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# PH Distance Learning Survey

## STUDENTS

**Survey Period: 20-28 April 2021**



May 2021

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# Survey Details

# Survey Details

SURVEY DURATION

April 20-28, 2021

COVERAGE

Total Philippines

SAMPLING SCHEME

Convenience (Non-representative)

METHODOLOGY

Online Survey

RESPONDENTS

7,178

# Executive Summary & Key Insights

# Executive Summary

Now that two quarters under the distance learning program have passed, stakeholders have a better sense of the struggles and advantages of the program when it comes to the quality and ease of education.

This survey seeks to gain a better understanding of students' perspectives on the program by inquiring into the different aspects of its implementation: the preparations they made, their current experience of the program after a semester, their evaluation of the Department of Education and the DepEd Commons, their views on limited face-to-face classes, and the pandemic. Insights from this study can shine a light on the issues concerning education that need to be addressed in the short and long-term, whether under distance learning or otherwise, as well as the program's strengths that may be further developed to improve the quality of and access to education nationwide.

This study builds on iOptions Ventures' September 2020 survey for parents about distance learning, and is complemented by concurrent surveys specifically for parents and teachers as well. All reports can be found on the iOptions Ventures website.

# Key Insights

When asked what their understanding distance learning is, **78% say it involves a self-learning module only (received from school).**

**50% say that their friends assist them** under distance learning. 49% say their parents do.

The **aspects of studying** under distance learning that students find the most difficult are:

1. Connecting to the internet (56%)
2. Time management (49%)
3. Accomplishing the workload (47%)
4. Lesson comprehension (44%)
5. Virtual interaction with classmates (39%)

**85% of respondents do not own a desktop/personal computer** and 67% do not own a laptop, but **97% own at least one smartphone.**

Majority of the respondents **prefer face-to-face classes** for all aspects of learning.

58% rate the **quality of education** under distance learning to be "**moderate**".

The **top 5 challenges** reported by the respondents are:

1. Unstable mobile/internet connection (71%)
2. Insufficient data/load allowance (53%)
3. Distractions (i.e. social media, noise) (52%)
4. Difficulty in self-studying (48%)
5. Conflict with house chores (43%)

# Key Insights

When it comes to modules,

- 71% say modules are helpful.
- 53% say they are easy to understand.
- 44% say they are easy to use.
- 57% say they noticed no errors.
- 90% say there is no sensitive/unreasonable content.
- 40% say they are rarely assisted/guided by parents/guardians in using modules.

68% of those who have synchronous classes say these classes are helpful.

**66% of respondents do not use DepEd Commons.**

Those who use it say they do so only very rarely (28%).  
Those who use it say the platform is helpful (96%).

One issue 51% of student-respondents have with DepEd Commons is that the **website/materials do not load.**

86% are aware of the proposal to have F2F classes, but **only 53% agree with it.**

**72% say it's important that teachers be vaccinated** before F2F classes resume.



# Distance Learning Preparations

PH Distance Learning Online Survey for **Students**  
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# Distance Learning Preparations

As a new program, adapting to the distance learning program required much preparation for every education stakeholder.

The results show that of all the stakeholders, the student-respondents find their teachers the most prepared for distance learning (62%), followed by the Department of Education at 55%. They find themselves and their families to be the least prepared.

The preparations taken by the respondents include: buying school supplies, reviewing the year's topic ahead of time, reviewing the past year's lessons, installing internet connection at home, allotting space at home for teaching, and buying a gadget.

# Distance Learning Preparations

Less than one-third of student-respondents own either a laptop or desktop computer, but 97% own and have access to at least one smartphone at home, making this gadget the most commonly used by students under distance learning.

When asked about their understanding what the distance learning program entails, 78% say it involves a self-learning module only that they retrieve from school. 48% say it involves both asynchronous and synchronous online classes.

