

Teachers Unions Are Responsible For Education Learning Losses

Resistance by "powerful" teachers unions to reopening schools led to poor outcomes for students

Did you know...?

Rigorous studies found that in-person schooling was safe and not contributing to community spread of COVID, **but school systems with powerful teachers unions remained closed** to in-person learning.

[Read more at The New York Times →](#)

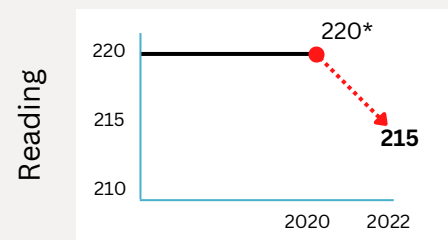
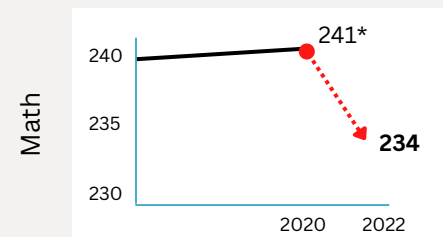
Test scores for the 'Nation's Report Card' showed that **two decades of growth in math and reading proficiency were wiped out** by pandemic-disrupted learning practices.

[Read more at The 74 →](#)

The nation's public school system saw a **1.2M drop in enrollment** since 2020 as parents shifted towards sending their children to charter and private schools.

[Read more at the AP →](#)

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



*Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2022.



Powerful Teachers Unions “Drove Schools To Stay Closed” Despite Growing Evidence That In-Person Learning Was Safe.

[Learn more on page 4 →](#)

TEACHERS UNIONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION LEARNING LOSSES

RESISTANCE BY “POWERFUL” TEACHERS UNIONS TO REOPENING SCHOOLS LED TO POOR OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

Pandemic-Related School Closures Led To Steep Learning Losses All Across The Country

School Closures “Imposed Devastating Consequences On The Students Who Endured It.” “It is now indisputable, and almost undisputed, that the year and a quarter of virtual school imposed devastating consequences on the students who endured it.” (Jonathan Chait, “School Closures Were A Catastrophic Error. Progressives Still Haven’t Reckoned With It.,” [New York Magazine](#), 1/17/22)

As A Result, Students Have “Experienced Troubling Setbacks”

According To The “Nation’s Report Card” On Educational Progress, “Students Across Almost All Demographic Groups Experienced Troubling Setbacks In Both Math And Reading.” “U.S. students in most states and across almost all demographic groups have experienced troubling setbacks in both math and reading, according to an authoritative national exam released on Monday, offering the most definitive indictment yet of the pandemic’s impact on millions of schoolchildren.” (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

- **Pandemic-Disrupted Learning Wiped Away “Two Decades Of Growth For American Students In Reading And Math.”** “Two decades of growth for American students in reading and math were wiped away by just two years of pandemic-disrupted learning, according to national test scores released this morning. Dismal releases from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) — often referred to as the ‘nation’s report card’ — have become a biannual tradition in recent years as academic progress first stalled, then eroded for both fourth and eighth graders.” (Kevin Mahnken, “‘Nations Report Card’: Two Decades Of Growth Wiped Out By Two Years Of Pandemic,” [The74](#), 9/1/22)

The Math Results Were “Devastating” And Represented The “Steepest Declines Ever Recorded.” “In math, the results were especially devastating, representing the steepest declines ever recorded on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the nation’s report card, which tests a broad sampling of fourth and eighth graders and dates to the early 1990s.” (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

- **“In The Test’s First Results Since The Pandemic Began, Math Scores For Eighth Graders Fell In Nearly Every State. A Meager 26 Percent Of Eighth Graders Were Proficient, Down From 34 Percent In 2019.”** (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)
- **“Fourth Graders Fared Only Slightly Better, With Declines In 41 States. Just 36 Percent Of Fourth Graders Were Proficient In Math, Down From 41 Percent.”** (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

Reading Scores Declined In More Than Half The States And “Only About One In Three Students Met Proficiency Standards.” “Reading scores also declined in more than half the states, continuing a downward trend that had begun even before the pandemic. No state showed sizable improvement in reading. And only about one in three students met proficiency standards, a designation that means students have demonstrated competency and are on track for future success.” (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

- **31 Percent Of Eighth Graders Were Proficient. 33 Percent Of Fourth Graders Were Proficient.** (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

Vulnerable Students Fell Further Behind And “Their Test Scores Were Often More Pronounced.” “And for the country’s most vulnerable students, the pandemic has left them even further behind. The drops in their test scores were often more pronounced, and their climbs to proficiency are now that much more daunting.” (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

Students Who Were Already Behind In Math And Reading Fell Even Further Behind High-Performing Students. “The pandemic laid bare the deep and troubling inequalities that dominate many aspects of American life — especially in education. In fourth grade, for both math and reading, students in the bottom 25th percentile lost more ground compared with students at the top of their class, leaving the low-performing students further behind. And Black and Hispanic students, who started out behind white and Asian peers, experienced sharper declines than those groups in fourth-grade math.” (Sarah Mervosh and Ashley Wu, “Math Scores Fell In Nearly Every State, And Reading Dipped On National Exam,” [The New York Times](#), 10/24/22)

