

Unleashing K–12 innovation in the wake of COVID-19

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“Often, when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else,” Fred Rogers once said. And that’s exactly where we find ourselves now — **what “something else” will look like is largely up to us.**

– Gregg Behr, Co-Chair, Remake Learning Pittsburgh,
“The beginning of something else”

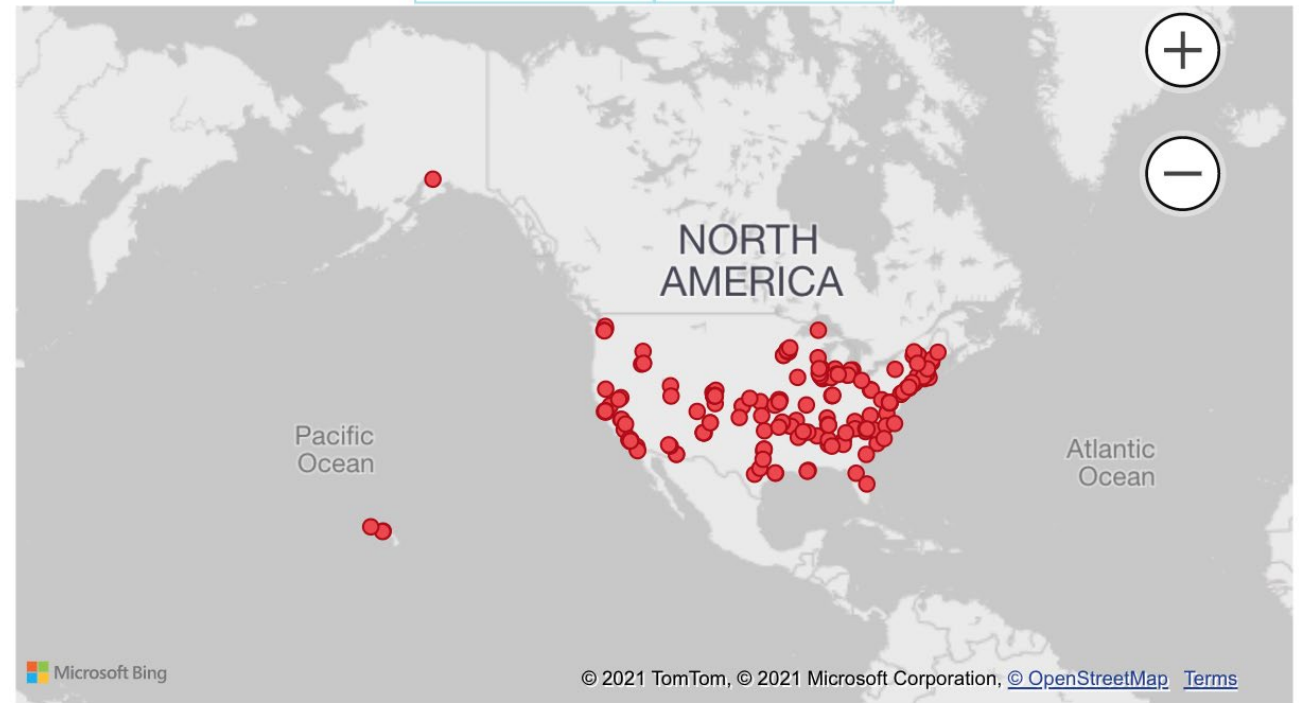
Let's start with some premises...

- Public education is essential to American democracy and progress.
- But our conventional system is designed to stack and rank, not support every learner to fulfill their unique potential.
- So “back to normal” isn’t a goal to aspire to in K-12 education.

