



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## Survey shows students effectively using 1-1 technology Devices used for at-home learning, assignments and research

A recent survey reveals students are using their devices since Davis School District implemented 1-to-1 technology in recent years, Digital Learning Director Dr. Ryan Hansen told the Board of Education Tuesday.

The survey, taken by nearly 18,000 students in grades five to 12, found that a majority of students are using a district-provided device for learning at home — 65.9 percent of elementary students, 75.5 percent of junior high students and 57.3 percent of high school students.

Additionally, 80 percent of students surveyed said they conduct research weekly with their devices and 99 percent consistently use the devices to take quizzes and work on assignments.

“Most of our kids are using devices at home that we’ve provided,” Hansen said. “That means to me, we are getting the right device and kids are using them both at home and at school.”

“The first thing was to make sure students had exposure to technology, then access when they needed to,” he said. “... It’s not just about putting a device in front of a student. It is about using tools so they can work in a global, competitive work market.”

In the same survey, more than 99 percent of students say they have access to an internet connection at

home, which is much higher than the district thought it would be, Hansen said. Ninety-two percent of those students say their internet connection is adequate for everything they need to engage in learning.

To accommodate for internet access and reliability, the district has 1,000 internet hot spots available for students that need them. Currently, less than 200 are checked out to students and teachers.

“One of the things that we’re extremely happy with is the use of devices at home for learning,” Davis School District Superintendent Reid Newey said. “We are so proud of our people for the support and our teachers for teaching students how to use devices effectively. We could very easily have stu-

dents that, if you don’t hand them an iPad, they can’t do anything. But a lot of the effectiveness is directly related to the teachers and their training and what they’ve done to absorb the use of technology as learning tools.”

Board Member Liz Mumford said the survey results show that the use of technology is helping students in their education.

“There is a shift to creating and using devices to collaborate on projects, versus just consuming, and it’s exactly the best use of devices. I think it’s a good change and

**See DEVICES, Pg. 2**

---

**“There is a shift to creating and using devices to collaborate on projects, versus just consuming and it’s exactly the best use of devices.”**

---

— Board Member Liz Mumford

## District implements Test to Stay at two elementary schools

Since the start of school, the district has implemented the Test to Stay protocol twice.

Test to Stay is an effort to keep schools open while also finding out if additional students have the COVID-19 virus and should return home until they are well.

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told the Board of Education that House Bill 1007 requires that

students be tested if a school exceeds the positive case level of 2 percent of students and staff for a school of more than 1,500 or 30 students and staff for a school of 1,500 or less.

Prior to being tested, parents must give consent for their student to be tested. Any student with a negative test can return to school the day following. If a student receives a positive test notification, they begin their 10-day quarantine period.

A student who tests positive or does not participate in Test to Stay may continue being tested in the days following the event by their physician or at another testing site. If a negative test result is received prior to the end of the quarantine period, the student can return to school with proof of a negative test.

Test to Stay was conducted recently at Antelope and Syracuse ele-

**See TEST, Pg. 2**

## DEVICES, from Pg. 1

the kids are going to embrace it since it's a part of the world they are living in," said Mumford.

In other workshop business, the Board learned:

- The Davis Catalyst Center will open to students in January of 2022. Applications are currently being accepted for the nine programs offered at the center, which will accommodate up to 900 students per semester. The building's open house will be held in fall of 2022.

- The district has hired additional Family Service Workers to help every school in the district, thanks to prioritized funding allotted by the Board of Education last year.

- The Teacher Academy program at Sunburst and South Clearfield elementary schools continues to progress. In its second year, the program hosts students from Weber State University and Utah State University as they go through their practicum and learn from teachers on site.

"This has been a real collaboration," Newey said.

"Three years ago, this was an idea, and now we have a de-

velopment pipeline that is just massive. Teaching continues to be one of the most difficult professions out there ... so our development is continually evolving."

- ESSER funding has allowed the hiring of 340 additional teacher assistants to mentor and tutor students in the district.

- The district is assessing the needs of areas where student population is growing. Current enrollment numbers show that student growth is booming in the West Layton and Syracuse areas. Additionally, the district has several schools that are between 50 to 60 years old and will need to be replaced soon, according to Facilities Administrator Gary Payne.

"National standards are that once a school has reached about 55 to 60 years old, you have to do some major remodeling and that gives it another 10 years or so and then you need to tear it down," said Payne.

## TEST, from Pg. 1

mentary schools when they reached the COVID-19 outbreak threshold.

Zurbuchen said some parents have asked why the district isn't following the same procedures as the last school year.

"Last year, we knew nothing about it (COVID-19) and we did everything we could to be protective. We know more now and the question is more of, 'Are we in a place to safely live with it?'" Zurbuchen said. "We don't necessarily know that answer. At this point we are looking to continue playing by the rules of HB 1007 and we expect to be able to have the same experience that we've had at Syracuse and Antelope if we need to do that again."

The district has also continued publishing a COVID-19 dashboard, viewable on the district website with

number of positive cases identified over a 14-day period at each school. However, Zurbuchen noted the district numbers don't always match the state COVID-19 dashboard.

"What happens after a Test to Stay event, since all positive cases both prior to the event that caused the Test to Stay event as well as the positive cases that we see when we had the testing, since they are no longer in school at that point and are now isolating, it's reasonable for us to assume that the day after, our school is relatively clean," said Zurbuchen. "Consequently, the health department resets our number on the day after the event to zero. The state does not reset that number."

Superintendent Reid Newey said the district relies on the Davis County Health Department to help the

district with COVID-19, meeting regularly to determine the best options for keeping students as safe as possible.

"We are committed to doing two things. One, following all regulation that are given to us. And then two, doing all we can to manage education, which is one of the reasons we meet with the health department and our county commission weekly and have done so throughout COVID-19," said Newey.

"We have to rely on the professionals that actually have jurisdiction and influence over what we do to give us direction. Our business is that we try to focus on educating kids when they come to school and we encourage vaccination, highly encourage sanitation, hygiene and all the other things that we've outlined in our return-to-school manual.