



# BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP

*Preparing every scholar for success in college and the world beyond.*

## Chief Executive Officer Report

Jeremy Chiappetta

June 29, 2020

### **Key Highlights:**

- BVP's College Signing Day was held virtually. See [here](#).
- BVP held over 80 individual (or sibling) graduations. See [here](#). And thanks for the applause [here](#). (Mayor Diossa is in there toward the end!)
- BVP is tackling reopening planning fully. A more comprehensive presentation will be provided during the agenda item.
- BVP has elevated the voice of multiple scholars and staff to advance our mission to be a more anti-racist organization and to firmly and publicly support the Black Lives Matter movement. You can read more on that [here](#).

### **Talent**

- BVP is currently projecting more than 90% of our staff indicating a plan to returning to work at BVP next year, the highest staff retention rate we have had in our history. While some of this may be attributed to the global pandemic and weak economy, we also are seeing very high levels of staff satisfaction in our annual staff survey.

Network Wide				
Gallup Q12 Questions - BVP ALL	Jan'19	Jun'19	Feb'20	Jun'20
I know what is expected of me at work	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2
I have the materials and equipment to do my work right	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9
I have the opportunity to do what I do best every day	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
In the last seven days, I have been recognized or praised for doing good work	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8
My supervisor or someone at work cares about me as a person	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.4
There is someone at work who encourages my development	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2
At work, my opinions seem to count	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.8
The mission/purpose of the school makes me feel my job is important	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4

In the last year, I have had opportunities to learn and grow	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.2
In the last six months, someone at work has talked to me about my progress	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
My associates are committed to doing quality work	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2
I have a best friend at work	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.91</b>	<b>3.97</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>4.10</b>
<b>Sum</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>49.1</b>

<b>BVP Additional Questions</b>	<b>Jan'19</b>	<b>Jun'19</b>	<b>Feb'20</b>	<b>Jun'20</b>
I feel that I can go to my manager with any type of question.	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.2
I feel safe at work.	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.2
I have a good working relationship with other BVP team members.	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3
BVP has deeply & meaningfully engaged in topics of intentional diversity during the school year.	3.83	3.7	3.79	3.7
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.97</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.11</b>	<b>4.12</b>
<b>Sum</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>

- There are some vacancies within the organization, though unless they are critical to fill roles, we are freezing most positions as we wait to better understand the budget for the coming year.

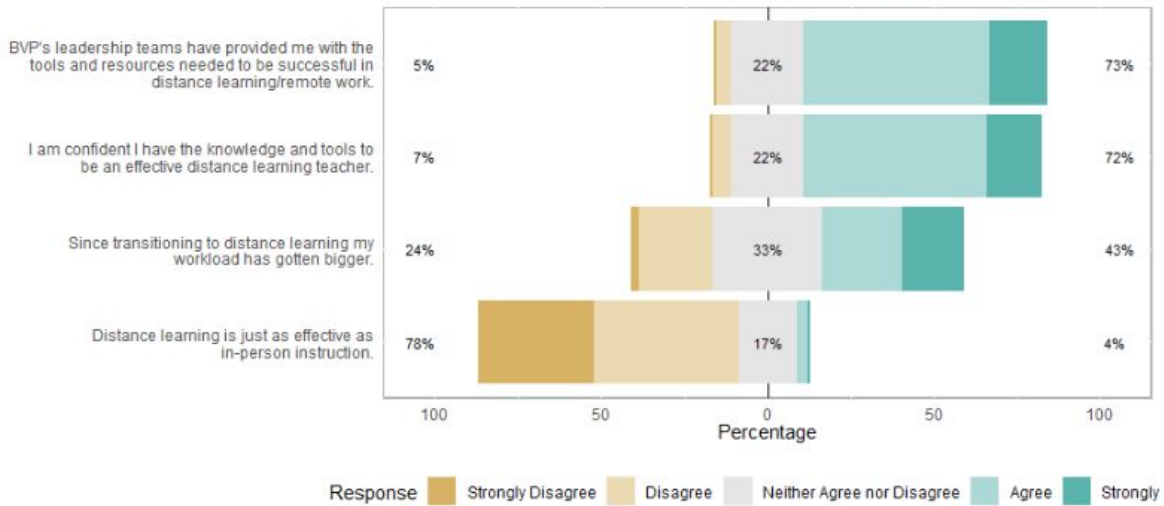
**Key Data**

- Attendance was higher than normal, though we are currently auditing our days to ensure that we are most accuracy reporting data:

