



FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Labor
Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Learning Recovery Act of 2021 ***Addressing the Long-Term Consequences of Lost Classroom Time***

The Problem:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented disruption in the lives of students across the country. In addition to the social and emotional impact of remote learning, experts project that the lost classroom time is having a significant impact on students' academic growth.

According to [an estimate produced by McKinsey & Company](#), the average student will be *at least* seven months behind due to the pandemic, with Black and Latino students experiencing even greater setbacks that could leave them more than 10 months behind.

[English learners and students with disabilities](#) faced the greatest challenges with remote learning. Some English learners couldn't fully participate in distance learning due to language barriers and limited access to technology. And special education services for students with disabilities—including related services like occupational, physical, or speech therapy—were particularly difficult to deliver remotely.

The disproportionate impact on students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities have as potential to both widen existing gaps and trigger a surge in dropouts. A new [study](#) by Bellwether Education Partners found that approximately 3 million of the most vulnerable students received no formal education since schools closed in March 2020.

These worrying trends are unlikely to be resolved unless Congress takes meaningful and timely action. An [extensive review of school districts' educational plans](#) found that most districts are not adequately prepared to meet the unique needs of vulnerable students.

The Impact to the Economy:

Left unaddressed, lost classroom time will have long-term effects on students' success and on the U.S. economy as a whole. Researchers [estimate](#) that by 2040, the lost time in the classroom for the current K-12 cohort will result in an earnings loss of \$110 billion per year and will reduce overall gross domestic product by \$173 billion to \$271 billion per year. This figure also includes high school dropout rates that will account for \$11 billion per year.

The Solution:

The federal government has a responsibility to ensure all students have access to a quality education. This includes mitigating lost time in the classroom to prevent long-lasting effects on a student's achievement, future earnings, and the national economy as a whole.

The Learning Recovery Act of 2021:

- Provides \$75 billion over 2 years via Title I-A to build out summer school, extend school days, or extend schools programs; and
- Authorizes the [Institute of Education Sciences](#) to study learning loss, possible interventions, and to share their findings.