

2021 Republic of Marshall Islands Report / Get to know / Schools & their leaders / Are there any barriers to quality teaching? /  
School closures & continuity of learning measures

# School closures and continuity of learning measures

School closures were common throughout the region in 2020 and 2021, including during the pandemics, epidemics and natural disasters referenced in the questionnaire. School leaders were asked to indicate how long their school was closed due to, respectively, a pandemic, epidemic, natural disaster, or other reason in these years. The duration for school closures was collected separately for each of these categories.

## School closures


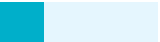
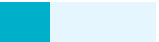

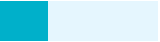
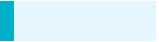

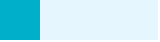
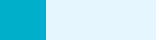

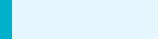
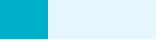

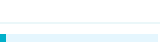
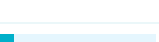




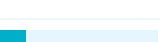
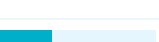
Seventeen per cent of students attended schools in Marshall Islands that were closed for 1 to 2 weeks because of natural disasters in the years 2020 and 2021. On the other hand, most students attended schools in Marshall Islands that were not closed due to COVID-19.

## Continuity of learning measures

Along with the school closure information, school leaders were asked to indicate what measures were in place to provide continuity of learning during school closures. The measures that were asked about focused on the provision and availability of learning materials and communication with students and parents. Table SLT3.3 shows the percentage of students in Marshall Islands in PILNA 2021 who attended schools with specific continuity of learning measures being implemented, available but not implemented, and not available.

Table SLT3.3

### Percentage of students attending schools that had measures to provide continuity of learning during school closure

Measures	No, did not have measures	Yes, but not implemented	Yes, implemented
Learning materials physically delivered to student's home	 42% (9.9)	 27% (9.7)	 32% (14.5)
Learning materials available for pick up from school	 60% (10.1)	 30% (9.8)	 10% (4.4)
Learning materials emailed to students or parents	 45% (11.2)	 25% (9.3)	 30% (14.8)
Learning materials available to download from a website or portal	 62% (14.0)	 7% (3.2)	 31% (15.0)
Learning materials broadcast on radio	 87% (5.2)	 4% (2.4)	 9% (4.3)
Learning materials broadcast on television	 95% (1.8)	 4% (2.4)	 2% (1.3)
Communication with students or parents by email or social media	 50% (11.2)	 16% (7.6)	 34% (14.4)

#### Percentage of students attending schools that had measures to provide continuity of learning during school closure, RMI, PILNA 2021

( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Communication via social media and/or by email with students and parents was the most common learning continuity measure, with 34% of students attending schools that implemented this measure. A further 16% of students attended schools that had access to this measure but did not implement it. Half the students (50%) attended schools where the measure was not available.

Measures to provide non-physical learning materials online – emailed materials, materials available on websites – were also implemented by schools. Three out of ten students attended schools where learning materials were emailed to students or parents (20%), or available to download from a website or portal (31%).

Physical materials were also used as a measure. One third of students attended schools where physical delivery of learning materials to a student's home was used. Learning materials available for pick-up was also used as a learning continuity measure, but only for 10% of students.

The least common learning measures were learning materials being publicly broadcast; 9% of students attended schools where learning materials broadcast on radio was used as a learning continuity measure. This figure was even lower at 2% for

learning materials broadcast on television

## What does this mean?

School closures affected small but substantial numbers of students in Marshall Islands during 2020 and 2021. For those that it did affect, natural disasters were the most common. On average, 15% of students attended schools that closed for natural disaster related reasons. Countries experienced different levels of school closures for pandemics, epidemics, natural disasters, and other reasons.

To provide continuity of learning during these closures, many measures were made available for students in the region. The majority of these involved online learning materials, although there were significant efforts by some schools to provide learning continuity through physical resources.

The duration, significance and responses to school closures varied significantly across the region. Local context is therefore needed to fully understand the reasons behind the various learning continuity measures.