Millions Of Children Dropped Out Of The Public School System, While Enrollment In Private And Charter Schools Increased

A May 2022 Study Found Covid “Supercharged” The Drop In Public-School Enrollment As It Had Lost At Least 1.2 Million Students Since 2020. “All together, America’s public schools have lost at least 1.2 million students since 2020, according to a recently published national survey. State enrollment figures show no sign of a rebound to the previous national levels any time soon. A broad decline was already underway in the nation’s public school system as rates of birth and immigration have fallen, particularly in cities. But the coronavirus crisis supercharged that drop in ways that experts say will not easily be reversed.” (Shawn Hubler, “With Plunging Enrollment, A ‘Seismic Hit’ To Public Schools,” [The New York Times](#), 5/17/22)

- **School Closures And Parents Being Wary Of Remote Instruction And Mask Mandates Caused Students To Drop Out Of Public Schools.** “But experts point to two potential causes: Some parents became so fed up with remote instruction or mask mandates that they started home-schooling their children or sending them to private or parochial schools that largely remained open during the pandemic. And other families were thrown into such turmoil by pandemic-related job losses, homelessness and school closures that their children simply dropped out.” (Shawn Hubler, “With Plunging Enrollment, A ‘Seismic Hit’ To Public Schools,” [The New York Times](#), 5/17/22)

A Poll From Education Next Found That 2 Million Students Stopped Attending Public Schools During The Pandemic. “Almost 2 million students stopped attending public schools between 2020 and 2021, enrollment data shows. In a recent poll from Education Next, district-operated schools lost 4 percent of their students during those two years, with those children enrolling in other types of schooling.” (Alejandra O’Connell-Domenech, “Nearly 2 Million Fewer Students Have Enrolled In Public School,” [The Hill](#), 8/16/22)

According To The Poll, There Was A Nine Percent Drop In Students Attending Public Schools From Spring Of 2020 To November 2020. “In the spring of 2020, 81 percent of schoolchildren in the United States were enrolled in district schools, according to parental response to the poll. By November of that year, enrollment in district schools had plummeted to 72 percent, according to Education Next numbers.” (Alejandra O’Connell-Domenech, “Nearly 2 Million Fewer Students Have Enrolled In Public School,” [The Hill](#), 8/16/22)

- **“That Percentage Drop Means That Almost 2 Million Students Have Left A Traditional Public School For Either A Charter Or Private School Or To Be Homeschooled.”** (Alejandra O’Connell-Domenech, “Nearly 2 Million Fewer Students Have Enrolled In Public School,” [The Hill](#), 8/16/22)

The Poll Also Found Private School Enrollment Increased To 10 Percent In 2022, From 8 Percent In Spring Of 2020, And Charter School Attendance Increased From 5 Percent To 7 Percent Over That Same Time Period. “Poll findings show that the three other schooling alternatives have seen bumps in enrollment numbers. In 2022, private school enrollment ticked up to 10 percent compared to 8 percent in the spring of 2020, and the number

of U.S. children attending a charter school went up from 5 percent to 7 percent over that same period of time.” (Alejandra O’Connell-Domenech, “Nearly 2 Million Fewer Students Have Enrolled In Public School,” [The Hill](#), 8/16/22)

“The National Association Of Independent Schools And The National Catholic Education Association Have Reported Increases That Total About 73,000 K-12 Students During The Past Two Years.” “Private schools have also seen some gains in enrollment. Federal head counts have not yet been released, but both the National Association of Independent Schools and the National Catholic Educational Association have reported increases that total about 73,000 K-12 students during the past two years.” (Shawn Hubler, “With Plunging Enrollment, A ‘Seismic Hit’ To Public Schools,” [The New York Times](#), 5/17/22)

The National Alliance For Public Charter Schools Found Public Charter School Rolls Increased By 7 Percent During The Pandemic, With An Enrollment Increase Of 240,000 Kids. “US public-school enrollment fell 3.5% during the two pandemic years — about 1.5 million students — while public charter school rolls jumped 7%, a new report notes. Families are voting with their feet, and if they can’t choose charters they’re leaving public education altogether. The study commissioned by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools covers the 39 of the 41 states with public charter schools; enrollment rose a total of 240,000 kids, though total US charter rolls are only 3.6 million.” (Editorial, “Charter Schools Are Now The Last Best Hope To Save US Public Education,” [New York Post](#), 11/21/22)

Powerful Teachers Unions “Drove Schools To Stay Closed” Despite Growing Evidence That In-Person Learning Was Safe

Sociologists Have Found That Unionized Teachers Located In Democratic Areas And Places Where Union Strength Was Prevalent “Drove Schools To Stay Closed” Throughout The Pandemic. “Social scientists have measured the factors that drove schools to stay closed last year. One study found schools with unionized teachers, more of which were located in more Democratic-voting districts, were more likely to remain all virtual. Another likewise found ‘local political partisanship and union strength,’ rather than the local severity of COVID, predicted school closing.” (Jonathan Chait, “School Closures Were A Catastrophic Error. Progressives Still Haven’t Reckoned With It,” [New York Magazine](#), 1/17/22)

“In The Country’s Largest School Systems, ... Teacher Unions And Concerned Parents Fought Plans To Reopen.” “In the country’s largest school systems, such as those in New York City, Los Angeles, D.C. and Chicago, teacher unions and concerned parents fought plans to reopen.” (Perry Stein, “These Schools Did Less To Contain Covid. Their Students Flourished,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/14/22)

