

Rebuild America's Schools Act (H.R. 865/S. 266) Bill Summary



The Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019 ([H.R. 865/S. 266](#))

School facilities pose significant health and safety threats to over 50 million students and 3 million teachers in public schools. Chronic exposures to common environmental factors in school buildings, including indoor air pollution, mold, pests, pesticides, radon, asbestos, lead, inadequate lighting and elevated noise levels can negatively impact student health and their ability to learn and performance in school. In 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that almost half of U.S. public schools have environmental conditions that contribute to poor indoor environmental quality (IEQ).

And that's not all. Too many schools lack access to sufficient high-speed digital infrastructure needed to support 21st-century learning. A 2017 [EducationSuperHighway report](#) found that over 19,000 schools serving more than 11.6 million students "are without the minimum connectivity necessary for digital learning."

- The 2016 [State of Our Schools Report](#) determined there is an annual state and local spending gap of \$46 billion on school facilities.
- A 2014 [Department of Education study](#) estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into good condition.
- A [2006 Building Education Success Together report](#) found that high-poverty and minority-serving schools are unable to adequately invest in school facilities. Schools predominantly serving white students spend nearly 50% more on construction than those serving minority students, and wealthy districts spend nearly triple their high-poverty counterparts.

The Rebuild America's Schools Act would invest \$100 billion to create over 1.9 million jobs by addressing critical physical and digital infrastructure needs in schools. This bill would:

- Create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff.
- Leverage federal, state and local resources for an overall investment of \$107 billion, creating over 1.9 million jobs based on an [Economic Policy Institute analysis](#) that each \$1 billion spent on construction creates 17,785 jobs.
- Develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public-school facilities; such a national database currently does not exist and would provide much-needed insight into the condition of our public schools.
- Expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that public schools have the reliable and high-speed internet access they need for digital learning.