsibilities, financial hardships, and work changes due to workforce reductions. As the workforce continues to fluctuate and socioeconomic insecurity remains high, educational attainment and student sentiment at all stages of the educational journey are more important to understand now than ever.

The outcome of the exploratory data analysis confirms a noticeable shift in student performance, but clear indicators were not able to be determined due to the nature of a publicly curated dataset that lacks nuance in the fields available to research. In future analyses, it would be optimal to have access to demographic data that could help build out indicators of socioeconomic statuses of students, which other research has indicated are factors in student performance. Additional insight into time spent studying, access to alternative technology (not just computers), and student sentiment on performance would help strengthen the story.

Overall, the exploratory analysis was interesting given the limitations of the data, but the challenges presented with the dataset do not lead to any solid, conclusive results or indicators on how to improve student performance, only that it has decreased. Future research would benefit from predictive modeling on how to improve student performance and sentiment, which would require the noted missing variables for stronger analysis and relationship defining.