- **Those “Schools Remained Closed For Many Months.”** “In some parts of the country, the worst of the disruptions were short lived, with schools reopening that fall. But in other areas, particularly in big cities with large populations of low-income students and students of color, schools remained closed for many months, and some did not fully reopen until last year.” (Sarah Mervosh, “The Pandemic Erased Two Decades Of Progress In Math And Reading,” [The New York Times](#), 9/1/22)

Despite Studies Showing Schools Weren’t Contributing To COVID-19 Spread, “Powerful Teachers Unions Fought Returning To Classrooms.” “By winter, studies showed schools weren’t contributing to increased COVID-19 spread in the community. Classes with masked students and distancing could be conducted safely, growing evidence said. ... Yet many schools stayed closed well into the spring, including in California, where the state’s powerful teachers unions fought returning to classrooms, citing lack of safety protocols.” (Bianca Vázquez Tones and Jocelyn Gecker, “Online School Puts US Kids Behind. Some Adults Have Regrets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/21/22)

Union Leaders “Drew Public Ire For Slowing Reopening Timelines Even After Educators Were Given Early Access To The Vaccine.” “And national and state teachers’ union leaders drew public ire for slowing reopening timelines even after educators were given early access to the vaccine.” (Dana Goldstein, “In Virginia, Frustration With Schooling During The Pandemic Played A Part In Youngkin’s Win,” [The Washington Post](#), 11/3/21)

Educators Across The Country Have Questioned Decisions By Numerous Cities For Opting For Online Learning Rather Than Reopening Schools. “Preliminary test scores around the country confirm what Kargbo witnessed: The longer many students studied remotely, the less they learned. Some educators and parents are

questioning decisions in cities from Boston to Chicago to Los Angeles to remain online long after clear evidence emerged that schools weren't COVID-19 super-spreaders — and months after life-saving adult vaccines became widely available.” (Bianca Vázquez Toness and Jocelyn Gecker, “Online School Puts US Kids Behind. Some Adults Have Regrets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/21/22)

Experts Have Suggested Numerous Options, Including Increased School Time To Make Up For Education Loss; However, Unions Have Made It “Politically Impossible” And The Federal Government Isn’t Doing Enough

Education Experts Have Suggested Adding Extra School Time, Intensive Tutoring, Saturday School And Doubling Up On Math And Reading Classes To Make Up Learning Loss From The Pandemic. “Short of extending the school year, experts say intensive tutoring is the most efficient way to help students catch up. Saturday school or doubling up on math or reading during a regular school day would also help. Too few school districts have made those investments, Harvard economist Tom Kane said. Summer school is insufficient, Kane says — it’s voluntary, and many parents don’t sign up.” (Bianca Vázquez Toness and Jocelyn Gecker, “Online School Puts US Kids Behind. Some Adults Have Regrets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/21/22)

However, “Adding School Time For Students Is Politically Impossible” Due To Teachers Unions And School Boards Rejecting More School Days. “Adding school time for students is politically impossible in many cities. In Los Angeles, the teachers union filed a complaint after the district scheduled four optional school days for students to recoup learning. The school board in Richmond rejected a move to an all-year school calendar.” (Bianca Vázquez Toness and Jocelyn Gecker, “Online School Puts US Kids Behind. Some Adults Have Regrets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/21/22)

Education Spending By The Federal Government Has Fallen Short, As Researchers Estimate It Would Cost \$700 Billion To Offset Learning Loss, Three Times More Than \$190 Billion That’s Been Allocated For Education. “Even the federal government’s record education spending isn’t enough for the scope of kids’ academic setbacks, according to the American Educational Research Association. Researchers there estimate it will cost \$700 billion to offset learning loss for America’s schoolchildren – more than three times the \$190 billion allocated to schools.” (Bianca Vázquez Toness and Jocelyn Gecker, “Online School Puts US Kids Behind. Some Adults Have Regrets,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/21/22)

Teachers Unions Have Heavily Favored Democratic Politicians

In The 2022 Midterms, Teachers Unions Have Contributed Millions Of Dollars To Mostly Democratic Candidates And Committees. “With less than two weeks before the midterm elections, teachers unions have donated millions to political campaigns, with almost all the cash going to Democratic candidates and committees.” (Kelsey Koberg, “Teachers Unions Spend Big On Democrats Ahead Of Midterm Elections,” [Fox News](#), 10/26/22)

- **From January 1, 2021 To September 30, 2022, The National Education Association (NEA) Contributed More Than \$3.5 Million.** “Between January 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022, the NEA (National Education Association) Fund for Children and Political Education, the PAC affiliated with America’s largest teachers union, spent more than \$3.5 million, with a majority of the contributions going to Democratic candidates and committees.” (Kelsey Koberg, “Teachers Unions Spend Big On Democrats Ahead Of Midterm Elections,” [Fox News](#), 10/26/22)
- **On The Same Timeline, The American Federation Of Teachers (AFT) And The AFL-CIO Committee On Political Education Spent More Than \$19 Million.** “Between January 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022, the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education spent more than \$19 million, a majority of which went to Democratic candidates and campaign committees across the country.” (Kelsey Koberg, “Teachers Unions Spend Big On Democrats Ahead Of Midterm Elections,” [Fox News](#), 10/26/22)

