

# 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](#)

