Summary: Use of Paragraph Punch for Remote Learning During Covid-19 School Closures

COVID-19 sent thousands of schools into disarray. In a scramble to find solutions, educators have sought out new technologies, but the question still remains as to how strongly the pandemic will impact the learning of their students and whether a learning gap will develop. Merit Software's Paragraph Punch, a well-established educational software, is one of many technologies in the limelight. The information below summarizes a case study of one high school teacher's special needs students using various ed-tech outcome measures.

Results

Engagement: Student has produced meaningful and effortful work

Scaling: None-Low-Somewhat-Very

- Interpreting the results:
  - 33.3% of students very engaged
  - 38.9% of students somewhat engaged
  - 27.8% of students either poorly or not engaged
  - Important to note that engagement in at least one task per week important for learning progress

Persistence: Student has produced engaged work over an extended period of time

Scaling: None-Low-Somewhat-Very

- Interpreting the results:
  - 61.1% of the class very persistent
  - 38.9% of class low to no persistence
  - Most students spent 4+ days on Paragraph Punch

Proficiency: Student competence within a task
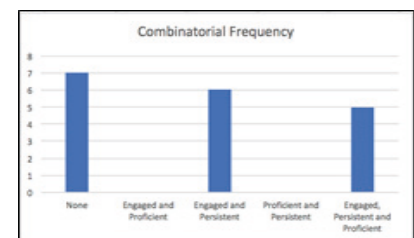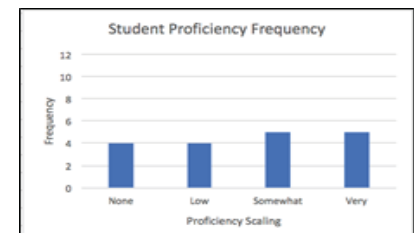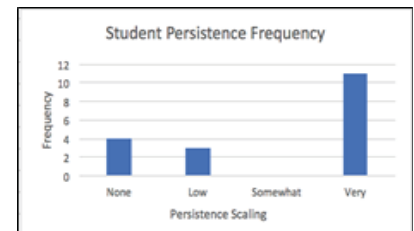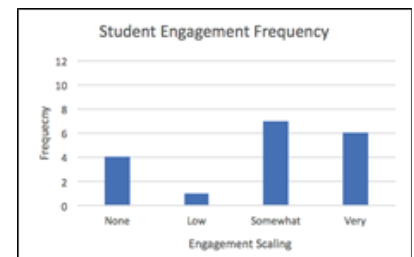
Scaling: None-Low-Somewhat-Very

- Interpreting the results:
  - Student proficiency random with 56% of students being proficient and 44% not proficient
  - Proficiency most likely confounded by recent integration into Paragraph Punch
  - Data collected from 4-week time period

Combinatorial: Combination of student engagement, persistence and proficiency

Scaling: None // Engaged and Proficient // Engaged and Persistent // Proficient and Persistent // Engaged Proficient and Persistent //

- Interpreting the Results
  - 38.9% of students ranked "None"
  - 33.3% of students were engaged and persistent
  - 27.8% of students were engaged, proficient and persistent

About Merit Software
Since 1983, Merit Software has been producing educational software that addresses the core competencies that students need to succeed with a focus on strengthening reading and communication skills. Merit Software's innovative learning programs include context-sensitive tutorials providing real-world student instruction and convenient records management features to aid teachers, tutors, parents, and self-learners. Visit https://meritsoftware.com or contact (212) 675-8567 to learn more.