COVID-19: Impact on Education

55.1 million K-12 students have been affected by school closures

Status of state closures - recommendations or orders

AS OF MAY 6, 2020

- Closed into May
- Ordered closed for year
- Recommended closed for year
- Varies by school district

Limitations to distance learning

The transition to remote learning will most impact students without at-home internet

- 3 million households with school-age children do not have at-home broadband connections, particularly students from non-White and low-income households
- Many of the community resources that students would have used to access internet, such as libraries, have been closed in response to COVID-19

State of Play: Higher-Ed

Over 1,100 colleges and universities in all 50 states have cancelled in-person classes or moved to online instruction, with some beginning to plan for remote learning for the fall term.

Academic considerations:

- Studies have found that student performance can suffer in online classes
- Hundreds of colleges and universities have changed grading policies in response to the pandemic

Economic considerations:

- The shift to online classes and potential revenue losses jeopardize institutions’ economic security
- The threat of a recession may leave fewer students able to afford higher education or choosing more affordable options

Congressional support for education in the CARES Act

$13.5 B for public K-12 schools, with at least 90% of that earmarked for school districts through the Title I aid formula

$14.25 B for support to higher education institutions

$3 B for governors to use at their discretion through a flexible funding formula for K-12 and/or higher education

Student loan relief

- Suspends federal student loan payments without interest through September 30
- Suspends wage garnishment or tax refund reduction for those who have defaulted on federal student aid loans

Sources: Benton Institute for Broadband and Society, Buzzfeed, City Lab, Education Week, Government Technology, Inside Higher Ed, NPR, Pew Research Center, USA Today, and The Washington Post