# Preparations

Level of Preparation	Unprepared	Moderately prepared	Prepared
Family / Self	17%	<b>56%</b>	28%
School administration	12%	39%	<b>48%</b>
Teachers	7%	31%	<b>62%</b>
Local government	14%	35%	<b>51%</b>
Department of Education	16%	29%	<b>55%</b>

Preparations Done	Able	Unable
Bought school supplies (notebook, ballpen)	<b>63%</b>	37%
Had internet connection installed at home	38%	<b>62%</b>
Advanced reading on topics for this school year	42%	<b>58%</b>
Reviewing topics taught in the last school year	36%	<b>64%</b>
Allotted space at home for studying	<b>58%</b>	42%
Bought tablet / laptop / cellphone	44%	<b>56%</b>

# Preparations

## Ownership of Gadgets & Appliances that can be used for Distance Learning

Ownership	Laptop	Desktop / Personal Computer	TV	Radio	Smartphone	Tablet
Does not own any	67%	85%	17%	62%	3%	77%
Owns at least one	33%	15%	83%	38%	97%	23%

# Preparations

## Students' Own Understanding: Distance Learning

Own understanding - Modes of Distance Learning for SY 2020-2021	Responses (multiple)
Self-learning module only (received from school)	78%
Online classes (synchronous and asynchronous)	48%
Self-learning module only (downloaded from DepEd Commons)	40%
Self-learning module only (together with watching lessons on DepEd YouTube Channel)	37%
Self-learning module only (together with watching lessons on DepEd TV)	28%
Self-learning module (together with listening to lessons on radio)	21%
Online classes (synchronous only)	14%
Online classes (asynchronous only)	13%

# Distance Learning: Use of Learning Modules

PH Distance Learning Online Survey for **Students**  
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# Use of Learning Modules

This section provides the students' feedback on the quality of the learning modules used in the distance learning program.

Overall, the respondents find the modules to be helpful and contain no sensitive/unreasonable content. However, when asked about the ease of use and understandability, majority are split between finding the modules easy and being unsure.

57% say they did not notice any errors in the modules.

40% say their parents/guardians rarely help them with their modules. Only 12% said they are always assisted.



# Use of Learning Modules

Helpfulness	Responses
Not helpful	5%
Can't say if helpful or not	24%
<b>Helpful</b>	<b>71%</b>

Understandability	Responses
Difficult	25%
<b>Can't say</b>	<b>45%</b>
Easy	30%

Ease of Use	Responses
Difficult	16%
Can't say if easy or difficult	40%
<b>Easy</b>	<b>44%</b>

# Use of Learning Modules

## Encountered Errors and Sensitive/Unreasonable Content

Errors	Responses
Yes	43%
No	57%

Sensitive or Unreasonable Content	Responses
Yes	10%
No	90%

# Use of Learning Modules

## Frequency of Assistance from Parents / Guardians in using Learning Modules

Assistance / Guidance from Parents/Guardians in using modules	Responses
Never	22%
Rarely	40%
Often	26%
Always	12%

# Distance Learning Experience

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# Distance Learning Experience

This section gauges students' experience with the program -- their struggles, preferences, as well as the support system they have and need.

What stands out in this section is that a large number of students struggle the most with internet connection (56%) and time management (49%) under the distance learning program. On the contrary, submitting requirements and retrieving modules are two of the activities many find to be easy.

The top 3 challenges students face are: unstable internet connection (71%), insufficient data/load allowance (53%), and distractions (e.g. social media, noise) (52%). This is indicative that a large hurdle for students is not having a conducive environment for learning.

# Distance Learning Experience

When asked where they get assistance from, 50% said they get help from friends, followed by their parents at 49%. 17% say that no one helps them.

After two quarters, 58% of the respondents rate the quality of education under the distance learning program to be “moderate”. However, when asked if they think the education under program adequately prepares them for higher education, 46% say they are unsure.

