

## Distance Education Survey for Rural Schools

Intro: Intro: Hi, I'm <NAME> and I'm calling as a follow-up to a letter you should have recently received about a distance learning survey being conducted by the National Research Center on Rural Education Support. Did you receive that letter?

(If YES: As the letter stated, we're doing a survey of rural school districts across the nation. We're going to be asking questions about distance education technology and distance education curriculum. Would you be a good person to discuss these topics for your district?)

(If NO: Ok, let me briefly review the contents of the letter. The National Research Center on Rural Education Support is conducting a survey of rural school districts across the nation to learn more about use of distance education. We're going to be asking questions about distance education technology and distance education curriculum. Would you be a good person to discuss these topics for your district?)

If NO:

Who would you recommend that we contact to talk about these topics?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks very much! We'll contact <ABOVE NAME>.

If YES:

Wonderful. The questions take 25-30 minutes to complete. Is this a good time for you, or should I call back at another time?

If NOW: Go to "Continue" on page #2

If LATER: When would be a good time for you?

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the phone number I just called the best one to reach you then?

Yes

No (record alternate phone number)

( ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

CONTINUE:

Just to be clear: The goal of this survey is to learn more about the current and future use of distance education in rural school districts. Your participation is voluntary and everything you say will be kept confidential. We will not identify participating districts or respondents in any way.

Do I have your permission to conduct this survey with you?

Yes – Thank you. Do you have any questions before we get started?

No – I appreciate your time. Thank you very much.

First, I'd like to ask some general questions about your school district. Just to make sure I have it right, you're with the <INSERT NAME OF DISTRICT> in <CITY> <STATE>. Is that correct? (if not correct, thank respondent and tell them you need to check with your supervisor to make sure you have the correct information and that you're supposed to be talking to them.)

District Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/County \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ (2 character abbreviation)

1. Approximately how many students are currently enrolled in your district? \_\_\_\_\_
2. And how many total schools are in your district? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. How many of these are elementary schools? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How many are middle or jr. high schools? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How many are high schools? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Multi-level (e.g., K-8, K-12) \_\_\_\_\_

If c & d = 0, then end interview.

IF TOTAL # OF SCHOOLS = 1, then ask: Is your school a charter school?

\_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_ Yes

3. What grades do you include in your high schools?  
 \_\_\_ 8; \_\_\_ 9; \_\_\_ 10; \_\_\_ 11; \_\_\_ 12
4. Approximately what percentage of your district's students fall in the following groups?
  - a. African American \_\_\_\_\_%
  - b. Hispanic or Latino \_\_\_\_\_%
  - c. Native American or American Indian \_\_\_\_\_%
  - d. White \_\_\_\_\_%
  - e. Asian or Pacific Islanders \_\_\_\_\_%
  - f. Other or mixed race \_\_\_\_\_%
  - g. Unknown \_\_\_\_\_%
5. Approximately what percentage of your district's students qualify for a free or reduced lunch? \_\_\_\_\_ %

For the rest of the questions, I'm going to be asking specifically about your high school(s) or high-school aged students.

6. How many high-school aged students do you have enrolled?

\_\_\_\_\_ students

7. Using the term 'distance education' to mean a wide variety of approaches such as correspondence courses; courses taught using cable, satellite, or interactive TV; videoconferencing; or web-based or online courses, are you able to offer all the advanced or enrichment courses that students desire without using distance education?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (go to question 9)      \_\_\_\_\_ No (continue with question 8)

8. Would you consider distance education as a way to offer advanced and enrichment courses if these were available to your school district?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

9. During this current academic year, are students in your district taking any courses offered through a distance education format as part of their regular school program?

If YES: Continue to question 10.

If NO: Have students in your district taken courses via distance education in previous academic years?

If NO: SKIP TO CHALLENGES SECTION pg.9 question #25

If YES: What are the primary reasons you stopped using distance education? (ASK THESE QUESTIONS THEN CONTINUE BY USING PAST TENSE FOR THE NEXT QUESTIONS.)

- \_\_\_ Money
- \_\_\_ Equipment and infrastructure
- \_\_\_ Participation by students
- \_\_\_ Lack of support personnel
- \_\_\_ Hired qualified teacher
- \_\_\_ Policy Issues
- \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. We're interested in which courses your students are taking this academic year via distance education. Are students in your district taking any courses in science, math, English or foreign language, history, psychology or sociology?

	General or Honors	Advance Placement	Recovery	Other	DK
Sciences					
Biology					
Chemistry					
Physics					
Earth Science					
Other					
Math					
Algebra					
Pre-Calculus					
Calculus					
Statistics					
Other					
English					
Language/Composition					
Literature					
Other					
Latin					
Other Foreign Languages					
History					
US History					
European					
World					
Other					
Psychology or Sociology					
Any other areas? _____					

11. If any of the courses listed in question 10 are science, then ask:

- a. If a lab is required as part of a course, how is that requirement met?