Year-to-Date

<b>School</b>	<b>Attendance Percentage</b>	<b>On-Time Percentage</b>	<b>Chronically Absent Percentage</b>
Elementary School 1	95.90 %	95.88 %	6.57 %
Elementary School 2	96.77 %	98.35 %	3.40 %
Elementary School 3	96.27 %	97.81 %	3.37 %
High School	95.79 %	93.01 %	9.62 %
Middle School 1	96.53 %	97.37 %	4.73 %
Middle School 2	96.60 %	96.21 %	6.51 %
Out-of-District	100.00 %	100.00 %	0.00 %
District Total	96.33 %	96.44 %	5.70 %

While overall staff reported out positively, under the circumstances, the vast majority of our staff believe that distance learning is not as effective as in-person instruction:



## Distance Learning Program Report

### Tech Distribution

BVP's distance learning initiatives included a rapid campaign to deliver technology into the hands of scholars. Just in the first week of our Distance Learning Program BVP was able to safely distribute 438 laptops to scholars. And additionally BVP shipped an additional 127 to scholars during the height of the pandemic. This represented just over 25% of BVP's student body, and ensured that every scholar had access to our Distance Learning initiatives.

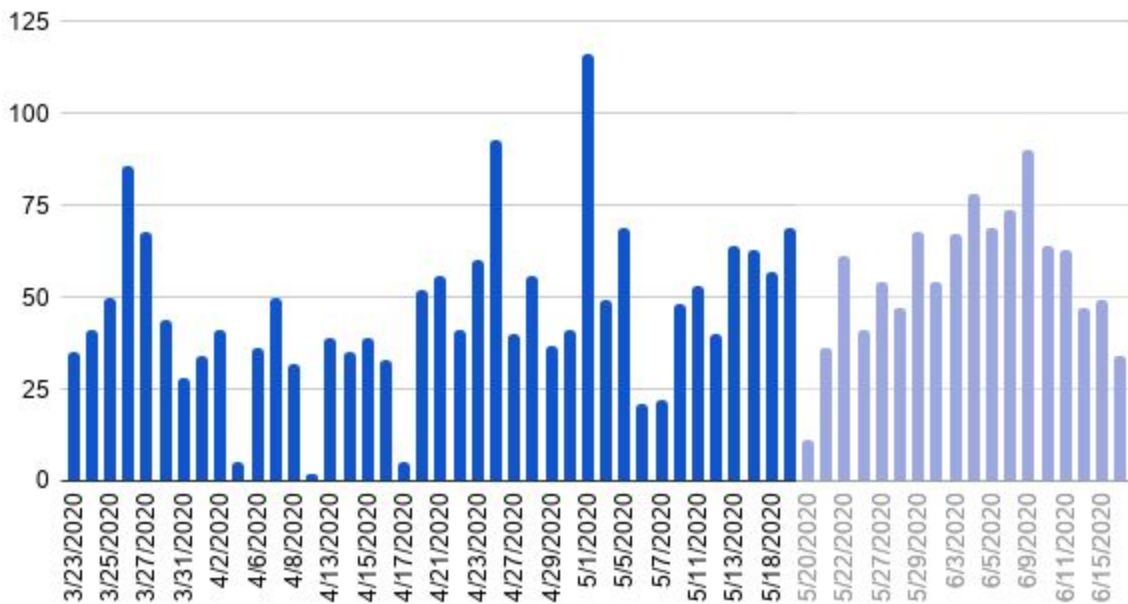
#### Devices distributed

3/20 @ ES2	104
3/21 @ ES2	35
3/21 @ MS1	82
3/22 @ MS1	29
3/26 @ ES2	188
4/10 Devices Shipped	91
4/30 Devices Shipped	36
<b>Devices distributed to date</b>	<b>565 *</b>

# Attendance

Through our initiatives Distance Learning Teachers were able to conduct near daily communications with scholars to ensure high rates of participation. Scholar attendance constituted either communication with a Distance Learning Teacher or a marked interaction with our Distance Learning Program. Overall at BVP attendance remained relatively high throughout the Distance Learning program. The chart below shows the daily absence totals across the network. The average daily absence rate was ~49 scholars per day (~2.4%), with the highest daily absence rate being 116 (~5.7%). It is important to note however, that records after 5/19 do not include data from the High School whose data is missing from this date forward.