# Distance Learning Experience

## Modes of Distance Learning

Modes of Distance Learning Used	Responses (multiple)
Did not use any of the modes mentioned	39%
<b>DepEd Facebook page</b>	<b>36%</b>
DepEd YouTube channel	22%
DepEd TV	18%
DepEd Commons	18%
DepEd Radio	4%

# Distance Learning Experience

## Ease of Doing Activities in Distance Learning

Activities	Difficult	Can't say if easy or difficult	Easy
Time management	49%	33%	18%
Connecting to the internet	56%	20%	24%
Lesson comprehension	44%	38%	18%
Accomplishing the workload	47%	33%	20%
Virtual interaction with classmates	39%	30%	31%
Virtual interaction with teachers	32%	31%	37%
Access to modules	18%	26%	55%
Submitting outputs to teachers	22%	29%	49%



# Distance Learning Experience

## Challenges Encountered in Distance Learning

Challenges Encountered	Responses (multiple)
Unstable mobile/internet connection	71%
Insufficient load/data allowance	53%
Distractions (i.e. social media, noise from community/neighbors)	52%
Encountered difficulty in self-studying	48%
Conflict with house chores	43%
No / Lack of available gadgets / equipment / resources	36%
No / Lack of available space for studying at home	32%
Parents / guardians lack time to help students in studying	21%
Parents / guardians lack capability or knowledge to help children in studying	19%
Difficulty in contacting the teachers	18%
No / Lack of learning feedback from teachers	16%
Errors in learning modules	16%
Existing health condition/s	14%
Lack of learning modules	12%
Unavailability of parents / guardians / adult as learning facilitators	11%
Others	4%
Did not encounter any challenge	3%

# Distance Learning Experience

## People who Assisted Students in Distance Learning

Assists in studying under distance learning	Responses (multiple)
Friends	50%
Parent	49%
Classmate/s	46%
Older sibling	30%
No one helps me	17%
Cousin/s	16%
Uncle / Aunt	8%
Younger sibling	4%
Grandparent/s	4%
Others	2%
Household help	1%

# Distance Learning Experience

## Perceived Helpfulness of Education Stakeholders in Distance Learning

Perceived Helpfulness	Not helpful	Moderately helpful	Helpful
School administration	11%	<b>45%</b>	44%
Teachers	5%	26%	<b>69%</b>
Parents / Guardians	14%	32%	<b>55%</b>
Local government	24%	<b>42%</b>	34%
Department of Education	19%	36%	<b>46%</b>

# Distance Learning Experience

## Preferred Source of Assistance for Distance Learning Needs

Preferred Source of Assistance for Distance Learning Needs (multiple responses)	School administration	Teachers	Students' parents / guardians	Local government	Department of Education
Gadget to teach in distance learning	19%	12%	42%	51%	<b>54%</b>
Load to subscribe to mobile data / internet connection	16%	5%	<b>55%</b>	44%	38%
Area allotted for studying at home	6%	4%	<b>85%</b>	14%	10%
Financial assistance	12%	5%	37%	<b>67%</b>	37%
Enough learning modules for all students	48%	51%	8%	19%	<b>57%</b>
Hiring of learning facilitators who can help parents and students	<b>44%</b>	40%	14%	23%	42%
Medical assistance (mental health services)	23%	15%	32%	<b>64%</b>	36%

The stakeholders with numbers in **BOLD** mean that they are the most preferred source of assistance for the distance learning needs listed in the leftmost column.

# Distance Learning Experience

## Preferred Mode of Learning

Aspects of teaching	Distance learning	Mixed or Blended	Face-to-face classes
Lesson comprehension	16%	14%	<b>70%</b>
Number of lessons	24%	16%	<b>60%</b>
Answering quizzes/exams	28%	16%	<b>56%</b>
Types of tasks / assignments	32%	17%	<b>52%</b>
Number of projects / quizzes / exams	27%	17%	<b>56%</b>
Interaction with teachers (e.g., asking questions, clarifications, etc)	17%	14%	<b>69%</b>
Interaction with classmates	17%	13%	<b>69%</b>
Place of studying	21%	13%	<b>66%</b>

# Distance Learning Experience

## Synchronous Classes: Frequency of Attendance

Frequency of Attendance	Responses
Never	11%
Rarely	28%
Often	19%
Always	18%
No synchronous classes in our school	24%

