



H.R. 2475 The Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017

In 2014, a [Department of Education study](#) estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into good condition. The 2016 [State of Our Schools Report](#) determined there is an annual state and local spending gap of \$46 billion on school facilities. 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 capital construction than those serving minority students, and wealthy districts spend nearly triple their high-poverty counterparts.

School facilities still pose significant health and safety threats to more than 50 million students and 3 million teachers in public schools. A 1996 GAO Report—the most recent GAO study on this issue—determined that poor school facility conditions were concentrated in high-poverty schools serving minority students. The GAO found then that over 15,000 schools were circulating air unfit to breathe. According to a 2014 CDC survey, only 46.5% of schools have a program in place today to address indoor air quality issues.

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 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. Upon enactment, 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.