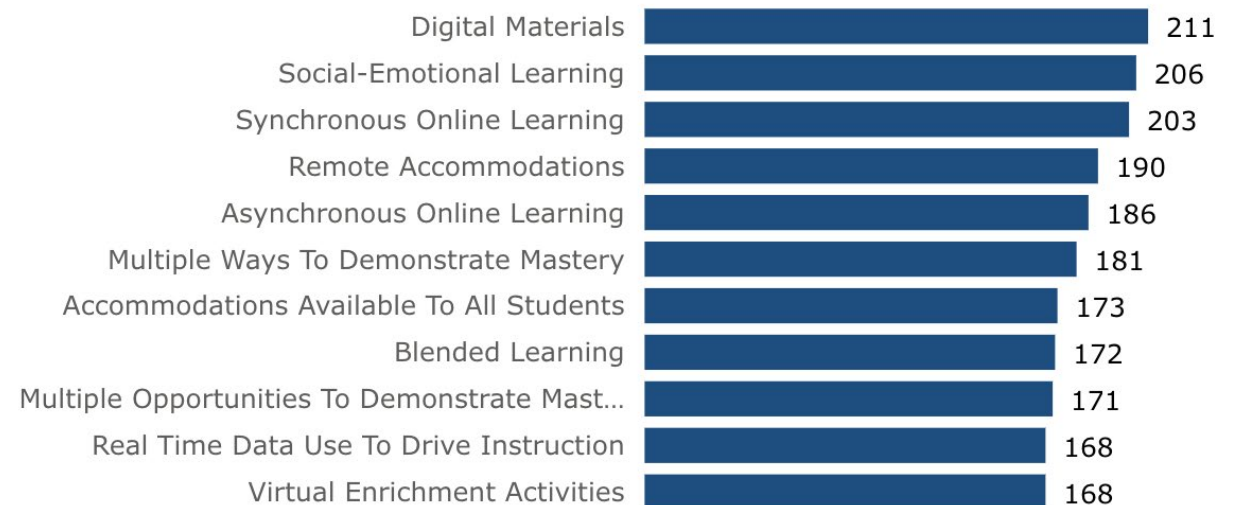
What does “something else” look like?

232 schools in
the Canopy
Project are
challenging our
assumptions
about “school”