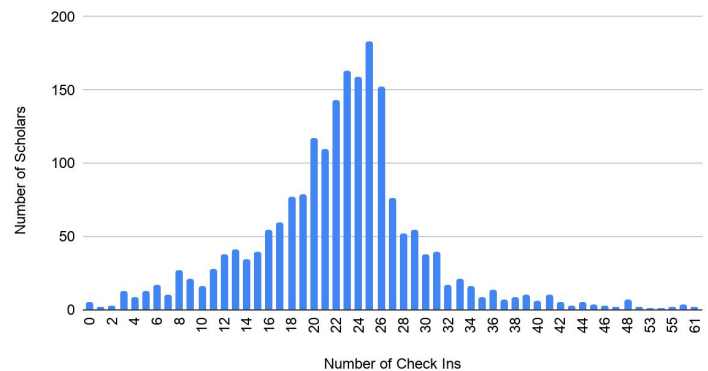
### Daily Absences during Distance Learning



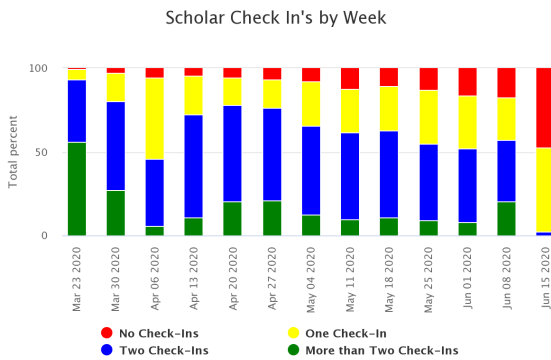
# Distance Learning Check-Ins

Frequent communication with the “Distance Learning Teacher” is the centralized key component of Blackstone Valley Prep’s Distance Learning Plan. The “DLT Check-In” served as the central hub for all scholar communication, helping direct learners to resources, ensuring scholars are on track to meet classroom expectations, and facilitating the learning

### DLT Check Ins



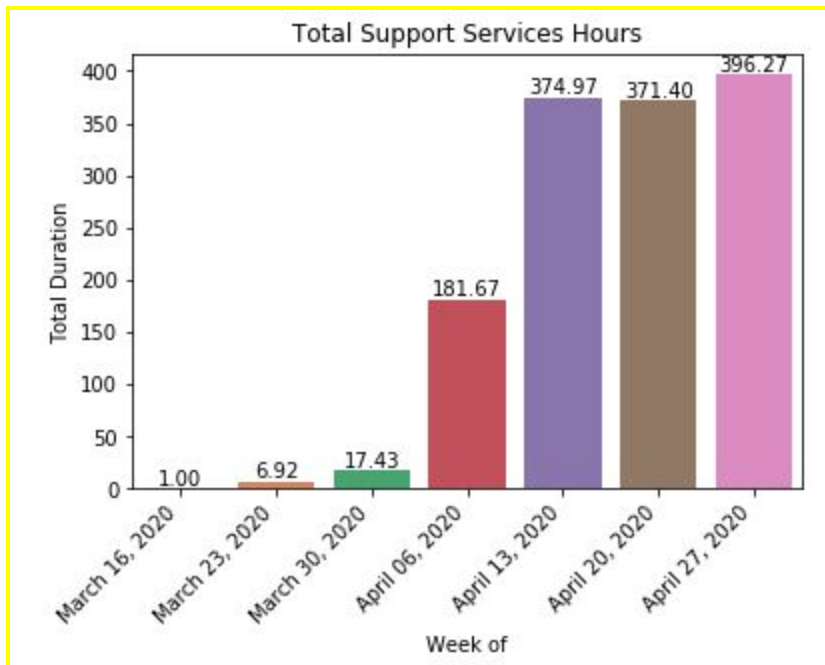
process by connecting scholars with additional staff and resources as needed.



