

Support the Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019



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“If we’re committed to helping every child fulfill his or her potential, then we have to provide safe and modern learning environments for every student.” — Carolyn Smith Evans, Teacher, Salem-Keizer School District, Oregon

POOR CONDITIONS UNDERMINE STUDENT LEARNING

- ▶ According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), the average public school building in the United States is **44 years old**.
- ▶ The [2017 Infrastructure Report Card](#) of the American Society of Civil Engineers gives the condition of America’s 100,000 public school buildings an **overall grade of D+**. Twenty-four percent of schools in permanent buildings and 31 percent of schools in temporary buildings are in “fair” or “poor” condition.
- ▶ The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) attributes **poor indoor air quality** in more than 60,000 schools to cockroaches, rodents, dust mites, fungi, and respiratory irritants from sources of formaldehyde and nitrogen dioxide.
- ▶ A [2017 EducationSuperHighway](#) report found that over **19,000 schools serving 11.6 million students** “are without the minimum connectivity necessary for digital learning.”

INVEST IN SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND CONSTRUCTION

- ▶ The [U.S. Department of Education](#) estimates that it would cost about \$4.5 million per school — a total of **\$197 billion** — to make the repairs and renovations necessary to ensure that all our public schools are in good condition.
- ▶ The **Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2019** would:
 - Create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax-credit bond program that targets high-poverty schools whose facilities pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
 - Restore Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs), which were eliminated by the 2017 GOP tax bill, and permanently increase the national limit to \$1.4 billion per year.
 - QZABs allow qualifying schools to finance renovations, repairs, and investments in technology at below-market rates — sometimes, as low as zero. School districts pay back the amount of money borrowed initially, but do not have to pay any interest — typically, about half the cost of renovating a school.
 - Financial institutions holding QZABs receive tax credits in lieu of interest.
 - Leverage existing public programs or public-private partnerships to expand access to high-speed broadband sufficient for digital learning.
 - Create over 1.9 million jobs (based on an Economic Policy Institute analysis that found each \$1 billion spent on construction creates 17,785 jobs).