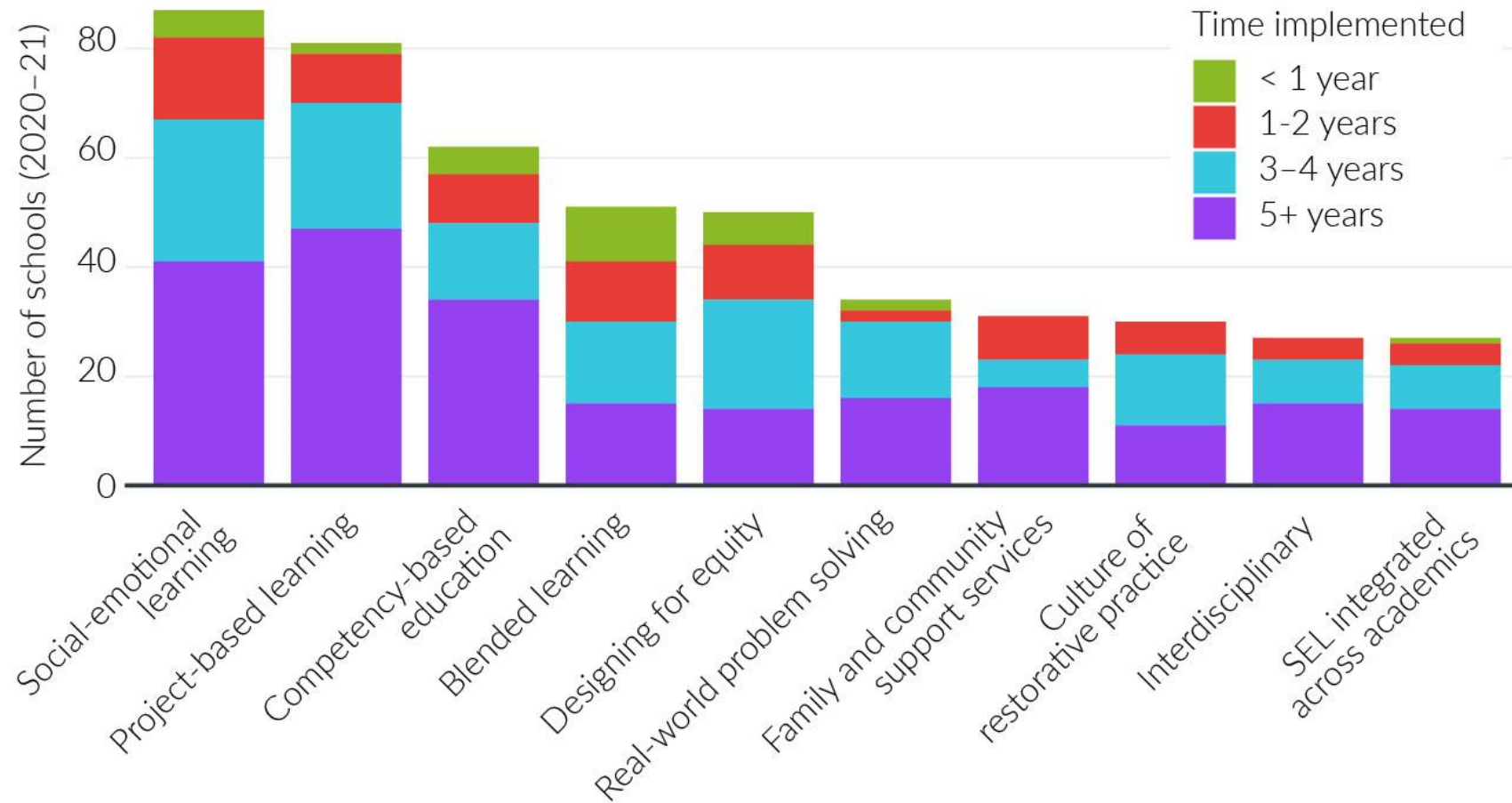
www.canopyschools.org



Most Common Self-Identified Practices (core and non-core)



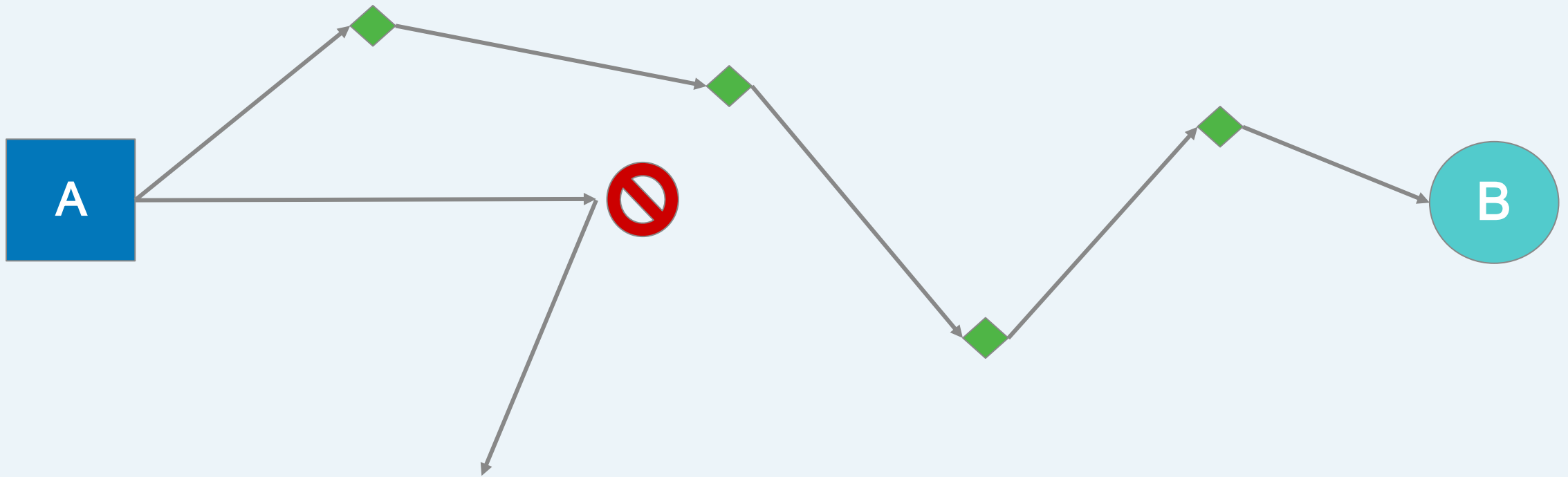
Most common “core” practices in innovative schools



Five assumptions innovative schools are overturning

1. Learning must happen inside school walls.
2. Virtual learning is inherently inferior.
3. Equity just means closing the achievement gap.
4. Academic learning can be separated from whole-child supports.
5. Certified teachers are the only adults who can help students succeed in school.

Designing public education for flexibility and responsiveness



“Public education is a goal, not a particular set of institutions.”

