Solutions to Address the K-12 Education Crisis

The pandemic upended the US K-12 education system. The crisis, and the corresponding historic federal investment in education, presents a unique opportunity to advance learning recovery and address longstanding issues to ensure all K-12 students are equipped to succeed as productive, engaged citizens.

IMPACT OF PANDEMIC

• Largest achievement decline in 3 decades.
• Expanded achievement gaps. Students in high-poverty schools experienced greatest decline.
• Exacerbated attendance and mental health challenges, plus teacher shortages.
• Future value of income loss in lifetime earnings for students on all levels due to COVID disruptions could cost them collectively up to $27.3 trillion over 25 years.

CED solutions to utilize the historic relief funding levels for K-12 education

- Personalize student learning, utilizing technological advances.
- Expand capacity by engaging private sector.
- Utilize data and technology for rapid evaluation and continuous improvement.
- Invest in students early.
- Grow the teacher pipeline utilizing apprenticeships.
- Prepare now for future disruptions.
- Reconnect students and families into the school system.
- Strengthen awareness of and access to post-secondary pathways.
- Establish a national taskforce to identify best practices.
- Build school-wide capacity to address mental and emotional health needs.
- Consider long-term funding sustainability.

Source: The Conference Board, 2023