## Synchronous Classes: Helpfulness

Perceived Helpfulness of Synchronous Classes (n=4687)	Responses
Unhelpful	4%
Can't Say	28%
<b>Helpful</b>	<b>68%</b>

# Distance Learning Experience

## Perceived Quality of Education Received in Distance Learning

Quality of Education Received after 2 Qs of Distance Learning	Responses
Low	20%
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>58%</b>
High	22%

## Perceived Helpfulness of Education Received in Distance Learning for higher education

Helpfulness of Education Received for higher studies	Responses
Unhelpful	12%
<b>Can't Say</b>	<b>46%</b>
Helpful	42%

# Distance Learning Experience

## Mode of Distance Learning: Post-Pandemic Era

Mode of Distance Learning: post-pandemic	Responses
Modular	43%
Online	23%
DepEd TV	17%
None	15%
DepEd Radio	1%



# Department of Education

PH Distance Learning Online Survey for **Students**  
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# Department of Education

This section looks at students' feedback on the service and leadership of the Department of Education.

A major aspect of this section is about the DepEd Commons, the online learning platform created by the Department that serves as a portal for students and teachers. Only 54% of students report awareness of the platform, and only 34% say they use it.

Those who do use it say that the platform is helpful.

Overall, majority of the student-respondents are split between being satisfied and unsure of how they feel about the performance of the Department in general as well as their pandemic response.

# Department of Education

## DepEd Commons: Awareness and Known Use

<b>AWARENESS - DepEd Commons</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>46%</b>

<b>Own understanding - DepEd Commons' use (n=3897)</b>	<b>Responses (multiple)</b>
<b>Portal where one can download self-learning modules that I can use for studying</b>	<b>69%</b>
Portal where one can watch DepEd TV modules	<b>63%</b>
Portal where students can answer quizzes and exams	47%
Portal where self-learning modules accomplished by students can be submitted/uploaded	45%
Portal where students can attend online classes	36%
Others	3%

*NOTE: Sum of column percentages will exceed 100% as this question is a multiple response question.*

# Department of Education

## DepEd Commons: Usage and Perceived Helpfulness

USED DepEd Commons	Responses
Yes	34%
No	66%

Frequency of Usage* (n=2447)	Responses
Very rarely (only when I need it)	28%
Only once	20%
Very rarely (only when I remember to use it)	19%
Every day that there are classes	16%
2-4 times a week	12%
Once a week	6%

DepEd Commons is Helpful* (n=2447)	Responses
Yes	96%
No	4%

# Department of Education

## DepEd Commons

WHY DepEd Commons WAS HELPFUL (n=2350)*	Responses (multiple)
Contains additional learning materials	73%
Easy to use/access through mobile phone or desktop computer/laptop	61%
Main platform used by my teachers	61%
Free access for select mobile subscribers	38%
Others	2%

NOTE: Sum of column percentages will exceed 100% as this question is a multiple response question.

WHY DepEd Commons WAS UNHELPFUL (n=97)*	Responses (multiple)
The website/materials do not load	51%
Website is not easy to access	44%
Not used by my teachers	43%
Others	16%

NOTE: Sum of column percentages will exceed 100% as this question is a multiple response question.

\*Responses were from respondents who said that they have used DepEd Commons in one of the earlier questions in the survey.

# Department of Education

## Satisfaction Rating

DepEd Satisfaction Rating	Overall performance	Pandemic response
Dissatisfied	23%	24%
Can't Say	36%	33%
<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>43%</b>

# Limited Face-to-Face Classes

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# Limited F2F Classes

With several schools and levels already trying out limited face-to-face classes, this section looks at students' perspective on this mode of learning.

53% of respondents agree that limited face-to-face classes should be held.

When asked about what considerations should be done before implementing the limited F2F classes, 83% expressed that it is important that the LGU and community be ready by providing services like shuttles and hygiene kits for students.