Paul Hill, Founder of CRPE

Impact of COVID-19 on School Districts

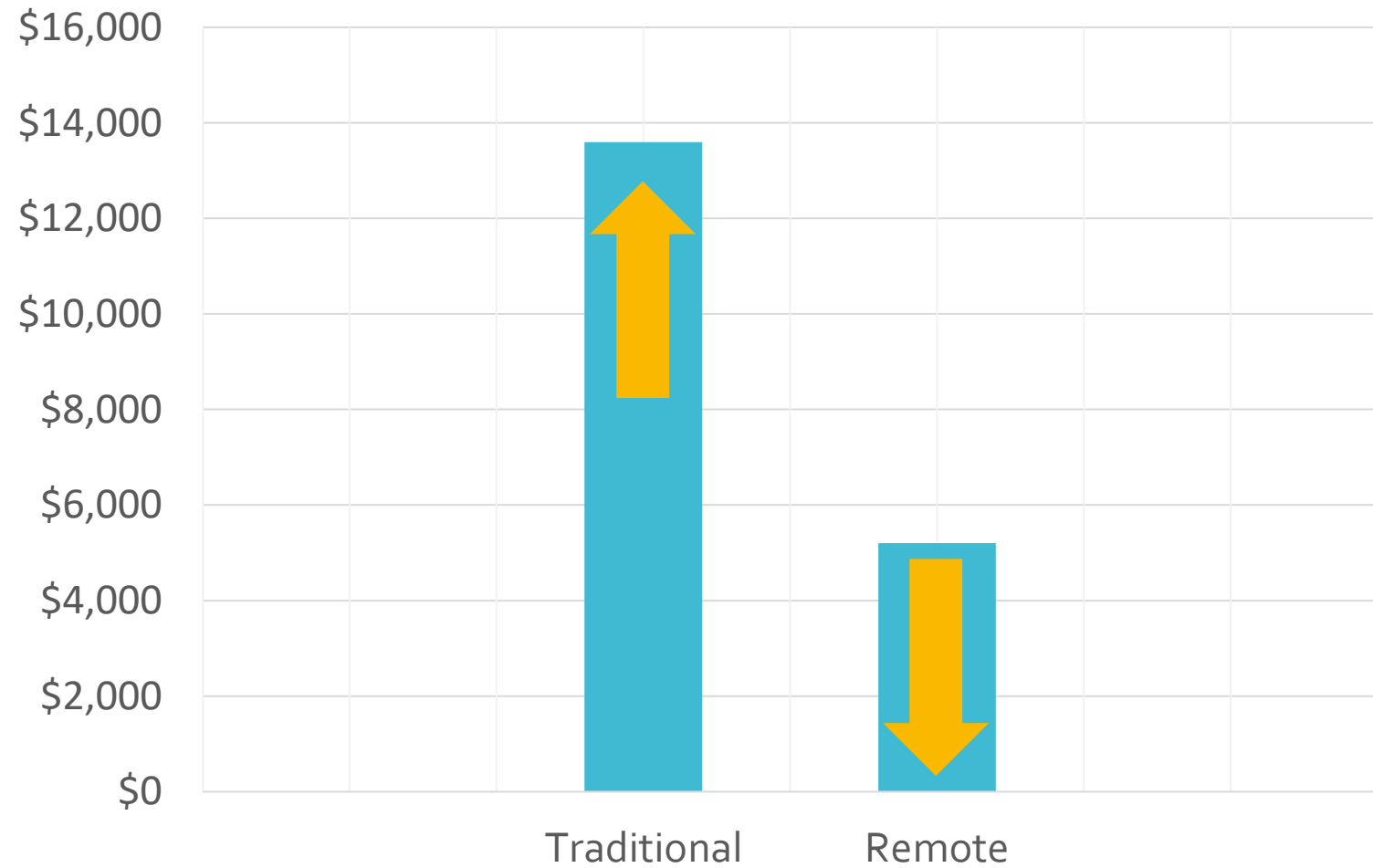
The American Planning Association

November 5, 2021

John M. McLaughlin, Ph.D. McLaughlin Advisors, Inc.
mclaughlinadvisors.com

Remote Learning is Here to Stay

Cost of In-Person vs Remote Learning



Choice & Vouchers will Expand

ACROSS the US

7,400 Charter schools enroll 3.3 M

28 voucher programs support 230K

24 tax credit programs support 300K

IDEA sends 100K to private special schools

5M
homeschoolers
in 2020-21

Saved
taxpayers \$65B

**HOME
SCHOOLING
will Mushroom**

Traditionally-
sized
**School
Buildings**
will be
Less Needed

Going the way of shopping malls,
movie theaters, and office buildings

School will become check-in stations
not holding tanks

100K school buildings need \$300B in
repairs (to meet codes)

