

Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2026

Chronic neglect of America's public schools forces students and educators across the country to learn and work in outdated and hazardous school buildings. We must address our failure to invest in school infrastructure.

Crumbling school facilities pose significant health and safety threats to more than 50 million students and 3 million teachers in public schools.

- A [June 2020](#) Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the state of school infrastructure—the agency's first on the subject since 1996—found that *54 percent of school districts nationwide* must replace or update major systems in more than half of their buildings.
- The GAO report estimated that four in ten districts need to update or replace Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in at least half of their school buildings, affecting 36,000 school buildings nationwide.
- Emergency federal funding in response to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) permitted schools and districts to use funds for targeted upgrades to maintain healthy facilities, including ventilation, roofing, and plumbing. However, it was not nearly enough to address the growing deterioration of our nation's aging schools.
- Research shows that poorly functioning ventilation systems are a barrier to teaching and learning, particularly for students of color concentrated in high-poverty, segregated schools.
 - For example, a [study of Baltimore City Public Schools](#) found that Black and Latino students lose approximately 10 percent of a year's worth of learning each year due to lack of air conditioning in school buildings, compared to less than 1 percent of a year's worth of learning for white students.

Public schools across the country need significant investment to make up for decades of neglect.

- In schools across the country, students and educators are learning and working in crumbling buildings with [asbestos](#), [contaminated water](#), and [mold](#). In 2012, the average school building was roughly [44 years old](#), which means that 1968 was the year the average school was built.
- The 2025 [State of Our Schools Report](#) found that state and local disinvestment in our nation's public school facilities has increased from \$46 billion in 2016 to nearly \$90 billion in 2025.

The *Rebuild America's Schools Act* would:

- Invest \$100 billion in grants and \$30 billion in bond authority targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- Create over 2 million jobs based on an [Economic Policy Institute analysis](#) that each \$1 billion spent on construction creates 17,785 jobs.
- Require states to develop comprehensive statewide public databases on the condition of public school facilities. Most states do not track school facility conditions, and such databases would provide much-needed insight into the condition of our public schools.
- Improve broadband and Wi-Fi in public schools.