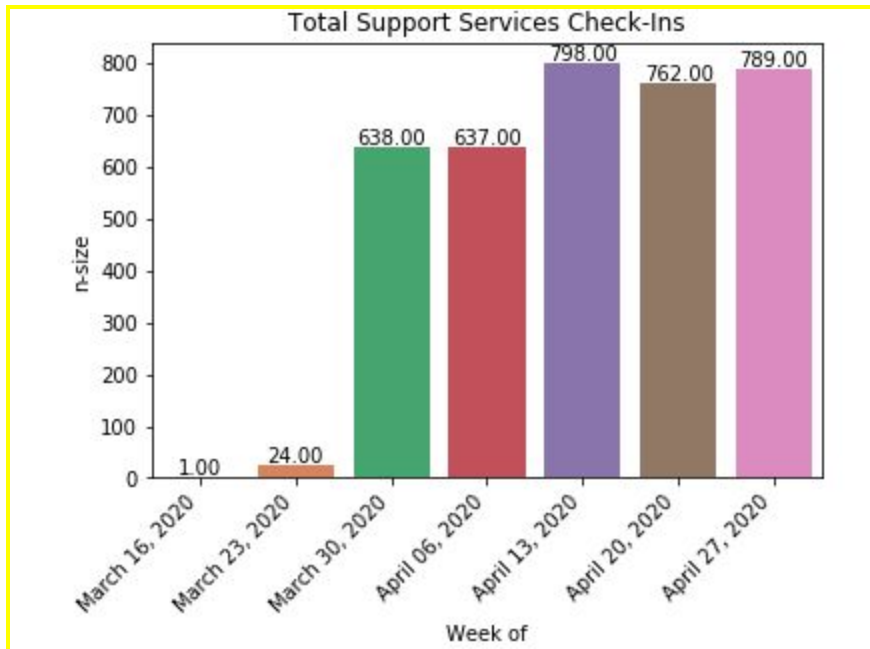
Since the inception of Distance Learning over 45,000 individual check-ins have occurred between our scholars and their Distance Learning Teachers, for an average of 22.4 check-ins per scholar. Initially the goal of having two 'Distance Learning Check-In' meetings per scholar was set. Many 'shortened weeks' (professional development and scholar vacation days) prevented this from being achieved each week. However across most of our schools we saw

incredibly high engagement rates. During distance learning the average percentage of scholars receiving one or more check-ins per week was tracked ~91%. It is important to note that High School did not fully utilize the tracking tools used to generate this data, and therefore this number could potentially be higher.

## Special Education/Instructional Supports



(\*service time was not tracked the week of March 30th, numbers here reflect entries that were edited to reflect time or entries made retroactively)



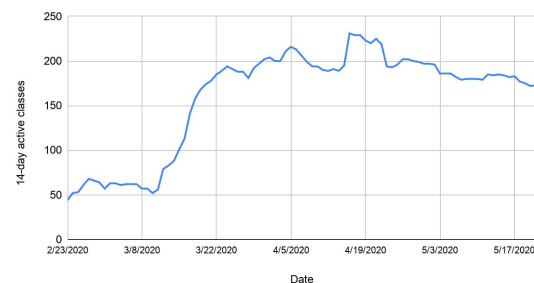
## Instructional App Usage

Core to the Distance Learning Model at Blackstone Valley Prep is a suite of online tools that have allowed us to continue providing rigorous instruction. Educators at Blackstone Valley Prep were quick to adopt these tools, ensuring that scholars were ready to step into learning activities day one.

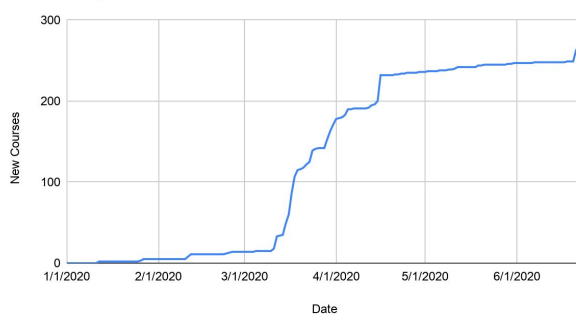
## Google Classroom

Generally at any given time the number of active google classroom courses at BVP is relatively low (~54 pre covid.) With the implementation of distance learning BVP saw an increase of about 280% in the number of active google classroom courses (an average of 205 in the month of April.)

