Cosponsor the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act (S. 96/H.R. 604)

America spends more on public schools than any part of our infrastructure except roads and highways. We have 100,000 public schools housing more than 50 million students and educators. Yet many of those schools are poorly equipped or in poor physical condition—so poor it undermines student learning.

FACTS & FIGURES
- President Biden’s American Jobs Plan includes $100 billion to modernize K-12 public school facilities, $12 billion to upgrade the community college infrastructure, and $25 billion to improve child care facilities—a good start that leaves room for further improvement and increased investment.
- According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the best estimates indicate an annual funding gap of at least $38 billion for public school facilities.

WHY WE NEED ACTION
- Nine out of ten Americans attend public schools—the overwhelming majority.
- School facilities are the second largest sector of public infrastructure spending.
- Half our public schools are more than 50 years old.
- Too many students endure classrooms in poor condition—too hot, too cold, or infested with vermin.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION
- Modernizing public schools is an investment in our nation’s future—the best investment we can make.
- NEA supports the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act, which would:
  - Create a $100 billion grant program and $30 billion tax-credit bond program targeting high-poverty schools whose facilities pose health and safety risks to students and staff
  - Allocate dollars on an emergency basis to help reopen public schools safely in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

REVENUE RAISERS
- Congress needs to ensure robust federal investment in school modernization and other essential infrastructure improvements.
- NEA supports proposals that require corporations and wealthy individuals to pay their fair share—for example, raising corporate tax rates, closing loopholes that allow corporations to avoid paying any taxes, and increasing the top marginal rate for those earning more than $400,000 per year.

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