

Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2023

Chronic neglect of America's public schools force students and educators across the country to learn and work in outdated and hazardous school buildings.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 report](#) from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the state of school infrastructure—the agency's first report on the subject since 1996—found that *54 percent of school districts across the country* must replace or update major systems in more than half their buildings.
- The GAO report estimated that *4 in 10 districts* need to update or replace Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems in at least half of their school buildings, which it projects to affect 36,000 school buildings nationwide.
- 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 are in need of 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 2021 [State of Our Schools Report](#) found that state and local disinvestment in our nation's public school facilities has grown from \$46 billion each year in 2016 to \$85 billion each year in 2021.

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 state-wide public databases on the condition of public-school facilities; most states do not track school facility conditions and would provide much-needed insight into the condition of our public schools; and
- Improve broadband and Wi-Fi in public schools.