# Limited F2F Classes

## Awareness

<b>AWARENESS - Proposed Limited F2F Classes</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>14%</b>

## Agreement

<b>AGREEMENT - Proposed Limited F2F Classes</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Disagree	25%
Can't Say	22%
<b>Agree</b>	<b>53%</b>

# Limited F2F Classes

## Agreement to Conduct F2F Classes, by Island Group

<b>AGREEMENT - Proposed Limited F2F Classes</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Can't Say</b>	<b>Agree</b>
National Capital Region	29%	24%	<b>48%</b>
Balance Luzon	25%	22%	<b>53%</b>
Visayas	16%	17%	<b>67%</b>
Mindanao	19%	21%	<b>60%</b>

# Limited F2F Classes

## Considerations to Participate in Limited F2F Classes

Considerations	Responses (multiple)
Readiness of the local government and community to conduct limited face-to-face classes, such as providing free shuttles for students and distributing hygiene kits (e.g., face masks, shields, alcohol/sanitizer)	83%
Readiness of the school to conduct limited face-to-face classes such as having functional restrooms, provision of handwashing facility, and installation of acrylic panels on the tables to be used in classrooms	80%
Strict implementation of minimum health protocols, such as wearing of face masks and face shields	76%
Frequency of face-to-face classes per week	75%
Strict implementation of physical distancing	73%
Availability of anti-COVID vaccines for all teachers and school personnel	69%
Proper and sufficient implementation of contact tracing	69%
Regular free COVID-19 testing for teachers and school personnel in my school while they are not yet vaccinated	66%
Assurance of treatment from government in case I get infected with COVID-19	64%
Risk severity of the area (COVID-19 cases)	56%
Availability of public transportation in the area	45%
Number of hours that I am in school on days that we have face-to-face classes	44%
Others	3%
None of the above	1%

NOTE: Sum of column percentages will exceed 100% as this question is a multiple response question.

# COVID-19 Vaccines

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# COVID-19 Vaccines

## Awareness

<b>AWARENESS - COVID-19 Vaccines</b>	<b>Responses</b>
YES	94%
NO	6%

## Importance of Full Vaccination of Teachers against COVID-19 prior to Resumption of F2F Classes

<b>AGREEMENT - Importance of Fully Vaccinating Teachers before F2F Classes Resume</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	72%
Can't Say	26%
No	3%

# COVID-19 Prevention Measures

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# COVID-19 Prevention Measures

PREVENTION MEASURES (n=7178)	Never	Rarely	Often	Always
Wearing face masks whenever you go out of the house	0.20%	1.90%	9.80%	<b>88.10%</b>
Wearing face shield whenever you go out of the house	1.30%	14.20%	35.40%	<b>49.10%</b>
Cleaning hands with soap and water	0.10%	3.20%	18.80%	<b>77.80%</b>
Cleaning hands with alcohol / hand sanitizer	0.20%	3.50%	18.60%	<b>77.70%</b>
Following 1-meter physical distancing	0.30%	8.00%	33.10%	<b>58.60%</b>
Avoiding touching the face (eyes, nose, mouth)	1.60%	15.50%	37.70%	<b>45.20%</b>
Avoiding crowded places	0.40%	6.80%	28.30%	<b>64.40%</b>
Staying at home especially if going out is not necessary	0.40%	3.70%	16.40%	<b>79.50%</b>
Taking vitamins	12.40%	24.60%	25.10%	<b>37.90%</b>
Covering nose and mouth whenever I cough or sneeze	0.30%	3.50%	17.60%	<b>78.60%</b>
Praying	1.40%	6.90%	15.90%	<b>75.80%</b>

# General Disposition

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# General Disposition

SELF-ASSESSED ECONOMIC STATUS	Responses
Rich	0.5%
<b>Not rich, not poor</b>	<b>61.9%</b>
Poor	37.7%

HAPPINESS RATING	Pre-pandemic	Present
Sad	18%	<b>54%</b>
Can't Say	18%	29%
Happy	<b>65%</b>	17%

# Respondent Information

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# Respondent Information

GRADE LEVELS	Responses
Grade 9	23%
Grade 10	27%
Grade 11	24%
Grade 12	23%
Unknown	2%