Google Classroom: 14-day Active Classes



New Google Classroom Courses at BVP



Between March 11th and May 31st a total of 232 new Google Classroom Courses have been created at Blackstone Valley Prep. Between that same time the running 5 day

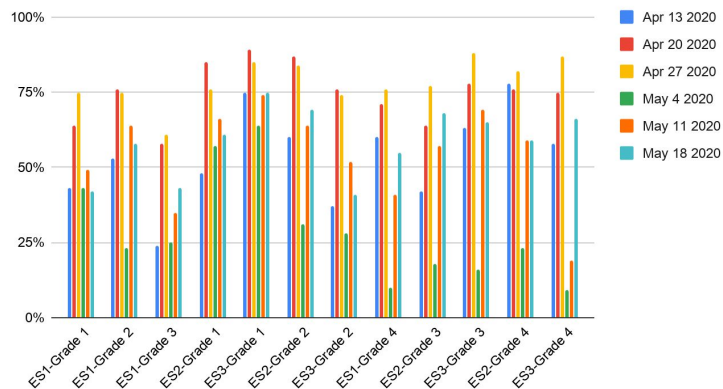
Google Classroom: 5 Day - Average Posts



average for daily posts (new teacher content) on Google Classroom was 272.

## Zearn

Zearn Usage by Week



Zearn Math Independent Digital Lessons provide personalized and engaging learning experiences for students. The innovative software melds a focus on high-quality math instruction with creative and age-appropriate design to create lessons that scaffold, enrich, and motivate learning for all students. Each digital lesson includes the following components: a short, adaptive fluency activity focused on building number sense; a short, lesson-aligned fluency;

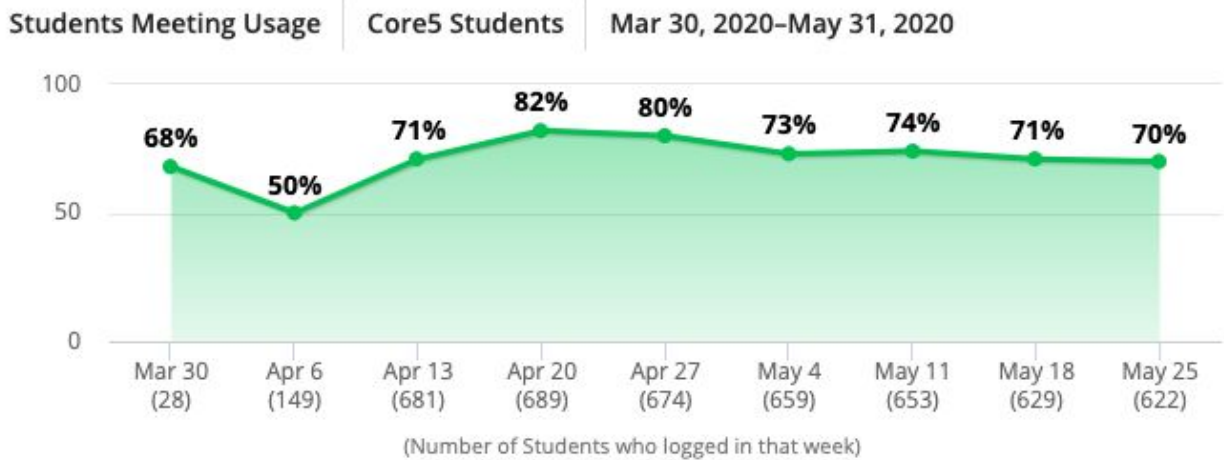
concept development exercises, including digital instruction and practice; and independent practice with digital manipulatives, feedback, and embedded remediation.

Zearn was implemented in Mid-April. Since its implementation we have seen many grades meet usage benchmarks of 80% just in its second week of usage. We have defined usage as a scholar completing at least 4 activities per week.

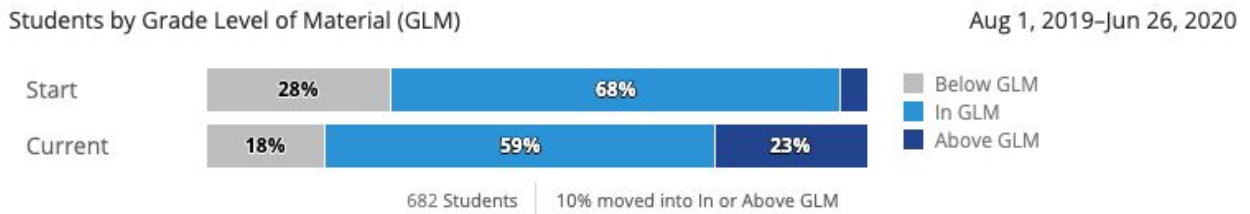
## Lexia

Lexia Core5 Reading supports and builds on classroom curriculum and focuses on developing reading skills in six areas: phonological awareness, phonics, structural analysis, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It had been used by limited numbers of scholars as an intervention at ES2, and was adopted for K-2 for Distance Learning in April.

