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*Education Priorities in the 117th
Congress: School Infrastructure*

School Infrastructure

Urge Congress to include the **Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act** within the next infrastructure package.

The Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act would:

- Provide needs-based grants to school districts from FY 2022 – FY 2026
- Authorize school infrastructure bond programs
- Increase funds for school construction in districts participating in the Impact Aid program that serves federally-connected students
- Provide assistance to repair school building foundations affected by pyrrhotite

Reopen and Rebuild America's Schools Act – H.R. 604 and S. 96

- <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr604/BILLS-117hr604ih.pdf>



National Infrastructure/ American Jobs Plan

- Proposes \$100 billion to upgrade and build new public schools, through \$50 billion in direct grants and an additional \$50 billion leveraged through bonds.
- Would replace 100 percent of the nation's lead pipes and service lines to reduce lead exposure in 400,000 schools and childcare facilities.
- Energy-efficient, resilient, and innovative school buildings with technology and labs

National Infrastructure/ American Jobs Plan

- Would fund renovations to school food service facilities, “so they can be used to better prepare nutritious meals for our students and go green by reducing or eliminating the use of paper plates and other disposable materials”
- Includes proposal to electrify at least 20 percent of our yellow school bus fleet through a new “Clean Buses for Kids Program” at the Environmental Protection Agency, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy
- Would increase investments in digital infrastructure and career development programs

Bipartisan Advance Refunding Legislation

- **LOCAL Infrastructure Act** (S. 479) - Introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- **Investing in Our Communities Act** (H.R. 2288) – Introduced by Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)
- Both bills would reinstate advance refunding into the federal tax code, enabling bond issuers to refinance outstanding bonds at lower interest rates.
- Would result in a savings to taxpayers and bond issuers (school districts, counties, municipalities, states, etc.)
- **Urge Congress to include this measure in any final infrastructure legislation.**

References

Congressional Research Service report titled, “School Construction and Renovation: A Review of Federal Programs and Legislation”

➤ <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41142/10>

Government Accountability Office report on “K-12 EDUCATION: School Districts Frequently Identified Multiple Building Systems Needing Updates or Replacement”

➤ <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-20-494.pdf>

Education Week article titled, “High Costs, Outdated Infrastructure Hinder Districts’ Air-Quality Efforts”

➤ <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/high-costs-outdated-infrastructure-hinder-districts-air-quality-efforts/2021/05>

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Working with and through our State Associations to
advocate for equity and excellence in public education
through school board leadership.

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