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

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Center on Reinventing Public Education
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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 “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

- Traditional: $16,000
- Remote: $0

McLauglin Advisors
ACROSS the US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Students/Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charter schools</td>
<td>7,400 Charter schools enroll 3.3 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voucher programs</td>
<td>28 voucher programs support 230K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax credit programs</td>
<td>24 tax credit programs support 300K</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA</td>
<td>IDEA sends 100K to private special schools</td>
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Choice & Vouchers will Expand
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
THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS

NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Mark D. DiRocco, Ph.D.
Executive Director
mdirocco@pasa-net.org
717-514-8718
## Pennsylvania Public School Enrollment Shifts

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<td>822</td>
<td>-1,017</td>
<td>-1,203</td>
<td>1,351</td>
<td>1,315</td>
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<td>2,497</td>
<td>2,728</td>
<td>4,231</td>
<td>18,771</td>
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</table>
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*