The American Federation Of Teachers Gave Nothing To Republicans In The General Election. “The AFT gave no contributions to Republicans in the general election, instead, choosing to fund Democrats such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.” (Kelsey Koberg, “Teachers Unions Spend Big On Democrats Ahead Of Midterm Elections,” [Fox News](#), 10/26/22)

PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

PENNSYLVANIA

In January 2022, A Pennsylvania School Board Member Wrote An Op-Ed Telling Parents “I Don’t Work For You,” And Stating That Some Parents “Have The Collective Intelligence Of A Village Idiot”

In January 2022, A Pennsylvania School Board Member Wrote An Op-Ed, Telling Parents “I Don’t Work For You,” And Stating That Some Parents “Have The Collective Intelligence Of A Village Idiot.” “One Pennsylvania school board member has a message for parents: ‘No, I don’t work for you.’ York Suburban School District school board member Richard Robinson wrote an op-ed in the York Dispatch explaining his claim. Robinson wrote that local school boards require a public comment opportunity for parents and other members of the community to voice their opinions about issues related to school, but there has been a major shift recently. ‘This provision gives residents of a school district the chance to vent their spleens about exorbitant taxes or demand subjects be taught properly the way they were during the most frigid period of the Cold War. In the past, more often than not, nobody showed up,’ Robinson said. ‘Not these days. As social media outlets, national news broadcasts and our local newspapers tell us, school boards are now the new battleground in the fight for America’s future.’ Robinson wrote that some members of the community interpret the public comment portion of school board meetings to show ‘why they have the collective intelligence of a village idiot.’” (Adam Sabes, “Pennsylvania School Board Member Tells Parents ‘I Don’t Work For You,’” [Fox News](#), 1/22/22)

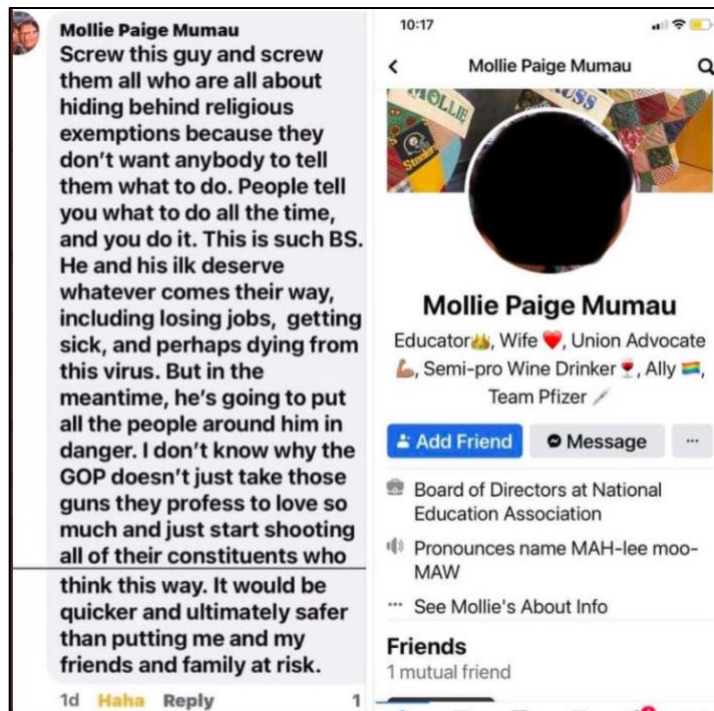
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In December 2022, A Delaware County, Pennsylvania School Board Held Meetings To Address Staffing Problems, Fights, And Lockdowns, But Parents Say That The Meetings Are Getting Them “Nowhere.” “A special board meeting was held in Sharon Hill, Delaware County on Monday night to address recent staffing problems, fights and lockdowns at Academy Park High School. ‘I have a senior and sophomore at the school. Both of them come home every day and talk about all the fights that happen consistently,’ said parent, Courtney Rowan. ‘This is our third special meeting now for the board here at (Southeast Delco). (I’m) anxious to see some action start to happen.’ ‘I don’t know what it’s going to take. Is it going to take a dead student on your property for you all to actually put something in motion?’ said another parent, Francesca Barley. Parents say the countless meetings are getting them nowhere as they demand action from the board.” (Sharifa Jackson, “Delaware County Parents Demand School Board Address Fights, Lockdowns And Staffing Issues,” [ABC 6 Action News](#), 12/13/22)

In December 2021, An NEA Board Member And Teacher At A Pennsylvania High School Said The Unvaccinated “Deserve To Die” And The GOP Should “Shoot All Of Their Constituents Who Think This Way”

The Daily Caller Headline: “Teacher’s Union Official Facebook Post Says People With Religious Vaccine Exemptions Deserve To Die, Suggest GOP Commit Mass Murder” (Kendall Tietz, “Teacher’s Union Official’s Facebook Post Says People With Religious Vaccine Exemptions Deserve To Die, Suggests GOP Commit Mass Murder,” [The Daily Caller](#), 12/7/21)