School Type	Responses
Public school	90%
Private School	7%
Unknown	2%

# Respondent Information

Island Groups	Responses
National Capital Region	22%
Balance Luzon	66%
Visayas	5%
Mindanao	8%

Gender	Responses
<b>Female</b>	<b>69%</b>
Male	31%

Age Groups	Responses
13-16	52%
17-19	45%
20 and above	4%

Working While Studying	Responses
Yes	10%
<b>No</b>	<b>90%</b>

Monthly Household Income	Responses
Php 20,000 and below	84.3%
Php 20,001 to Php 50,000	12.6%
Php 50,001 to Php 100,000	2.3%
Php 100,001 and above	0.8%

# Respondent Information

Sources of Information	Responses (multiple)
TV	83%
Social media (ex: Facebook)	78%
Online news website	52%
Family / relatives	41%
Friends / neighbors	34%
Radio	26%
Own experience, observations, and interactions	21%
Newspaper	8%
Church	6%
Brochure / pamphlets	2%
Others	2%

Specific Sources of Information (Top 10)	Responses (multiple)
GMA 7	63%
ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC)	51%
GMA News TV	46%
ABS-CBN News Online	28%
Kapamilya Channel	27%
GMA News Online	25%
ABS-CBN TeleRadyo	21%
CNN Philippines	20%
TV 5	18%
<a href="http://Inquirer.net">Inquirer.net</a>	16%

# Respondent Information

Home Internet Subscription	Responses
No home internet	50%
PLDT	17%
Globe at Home	12%
Converge	11%
Local internet provider	7%
SkyBroadband	3%

Modes of Connecting to Internet (without home internet, n=3613)	Responses
Mobile data (smartphone)	82%
PisoWifi	6%
Connects to neighbor's internet	4%
Pocket Wifi	3%
Does not / Rarely connects to the internet	3%
Borrows gadget from relative / friend / neighbor	1%
PisoNet	1%
Internet cafe / shop	0%

# Respondent Information

Daily Internet Use (Hours)	Responses
Less than 1 hour	6%
1-2 hours	12%
2-3 hours	11%
3-4 hours	10%
<b>4-5 hours</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>5-6 hours</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>6-7 hours</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>7-8 hours</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>More than 8 hours</b>	<b>31%</b>

Modes of Watching TV Programs	Responses
Digital free TV	32%
Antenna / analog free TV	31%
Satellite TV subscription	13%
Does not / Rarely watches TV	12%
Cable TV subscription	11%

# Respondent Information

## Voter Registration Status for 2022

Voter Registration Status for 2022 (n=2065)	Responses
Yes	48%
No	49%
Unknown	3%

*NOTE: Only respondents with ages 18 years old and above were asked this question.*

Plans to Register to Vote In 2022 (n=1015)	Responses
Yes	93%
No	7%

*NOTE: Only qualified respondents who answered NO to the Q about their voter registration status for 2022 were asked this question.*



# Respondent Information

## Primary Provider of the Household

Primary Provider	Responses
<b>Both parents</b>	<b>43%</b>
Father	27%
Mother	17%
Other relative	5%
Older sister	5%
Older brother	3%

Educational Attainment - Primary Provider	Responses
No formal education	0.4%
Elementary undergraduate	5.9%
Elementary graduate	7.6%
High school undergraduate	13.5%
Vocational	3.7%
<b>High school graduate</b>	<b>28.3%</b>
<b>College undergraduate</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
<b>College graduate</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
Masteral degree	2.5%
Doctoral degree	0.5%

Occupation / Livelihood Source - Primary Provider	Responses
<b>Government</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Owns a business</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Self-employed</b>	<b>32%</b>
Unemployed	14%



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**For more information, you may contact us:**

**[www.ioptionsventures.com](http://www.ioptionsventures.com)**

**[facebook.com/ioptionsvc](https://facebook.com/ioptionsvc)**

**[research@ioptionsventures.com](mailto:research@ioptionsventures.com)**