\_\_\_\_\_

- b. Do science courses have any aspects that are different from other courses?

12. What percent of high school students in your district take distance education courses per year?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

13. What percent of high school students in your district who enroll in distance education courses complete them?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

14. Of these distance education courses that students are taking, which 3 have the highest enrollment?

[Place a "1" for highest; "2" for second highest; "3" for third highest]

\_\_\_\_\_ DK

	General or Honors	Advance Placement	Recovery	Other
Sciences				
Biology				
Chemistry				
Physics				
Earth Science				
Other				
Math				
Algebra				
Pre-Calculus				
Calculus				
Statistics				
Other				
English				
Language/Composition				
Literature				
Other				
Latin				
Other Foreign Languages				
History				
US History				
European				
World				
Psychology or Sociology				
Any other areas? _____				

15. If there are tuition and registration costs for these distance education courses, how are these paid for? For example...

- District
- Students
- State
- Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- DK
- NA

16. Who are the primary providers of distance education courses that your district's students use? ( check all that apply?)

- Local District
- Regional Consortium
- State
- Private
- Private out-of-state virtual high school/course providers
- Public out-of-state virtual high school/course providers
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- DK

17. Does your district have local flexibility to select providers of distance education courses or is this decision made externally? For example does the...

- District selects
- District selects from a list of approved providers
- Externally selected (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- DK

18. What is the format of the currently offered distance education courses? (Check all that apply) Please answer Yes or No to the following options.

- Correspondence by mail
- Correspondence by email
- Cable TV
- Satellite TV
- Self-instructional computer-based tutorials
- One-way videoconferencing
- Two-way videoconferencing
- Web-based or online courses
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- DK

19. Are there certain courses that require supplemental technology, e.g., audio CDs for foreign language or lab equipment for science?

If No: Skip to question 20

If Yes: List the course and supplemental technology \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Overall, how satisfied have you been with the distance education courses your district has used?

- Very satisfied  
 Somewhat Satisfied  
 Somewhat Dissatisfied  
 Very Dissatisfied  
 DK  
 NA

21. What would you say are your primary reasons for your level of satisfaction/dissatisfaction?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

22. Are there courses that would be valuable to you that you don't have access to?

If No: Continue with question 23

If Yes: List the course(s) (probe for specificity) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

23. How do you think that your current distance education courses meet the needs of students in your district?

- Very well  
 Somewhat well  
 Not very well  
 DK  
 NA

24. In what ways could distance education be improved for students in your district?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



25. How prepared are your high school students for taking distance education courses in terms of their **academic background**?

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- DK
- NA

26. How prepared are your high school students for taking distance education courses in terms of their **study skills**?

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- DK
- NA

27. How prepared are your high school students for taking distance education courses in terms of their **computer skills**?

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not very well
- DK
- NA

Now, thinking about your districts' experience in using distance education, I am going to ask you about what issues or barriers limit your use of distance education courses. Please answer YES or NO to the following questions.

28. Do you have the instructional personnel to support distance education courses – such as teachers or monitors and counselors?

- Yes  No

29. Do you have sufficient funding to implement distance education?

- Yes  No

30. Do you have the necessary technical expertise to support distance education?

- Yes  No

31. Do you have technology enhanced classrooms or labs for distance education?

- Yes  No

32. Is there sufficient connectivity (Internet access) for the distance education you offer?

- Yes  No

33. Is your technology adequately maintained, that is limited downtime?

- Yes  No

34. Is distance education seen as a priority of your district?  
 Yes  No
35. Is distance education seen as difficult to implement?  
 Yes  No
36. Do you have difficulty finding the distance education courses you need?  
 Yes  No
37. Do you need distance education courses to meet your curriculum requirements?  
 Yes  No
38. Is distance education a part of your strategic plan?  
 Yes  No
39. Are your instructional personnel trained to use distance education?  
 Yes  No
40. Do you have problems scheduling distance education courses within your school day?  
 Yes  No
41. Do any other issues or barriers limit your use of distance education? (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
42. Of the issues that limit your use of distance education, list the top three issues or barriers to distance education courses in your schools.
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
43. Who decides which distance education courses are offered in your district?  
 Superintendent/Asst. Superintendent  
 School Board  
 High School Principal  
 Guidance Counselor  
 Teacher  
 Other (specify)

IF WE NEED TO CALL BACK TO GET MISSING INFO:

**Thank you for your time.** What would be a good time to reach you to get the information that you needed to look up?

IF WE DO NOT NEED TO CALL BACK:

**Thank you for your time and participation.** Do you have any questions? Thank you again and have a nice day.