- **Mollie Paige Mumau, A National Education Association (NEA) Board Member And English Teacher At A Pennsylvania High School, Said The Unvaccinated “Deserve To Die” And The GOP Should “Shoot All Of Their Constituents Who Think This Way.”** (Kendall Tietz, “Teacher’s Union Official’s Facebook Post Says People With Religious Vaccine Exemptions Deserve To Die, Suggests GOP Commit Mass Murder,” [The Daily Caller](#), 12/7/21)



(Kendall Tietz, "Teacher's Union Official's Facebook Post Says People With Religious Vaccine Exemptions Deserve To Die, Suggests GOP Commit Mass Murder," [The Daily Caller](#), 12/7/21)

In Erie County, Pennsylvania, Parents Filed A Suit For The Removal Of School Directors For Imposing Mask And Quarantining Requirements, Claiming The Mandates Violated Students' Rights Under The State And Federal Constitution

In Erie County, Pennsylvania, Parents Filed A Suit For The Removal Of School Directors For Imposing Mask And Quarantining Requirements, Claiming The Mandates Violated Students' Rights Under The State And Federal Constitution. "In filing the suits that requested removal, the parents cited a part of the Pennsylvania School Code, Section 3-318, that allows a Common Pleas Court judge to oust school directors who refuse or neglect to perform a duty. The law authorizes a judge to name replacements. The parents claimed that removal was warranted because the mask and quarantine requirements — in place for much of the pandemic though lifted by March of this year — violated the students' rights under the Pennsylvania and federal constitutions. The parents also claimed, among other things, that the School Code does not specifically allow school boards to impose mask and quarantine rules and that the masks mandates amounted to medical battery and child abuse and the unauthorized practice of medicine. The school districts argued the mandates reflected the law as it existed at the time during the pandemic, and that the School Code empowers school boards to take action to protect student health. They also asked, unsuccessfully, that Connelly Marucci order the parents who sued to cover the districts legal expenses in fighting the suits." (Ed Palattella, "Judge Tosses Parents' Anti-Mask Lawsuits Against Millcreek, North East School Districts," [Go Erie](#), 9/14/22)

The Judge Ruled On The Side Of The District, Saying That They Had The Capacity To Impose The Mandates, But Did Not Grant The District's Request That The Parents Pay Back Legal Fees Incurred By The District.

"Parents upset over mask and quarantine mandates for students have lost their lawsuits against the school boards for the Millcreek Township and North East school districts. But the parents will not have to compensate the school districts for the legal costs of fighting the suits. Accepting the arguments of the school districts, Erie County Judge Erin Connelly Marucci dismissed the two suits, filed in the spring. She rejected the parents' request, in the suits, to remove the school directors in the two districts because they had approved facemask and quarantine requirements to help curb the spread of COVID-19." (Ed Palattella, "Judge Tosses Parents' Anti-Mask Lawsuits Against Millcreek, North East School Districts," [Go Erie](#), 9/14/22)

WISCONSIN

In The Eau Claire Area School District, Teachers Were Told During A Personal Development Training That Parents Are “Not Entitled” To Know Their Child’s Gender Identity

In The Eau Claire Area School District, Teachers Were Told During A Personal Development Training That Parents Are “Not Entitled” To Know Their Child’s Gender Identity. “Parents are “not entitled” to know their kids’ gender identity, according to a recent woke training session in the Eau Claire Area School District. Empower Wisconsin has obtained a copy of a training slide from last Friday’s staff development session. The 2021-22 Equity session on Safe Spaces reminds teachers that ‘parents are not entitled to know their kids’ identities. That knowledge must be earned.’ ‘Teachers are often straddling this complex situation. In ECASD, our priority is supporting the student,’ the professional development facilitator guide states. Teachers were encouraged to ‘Talk amongst yourselves!’ The lesson — that teachers know better than parents about what is best for their kids — is not sitting well with some community members.” (M.D. Kittle, “Parents Not ‘Entitled To Know,’” [Wisconsin Spotlight](#), 3/3/22)

OHIO

In Ohio, Mentor Public Schools Sent An Email To Teachers In Grades 6-12, Saying That Parents Do Not Have To Be Notified If Their Child Changes Their Name Or Pronouns In School

In Ohio, Mentor Public Schools Sent An Email To Teachers In Grades 6-12, Saying That Parents Do Not Have To Be Notified If Their Child Changes Their Name Or Pronouns In School. “On Aug. 31, Mentor Public Schools sent an email to teachers in grades 6-12 saying they don’t have to notify parents of a name or pronoun change if the student only requests it informally and does not ask for it to be changed in Google or the Infinite Campus parent portal. ‘If a student shares with a teacher what preferred name they would like to be called, and the student does not want it changed in IC or Google, there really is no need to go any further,’ the email, obtained by Parents Defending Education (PDE) and shared exclusively with Fox News Digital, stated. ‘That teacher can just use those preferred pronouns/name with the student and there is no need to share the info with any other staff member or family member unless the student would like additional support with this throughout the year,’ the email read. The district issued a statement to Fox News Digital on Sept. 8 saying its practices ‘will always focus on the best ways to meet the safety needs of our students and staff.’” (Jessica Chasmar, “Ohio School Board Meeting Gets Heated Over ‘Woke’ Policy Keeping Parents In Dark About Kids’ Gender Changes,” [Fox News](#), 9/14/22)

FLORIDA

In Florida, Educators Forcibly Tied A Mask To A Student’s Face Without Parental Consent