MEGA TRENDS

BIRTH RATE DECREASING

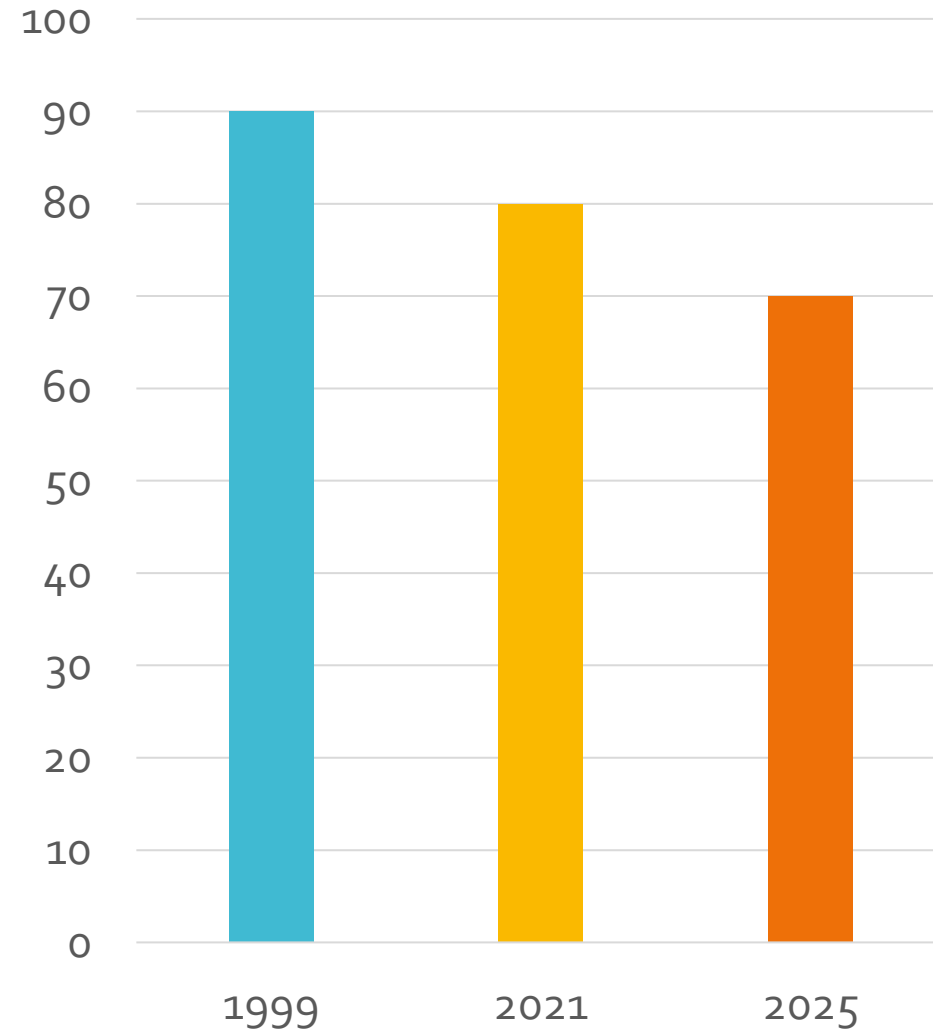
- Six straight years of decline
- 2020 lowest rate since 1979
- 3.6 million births in 2020
- 3.7 million seniors in Class of 2021
- Moving to negative replacement rate

DIGITAL LEARNING- \$160B

- Pre-pandemic was expected to reach \$1T by 2034
- Post-pandemic will reach \$1T by 2027

Public Education's Market Share is Decreasing

Percent of Enrollment





Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

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Pennsylvania Public School Enrollment Shifts

