

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BIDEN'S EDUCATION PLAN

THIS IS AN EXCERPT OF A PRO ANALYSIS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN BY MICHAEL STRATFORD AND ANNETTE CHOI

## HOW WE GOT HERE

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Former Vice President Joe Biden would drastically increase federal funding for education at all levels, pitching several major new programs aimed at supporting traditional public schools and making higher education less expensive.

Biden proposes spending \$45 billion on federal grants to low income school districts under Title I, which would roughly triple the program's current level of funding, as part of what his campaign called an effort to narrow the gap between majority white and nonwhite school districts. The additional money would be used to boost teacher pay and make sure students have access to rigorous coursework, among other things.

### Biden's school reopening road map

Biden has blasted President Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic in all areas, including what he's called a lack of strategy to address reopening schools. Biden has proposed a five-point plan for how he would handle school reopenings differently:

- 1 **'Get the virus under control.'** Biden said he would invoke the Defense Production Act to boost the nation's supply of personal protective equipment and make sure that each school has enough masks.
- 2 **National standards.** Biden said he would task federal public health officials with developing "effective national guidelines" for reopening schools, "not mixed messages and political ultimatums." But he would leave reopening decisions up to local officials.
- 3 **Emergency funding for schools.** Biden said Congress should pass a separate package of emergency appropriations to help schools adapt to Covid-19.
- 4 **Boost 'high-quality' remote learning.** Biden said he would task the Education Department to work with experts to share best practices and tools to help schools make sure online learning is effective during the pandemic.
- 5 **Funding to address Covid educational equity gap.** Biden proposes new federal grants to help educators come up with evidence-based strategies for remedying a lost year of education that particularly sets low-income students and students of color further behind.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Beyond Biden's big-ticket education agenda items, he has also called on Congress to pass Democrats' Covid relief proposals that call for hundreds of billions of dollars in emergency relief for schools and colleges. If Congress hasn't passed additional Covid relief by next January, that will be something the Biden administration has to address.

## POWER PLAYERS

**Patty Murray**  
Chair of Senate  
HELP Committee

**Bobby Scott**  
Chair of House  
Education Committee

**Randi Weingarten**  
Head of American  
Federation of Teachers

**Elizabeth Warren**  
Senator from  
Massachusetts

**Jill Biden**  
First Lady, and  
longtime educator

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