Fox News Headline: “Florida Educators Tied Mask To Disabled Student’s Face for 6 Weeks Without Parents’ Consent, Father Says” (Audrey Conklin, “Florida Educators Tied Mask To Disabled Student’s Face For 6 Weeks Without Parents’ Consent, Father Says,” [Fox News](#), 10/23/21)

- **A Florida Family Says Educators Forcibly Tied A Mask To Their Daughter With Down Syndrome’s Face With A Thin Nylon String Without Their Consent.** “A Florida father is accusing educators at his daughter’s elementary school of forcing his daughter with Down syndrome to wear a mask by tying it to her head for about six weeks. Jeffrey Steele’s daughter, Sofia Steele, is nonverbal and has an enlarged tongue. On Oct. 7, Sofia stepped off of the bus with a mask, wet from her saliva, tied to her head with a thin, nylon string, Steele told Fox News Digital, but she did not leave for school with a mask on that day or any day prior.” (Audrey Conklin, “Florida Educators Tied Mask To Disabled Student’s Face For 6 Weeks Without Parents’ Consent, Father Says,” [Fox News](#), 10/23/21)
- **The School Implemented Its Own Mask Mandate In Defiance Of Gov. DeSantis’ Efforts To Ban Schools From Requiring Children To Wear Masks.** “Ocean Breeze Elementary School in Indian Harbour Beach

implemented its own mask mandate in September in defiance of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' efforts to ban schools from requiring children to wear masks." (Audrey Conklin, "Florida Educators Tied Mask To Disabled Student's Face For 6 Weeks Without Parents' Consent, Father Says," [Fox News](#), 10/23/21)



(Audrey Conklin, "Florida Educators Tied Mask To Disabled Student's Face For 6 Weeks Without Parents' Consent, Father Says," [Fox News](#), 10/23/21)

VIRGINIA

In 2021, Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Terry McAuliffe, Who Campaigned With The American Federation Of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, Said Parents Should Not Be Telling Schools What To Teach Their Children

During A Debate In 2021, Democrat Terry McAuliffe Had Remarked "He 'Didn't Believe Parents Should Be Telling Schools What They Should Teach.'" "Mr. Youngkin seized on Mr. McAuliffe's remark that he didn't 'believe parents should be telling schools what they should teach.' Mr. Youngkin used the comment, made during a debate, as an entryway to hammer his rival for supporting efforts that would help address racial inequities in schools — including changes to the curriculum, discipline policies and diversifying the teaching staff." (Dana Goldstein, "In Virginia, Frustration With Schooling During The Pandemic Played A Part In Youngkin's Win," [The Washington Post](#), 11/3/21)

In The Closing Days Of The 2021 Virginia Gubernatorial Campaign, McAuliffe Appeared With Randi Weingarten, The "Powerful" President Of The American Federation Of Teachers. "Hostility toward teachers' unions has been a problem for Democrats like Mr. McAuliffe, since the party is closely tied to organized labor. In the final days of the campaign, Mr. McAuliffe appeared with Randi Weingarten, the powerful president of the American Federation of Teachers, which drew rebukes from Republicans." (Dana Goldstein, "In Virginia, Frustration With Schooling During The Pandemic Played A Part In Youngkin's Win," [The Washington Post](#), 11/3/21)

- **On November 2, 2021, The American Federation Of Teachers Made An \$814,000 Ad Buy To Support McAuliffe's Candidacy.** (Terry McAuliffe Contributions, [VPAP.org](#), Accessed 1/6/23)

In 2021, McAuliffe Received At Least \$1,089,000 In Support From The American Federation Of Teachers. (Terry McAuliffe Contributions, [VPAP.org](#), Accessed 1/6/23)

Donations from American Federation of Teachers

Industry: Labor - Public Employees

Total \$1,089,000 ⓘ

Amount	Date	
\$814,000	11/2/2021	McAuliffe for Governor - Terry Details
\$250,000	6/29/2021	McAuliffe for Governor - Terry
\$25,000	4/28/2021	McAuliffe for Governor - Terry

(Terry McAuliffe Contributions, VPAP.org, Accessed 1/6/23)

In 2021, McAuliffe Received \$400,000 From The National Education Association (NEA). “Among the labor unions McAuliffe received campaign donations from, McAuliffe accepted \$650,000 from two prominent critical race theory-promoting teachers’ unions. The National Education Association (NEA) — the largest teachers’ union in America that recently adopted a measure saying they will ‘research’ opponents of critical race theory — gave McAuliffe \$400,000.” (Houston Keene, “Biden To Campaign For McAuliffe, Who Received \$650K From Teachers’ Unions Promoting Critical Race Theory,” [Fox News](#), 7/23/21)

Donations from National Education Assn

Industry: Labor - Public Employees

Total \$400,000 ⓘ

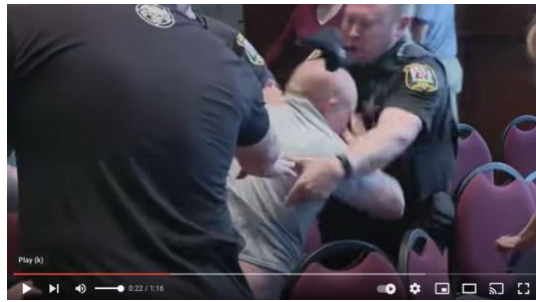
Amount	Date	
\$400,000	6/29/2021	McAuliffe for Governor - Terry