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2019 - 2020														
Public	124,275	125,639	125,930	127,953	128,566	131,956	136,324	137,397	135,653	141,313	137,466	131,397	129,404	1,713,273
PNPE	17,893	16,309	15,770	15,798	16,079	16,150	16,356	16,166	16,230	14,970	15,426	15,084	15,278	207,509
Total	142,168	141,948	141,700	143,751	144,645	148,106	152,680	153,563	151,883	156,283	152,892	146,481	144,682	1,920,782
2020 - 2021														
Public	111,305	123,467	123,919	124,929	127,342	128,084	131,909	136,863	137,310	140,893	137,280	133,221	131,166	1,687,688
PNPE	16,911	15,704	15,374	15,160	15,094	15,384	15,519	15,274	15,395	14,373	14,409	14,611	14,831	198,039
Total	128,216	139,171	139,293	140,089	142,436	143,468	147,428	152,137	152,705	155,266	151,689	147,832	145,997	1,885,727
Diff	-13,952	-2,777	-2,407	-3,662	-2,209	-4,638	-5,252	-1,426	822	-1,017	-1,203	1,351	1,315	-35,055
2021 - 2022 PROJECTED														
Public	119,439	125,953	123,119	124,406	125,342	128,215	129,204	133,259	137,286	144,726	137,098	132,364	132,863	1,693,274
PNPE	16,991	15,795	15,187	15,140	14,898	14,896	15,284	15,752	18,016	16,616	17,088	18,196	17,365	211,224
Total	136,430	141,748	138,306	139,546	140,240	143,111	144,488	149,011	155,302	161,342	154,186	150,560	150,228	1,904,498
	8,214	2,577	-987	-543	-2,196	-357	-2,940	-3,126	2,597	6,076	2,497	2,728	4,231	18,771

Long-Term Academic and Social-Emotional Impact

- Student learning gaps may take years to close. Research shows that the longer students remain in online learning, the greater their learning gap grows. This is true with most cyber charter schools as well as district-run online learning.
- Level funding or insufficient increases in state funding to schools will force some combination higher property taxes, local district program cuts, and personnel cuts.
- At the very time more permanent personnel will be needed to assist struggling students with **long-term** academic and mental health services, funds will be lacking to hire these positions.
- State policy makers will be forced to increase subsidies or let school districts deal with the financial crisis on their own.



Pennsylvania Federal ESSER Allocations

ESSER I Allocation

- \$523,807,198 to PA
- \$471,426,478 to Schools (90%)
- \$49,761,478 to State Education Agency Set Aside (9.5%)
- \$2,619,036 to State Administration Set Aside (.5%)

ESSER II Allocation

- \$2,224,964, 030 to PA
- \$2,224,964,030 to Schools (100%)

ESSER III Allocation (Estimate)

- \$5,029,726,826 to PA
- \$4,551, 902,778 to Schools (90.5%) - \$910,380, 556 for Learning Loss (20%)
- \$477,824,048 to State Education Agency Set Aside (9.5%)

IDEA Allocation as Part of ESSER III - \$3,030,000,000

Private School Allocation - \$2,750,000,000

PA to receive \$13.7 billion - State Government to receive approx. \$7.3 billion



Financial Impact

- School districts paid an additional \$475 million in charter school cost in 2020-2021 as a result of more families choosing charter schools. Cyber charter school tuition increases alone went up \$350 million.
- In 2020-2021, while state funding for schools was flat, PA school districts were forced to cover mandated costs that spiked by \$665 million. **They faced another increase of \$485 million in 2021-2022 year for a two-year increase of \$1.15 billion.**
- Federal funds will assist districts with a **one-time** infusion of cash to assist with COVID-19 expenses. These stimulus packages **will not** be enough to overcome long-term student service need.
- However, these funds will most likely create a boom in building renovation and HVAC upgrades to improve the health and learning environment of students and staff.

Top Proposed Uses of Federal ESSERS Funds Reported by Districts in Spring 2021

1. Purchasing educational technology for students to aid in regular classroom instruction 87.67%
2. Addressing learning loss among students 87.67%
3. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs 85.84%
4. Providing technology/internet access for online learning to all students 77.63%
5. Providing mental health services and supports 70.32%
6. **Facility repairs/improvements to enable operation and reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards 63.47%**

PASBO-PASA Annual Budget Report – June 2021