Lexia saw an increase from 28 active users to 689 active users between the end of March to the end of April. Throughout the Distance Learning Program between 70% and 80% of BVP scholars were meeting their usage targets on any given week. Usage targets are set individually based on scholar reading proficiency on a diagnostic assessment administered at the start of the program.



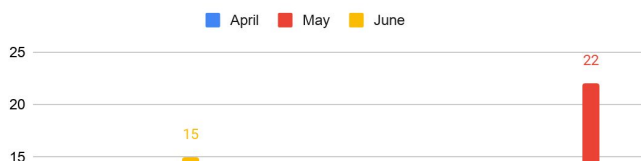
In the short time that Lexia has been in use we have seen a 10% increase in the number of scholars completing Grade Level Material on the platform.



## Staff

### Attendance

Staff Absences: April - June

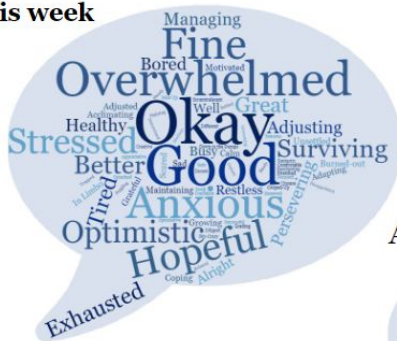




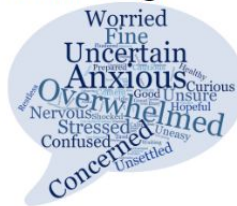
Despite the current health epidemic staff attendance remains relatively high. The month of April only saw a total of 19 absences total (non-maternity and bereavement.) At 300 staff and 21 work days, BVP staff had above 99% attendance rate.

## Staff Satisfaction and Readiness

**This week**

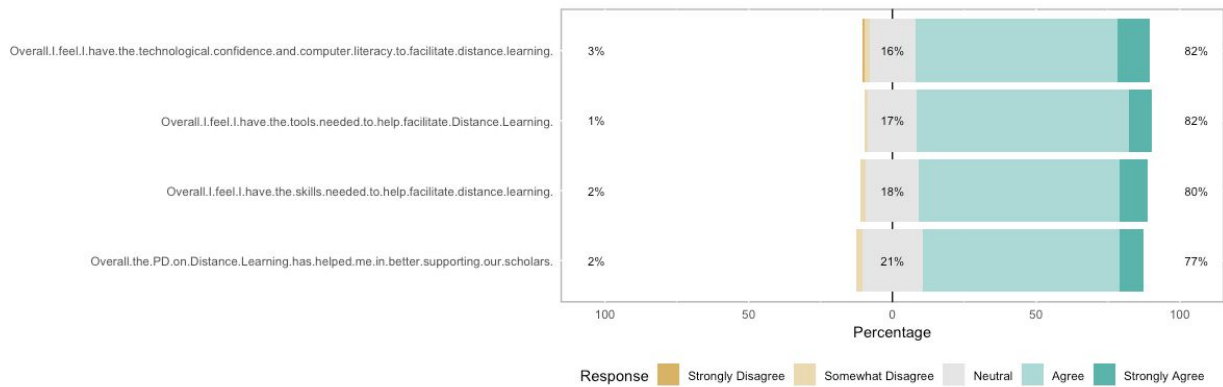


**A month ago**



BVP staff have risen to the challenge of implementing distance learning in a very short time. The word clouds represent staff settlement at both the beginning of distance learning, and at the end of April. While some themes persist due to the current climate and situation, words such as 'Optimistic' and 'Hopeful' have appeared and words such as 'Uncertain' and 'Worried' have disappeared.

