

EDUCATION

United by America's Priorities

- Biden and Democrats fought to keep schools closed.
- Repeated waves of school closures across the country caused devastating learning losses for America's kids, and left students to struggle emotionally.
- While Democrat policies put unions and their far-left agenda ahead of America's children; Senate Republicans want to protect parents' rights, and ensure all kids can thrive.

The Crisis Democrats Created: School closures have led to devastating learning loss **Repeated waves of school closures across the country caused devastating learning losses for America's kids, and left students to struggle emotionally.**

Joe Biden and Senate Democrats fought to keep schools closed.

- Democrats' \$1.9 trillion so-called "American Rescue Plan" (ARP) did little to get schools open and kids back in class. In fact, Democrats made it harder to return to school.
- Democrats voted in lockstep against GOP efforts to reopen school classrooms.
 - » Democrats rejected Senator Rubio's amendment to make funding contingent on schools reopening.
 - » They rejected Senator Cassidy's amendment to provide assistance to non-public schools.
 - » They rejected Senator Cruz's amendment to provide children with an option for in-person education if public schools who received funding refused to reopen for full-time in-person education.
- Instead of pushing schools to use the \$67.5 billion that Congress provided in 2020 to help K-12 schools reopen quickly, Democrats piled on another \$122 billion for schools in their 2021 spending bill.
 - » Seventeen months later: just 15% of this "urgently-needed" money for schools has been spent.
- As parents pushed back on COVID policies Democrats sided with teachers' unions over parents.
 - » The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention allowed the nation's second-largest teachers union to help write COVID-19 guidelines that led to extended school closures during the pandemic.
 - » That's according [to a report](#) by House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

Repeated waves of school closures across the country caused **devastating** learning losses for students.

- Test scores have plummeted for children of all ages.
 - » Among students in elementary and middle-school test scores have plunged to new lows according to the latest data from the [Nation's Report Card](#).
 - The latest data show the largest math declines ever recorded for fourth- and eighth-graders.
 - » Among high schoolers: scores on the ACT exam [hit their lowest point in more than 30 years](#).
- Students are missing from enrollment.
 - » This year, nearly four in ten schools saw higher student absenteeism than during the pandemic.
- It's also left students to struggle emotionally.
 - » Eight in ten schools have reported increased socio-emotional struggles among students.
 - » In the first half of 2021, children's hospitals saw mental health emergencies among 5- to 17-year-olds increase by 14% (compared to 2019).
 - » Nearly [20% of high-school students](#) say they seriously considered suicide in the last year.
 - In 2021, the rate of suicide among girls aged 10 to 14 increased by [16 percent](#); among men ages 15 to 24 suicides rose by [8 percent](#).

Senate Republicans want to protect parents' rights and ensure all kids can thrive.

1. That means putting parents in charge of making the right choices for their children.
2. We want to expand educational freedom;
3. Address learning loss; and
4. Improve access to mental health resources for children.

Republicans have a record of putting forward legislative solutions to improve the **education** of our children.

1. [S.4753 - RECOVER Act](#)
2. [S.44 - Student Empowerment Act](#)
3. [S.4892 - PROTECT Kids Act](#)
4. [S.4416 - Educational Choice for Children Act](#)
5. [S.4369 - Safe Schools Act](#)
6. [S.4845 - Securing Our Schools Act](#)
7. [S.3862 - ACADEMIC Act](#)
8. [S.1585 - Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act](#)
9. [S.1390 - Youth Mental Health Services Act of 2021](#)
10. [S.4747 - Investing in Kids' Mental Health Now Act of 2022](#)
11. [S.4039 - MENTAL Health for Kids and Underserved Act](#)
12. [S.2488 - Suicide and Crisis Outreach Prevention Enhancement Act](#)
13. [S.3899 - Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2022](#)
14. [S.822 - Transparency for Confucius Institutes Act](#)