(Terry McAuliffe Contributions, VPAP.org, Accessed 1/6/23)

In Loudon County, Virginia, A Parent Was Tackled At A Board Of Education Meeting Following Comments Made By A School Board Member And The District’s Cover Up Of His Daughter’s Sexual Assault

Scott Smith Was Arrested At A School Board Meeting For Disorderly Conduct, Which Stemmed From The District’s Cover Up Of His Daughter’s Sexual Assault. “Scott Smith was found guilty of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest in August after he was filmed being dragged by police from the Loudoun County School Board meeting on June 22. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail, all suspended, contingent on a year of good behavior, Loudoun Now reported at the time... Now, Smith says there’s much more to his story, telling The Daily Wire that his behavior at the June 22 meeting stemmed from an incident weeks earlier at his ninth-grade daughter’s school, Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn, in which he said a boy wearing a skirt entered the girls’ bathroom and assaulted his daughter on May 28. ‘We can confirm a May 28, 2021 case that involved a thorough 2-month-long investigation that was conducted to determine the facts of the case prior to arrest,’ the sheriff’s office told Fox News. ‘This case is still pending court proceedings. The Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office is not able to provide any documents that pertain to a pending case.’ The sheriff’s office confirmed that the case involved sexual assault.” (Jessica Chasmar, “Loudoun County Father Arrested At School Board Event Says School Tried To Cover Up Daughter’s Bathroom Assault,” [Fox News](#), 10/12/21)

VIDEO: Parent Tackled By Police During Loudoun County Board Of Education Meeting. ([Fox 5 Washington DC](#), 6/22/21)



(Fox 5 Washington DC, 6/24/21)

MICHIGAN

In Michigan, Parents Were Upset Over Sexually Explicit Books Being Allowed In School Libraries; However, A School Board Meeting Was Shut Down Before Any Parents Could Voice Concerns

In Michigan, Parents Were Upset Over Sexually Explicit Books Being Allowed In School Libraries, But The School Board Meeting Was Shut Down Before Any Parents Could Voice Concerns. “A school board meeting drew hundreds of parents and community members Monday night furious over sexually explicit books being allowed in school libraries, but the meeting was shut down before any could take the podium to voice their concerns. Dearborn Public Schools (DPS) is one of the latest districts facing controversy over questionable books available to students. Last month, the school board temporarily removed seven books from circulation following claims from parents that they included inappropriate content. The titles included *This Book is Gay*, *The Lovely Bones* and *Red, White and Royal Blue*. At the time, the district stressed that it had not banned any books, and was only pulling the titles so it could evaluate if they are age-appropriate and present content in an acceptable manner. If it deems they are, these books will be put back on the shelves.” (Kristina Watrobski, “‘Vote Them Out’: Michigan School Board Meeting Shut Down Over Parent Outrage About Books,” [The National Desk](#), 10/11/22)

At A Following School Board Meeting, Parents Were Allowed To Voice Their Concerns, But No Changes To The Policy Were Made. “After more than two hours of public comment, the board responded. Board member Hussein Berry applauded those who spoke, saying the notion that the board is undermining parents ‘couldn’t be further from the truth.’ Board member Mary Petlichkoff brought up Monday night’s meeting, saying all board members ‘understood the concerns,’ but the meeting was ‘chaotic’ and had to come to ‘an abrupt end without a conclusion.’ Despite DPS parents finally having the opportunity to speak up, a conclusion has yet to be reached. The school board did not make any votes pertaining to books, and did not propose any amendments to the new policy, leaving many still unsatisfied.” (Kristina Watrobski, “‘Vote Them Out’: Michigan School Board Meeting Shut Down Over Parent Outrage About Books,” [The National Desk](#), 10/11/22)

NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, A Lawyer For The Lawrence Township Board Of Education Said That Parents Do Not Have A Right To Decide The Curriculum Schools Teach To Their Children

In New Jersey, A Lawyer For The Lawrence Township Board Of Education Said That Parents Do Not Have A Right To Decide The Curriculum Schools Teach To Their Children. “A lawyer for a school board in New Jersey gave his interpretation of the law at a recent board meeting, in which he said parents do not have a right to decide the curriculum schools teach to their children. At a Lawrence Township Board of Education meeting on October 19, lawyer John Comegno said the right of parents ‘is not to dictate what their children are taught, it is to determine where they attend.’ ‘In public schools, we have curriculum that is aligned with New Jersey state learning standards,’ Comegno said. ‘But please know... if your students attend these awesome schools, they’re going to be instructed in this curriculum, which is consistent with state learning standards,’ he continued. ‘That’s not

binding. If you choose to have your child attend elsewhere, that's your right. That's your right as a parent.” (Landon Mion, “New Jersey School Board's Lawyer Says Parents Cannot 'Dictate What Their Children Are Taught,’” [Fox News](#), 10/26/22)

CHICAGO, IL

In Chicago, The Chicago Teachers Union Refused To Teach In-Person Until A COVID Safety Protocol Was Put Into Place, Or The “Surge” Of Cases Subsided