During the last round of Professional Development, a survey asked staff four questions on their comfort and readiness to implement Distance Learning. 80% of staff responded favorably to the statement 'I have the skills needed to facilitate Distance Learning' and 82% of staff responded favorably to the statement "I have tools needed to facilitate distance learning".



## Professional Development

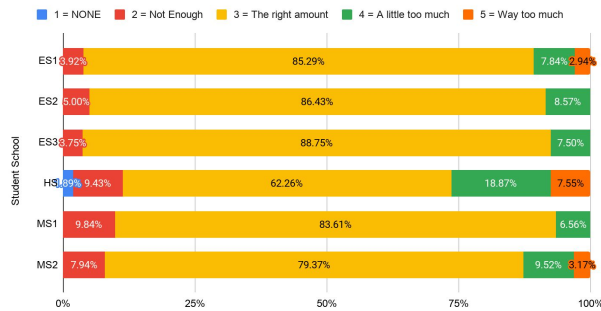
In an effort to make the transition to distance learning quickly and effectively BVP has dedicated multiple days to professional development. Professional development sessions have focused on both the use of digital tools and educational platforms, as well as provided teachers a space to collaborate on curricular and instructional changes necessary to adapt to Distance Learning. In just the two professional development days held in April BVP delivered about 24 hours of individual PD sessions.

As well, BVP has made the full suite of its professional development available to all staff on its internal website [PrideNet](#).

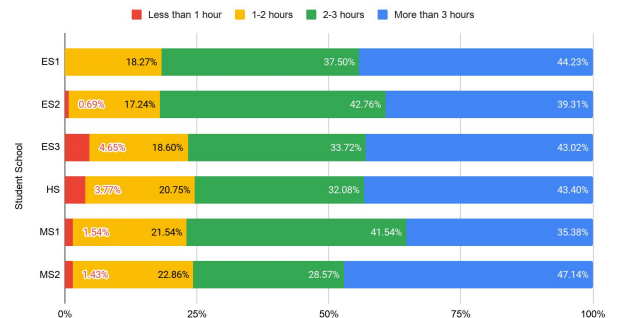
The screenshot shows a website interface for 'PD Resources'. The navigation bar includes: CIA, Home, Distance Learning, Math, Science, History, English Language Arts, Enrichment, Special Populations, Assessment & Grading, and Professional Development. A dropdown menu is open under 'Professional Development', showing 'DL Professional Develop...' and 'DLT Communication Trac...'. The main content area is titled 'PD Resources' and contains several resource tiles: Google Classroom (ES1: Third Grade), ActivelyLearn, Lexia (A Rosetta Stone® Company), and Epic (Research Projects, Tools For Literacy Centers, Social Emotional Learning, Science & Arts). At the bottom, there are logos for Educreations and Cross-Campus Collaboration (April 3, 2020).

## Parent Feedback

The work my scholar is assigned right now is...



My scholar typically completes school work daily for...



## Development

- Charter School Growth Fund continues to offer key investments in BVP, including providing paid internships and training for up to five alumni this summer.

## Media and Advocacy

- The aforementioned blog post by one of the BVP Scholars, Chelsea Acheampong, was selected as the winning MLK Essay Contest and was also published in GoLocalProv (<https://www.golocalprov.com/news/blackstone-valley-preps-first-martin-luther-king-jr.-essay-contest-winner>)
- BVP has been referenced in several recent articles regarding our participation in the Payroll Protection Program. While communities participating in the WorkShare program or other federal programs and most other charters who participated in PPP (along with well-funded private schools), BVP has been forced to defend our position. It should be noted that according to the SBA 73,098 loans were made in the Educational Services industry totalling \$11.7B, and more than \$120B was remaining to be distributed as of early June. (Source: [https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/PPP\\_Report\\_200530.pdf](https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/PPP_Report_200530.pdf))

## Facility Updates

- **Current portfolio:**
  - **291 Broad St. (ES1):** N/A.
  - **52 Broad St. (ES2):** N/A.
  - **3 Fairlawn Way (UES):** Addition progress is still near completion and will be ready in time for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - **909 Lonsdale Ave. (JHS):** N/A.
  - **3357 Mendon Rd:** N/A.
  - **65 Macondray Street (HS):** N/A
  - **7 Fatima Drive (Network Support Team):** N/A.
  - **Other:** We continue to pursue other real estate opportunities to best support our mission, within the budget constraints with which we are operating.