

U.S. Representative
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Proudly Serving Florida's 26th District



Safe Considerations of the Health Of Our Learning Students (SCHOOLS) Act

State and local educational agencies must be empowered with detailed public health guidance, and the resources needed to secure supplies to ensure the safety of educators, staff, and students in our schools.

Endorsed by: American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

The Problem

State and local educational agencies across the country are grappling with the difficult decision of reopening schools, balancing the detrimental impacts of school closures with the public health risks of increased COVID-19 transmission should schools reopen. The CDC has issued some guidance for re-opening; however they leave significant questions unanswered and have been subject to political pressures and interference from the White House.

Compounding these problems, many schools around the country are being pushed to fully reestablish in-person learning without any guarantee of funding to acquire the supplies and equipment needed to keep students, educators, and administrative staff safe.

The Solution

A comprehensive approach is needed that provides further clarity on the public health implications for reopening schools, while also providing local educational agencies with the resources needed to either safely reopen or build up digital tools to continue remote learning.

The SCHOOLS Act

The SCHOOLS Act would require the CDC to conduct a study on the impacts of the coronavirus on children. CDC would issue updated recommendations and guidance based on these findings, to better inform state and local educational agencies on best practices.

Significant funding would then be provided to K-12 public schools to procure the supplies needed to safely conduct in-person instruction or expand digital learning tools for remote instruction.

Specifically, the legislation would do the following:

- The CDC would study COVID-19's impact on children and issue recommended public health conditions for school reopening.
- CDC would also issue updated guidance and best practices in the school setting, including classroom distancing, mask use, school meals, physical recreation, transportation, and more.
- The Department of Education would distribute \$300 billion to states to deliver directly to local education agencies to procure needed supplies, provide training, expand staff as needed, and many other uses.