The Chicago Tribune Headline: “Chicago Teachers Union Prepares For Possible Walkout Wednesday Over Reopening Plans; High School Staffs Would Refuse To Work In-Person” (Hannah Leone, “Chicago Teachers Union Prepares For Possible Walkout Wednesday Over Reopening Plans; High School Staffs Would Refuse To Work In Person,” [The Chicago Tribune](#), 4/12/21)

The Chicago Sun Times Headline: “Chicago Teachers Union Votes To Refuse In-Person Work, Defy Chicago Public Schools’ Reopening Plan” (Nader Issa, “Chicago Teachers Union Votes To Refuse In-Person Work, Defy Chicago Public Schools’ Reopening Plan,” [The Chicago Sun Times](#), 1/24/21)

The Chicago Teachers Union Cited Lack Of COVID Safety And Rising Positivity Rate In Chicago. “A majority of Chicago teachers voted to refuse to report to school buildings Wednesday because of concerns over COVID safety and the city’s rising positivity rate, effectively shutting down the nation’s third-largest school district for the day — and possibly for days to come. The union said 73% of voting rank-and-file members opted to pause in-person learning and teach remotely until Jan. 18 or until COVID rates declined. Voting took place electronically Tuesday evening after a meeting of the union’s delegate body, with 14,290 teachers voting in favor of the remote-work-only resolution and 5,208 voting against out of the group’s total 25,000 membership.” (Cassie Walker Burke and Mila Koumpilova, “Chicago Cancels Classes Wednesday After Teacher Vote Halts In-Person Learning,” [Chalkbeat Chicago](#), 1/5/22)

After Four Days Of Classes Were Cancelled, The Union And Chicago Public Schools Reached An Agreement That Increased COVID Safety Measures In Classrooms. “Chicago Public Schools and its teachers union have agreed to restart in-person classes Wednesday after a tense standoff that canceled four days of classes for the vast majority of the district’s 330,000 students. A tentative agreement that will bring teachers back to school Tuesday now goes to the rank and file for a vote. It includes a joint effort to boost COVID-19 surveillance testing and school-level safety metrics that would shutter individual campuses and shift them to remote learning for five days should 30% of teachers be absent for two consecutive days or 40% of students be quarantined.” (Cassie Walker Burke and Mila Koumpilova, “Chicago Cancels Classes Wednesday After Teacher Vote Halts In-Person Learning,” [Chalkbeat Chicago](#), 1/5/22)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The District Of Columbia Public School System Was Set To Reopen In November 2020, But The Washington Teachers Union Expressed “No Confidence” In The District’s Reopening Plan

The District Of Columbia Public School System Was Set To Reopen In November 2020, But The Washington Teachers Union Expressed “No Confidence” In The District’s Reopening Plan. “Following months of negotiations and conflict between the Washington Teacher’s Union (WTU) and the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS), in-person classes have reconvened after almost a year of virtual learning due to the ongoing pandemic. The tension culminated in the District filing a restraining order against WTU to prevent a potential strike against reopening. DCPS was set to fully reopen in November of last year, but these plans shifted after 93 percent of WTU members expressed ‘no confidence’ in the safety of the DCPS reopening plan. Several teachers went as far as to stage a ‘sick-in’ by falsely calling in sick from work, causing classes to be cancelled.” (Maya Kominsky, “D.C. Teacher’s Union Fights For COVID-19 Protective Measures, Sparks Backlash From The City,” [The Georgetown Voice](#), 3/18/21)

In December, The Union And The District Reached A Reopening Agreement, But The Union Said Some Demands Were Unmet. “WTU and DCPS finally reached a reopening agreement in December, though some of WTU’s demands remained unmet. ‘Even though we didn’t get everything we wanted, it’s something I believe we

can work with on ensuring that safety protocols are going to be observed,' WTU President Elizabeth Davis said about the reopening agreement. While the agreement required that only teachers who are willing return in the second quarter of the school year, more could be forced to re-enter school buildings in the third and fourth quarters, unless they are at higher risk of complications from COVID-19." (Maya Kominsky, "D.C. Teacher's Union Fights For COVID-19 Protective Measures, Sparks Backlash From The City," [The Georgetown Voice](#), 3/18/21)

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The Baltimore Teachers Union Opposed A Return To In-Person Instruction, But Baltimore City Schools Resumed In-Person Instruction Anyway For Small Groups Of At Risk Students In 25 Schools

The Baltimore Teachers Union Opposed A Return To In-Person Instruction, But Baltimore City Schools Resumed In-Person Instruction Anyway For Small Groups Of At Risk Students In 25 Schools. "For example, the Baltimore Teachers Union has opposed a return to in-person instruction until school buildings are deemed completely safe. Yet Baltimore city schools resumed in-person instruction for small groups of at-risk students in about 25 schools last month, although the district temporarily went back to full remote instruction after Thanksgiving until Dec. 7 over fears of a post-holiday outbreak. 'BTU is not simply opposing what the district wants to do for the sake of opposition; we have legitimate health concerns,' the union said on its website. 'The district has refused to bargain with the BTU over the most substantive issues of when and how schools will reopen, and the system is hastily shifting groups of students and staff to in-person instruction without taking the necessary precautions.'" (Madeline Will, "How Teachers' Unions Are Influencing Decisions On School Reopenings," [Education Week](#), 12/2/20)