



Skooli

LEARNING LOSS REPORT:

SPRING 2022



Learn the effects of two years of disrupted learning, plus proven solutions to move forward.

Understanding the long-term impact on education caused by COVID-19 and insights on key trends to combat challenges

The 2021-2022 school year signaled the return for in-person learning for most students. Still, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose schools with challenges that they are working harder than ever to address.

With new variants consistently popping up, the rapid spread of COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc on school systems around the world. As a result, schools are still grappling with decisions as to whether students should be continuing to learn in person, or transition to their virtual classrooms again.

With absentee and dropout rates already at an all-time high, what does this mean for students in the coming months, and even years? Not only has student academic success been impacted, but also their social and emotional well-being has taken a drastic hit in the pandemic.

While the impacts on students are imperative to address, the effect the pandemic has had on teachers cannot be ignored either. Many teachers are working harder than ever before in order to help meet the vast number of student needs in their classrooms. As a result of trying to address students' growing social and emotional needs, while also working to accelerate student learning, teachers are quickly approaching burnout.

Nearly one in four teachers said in a [US teachers survey](#) that they were likely to leave their jobs by the end of the 2020–2021 school year. Prior to the pandemic, the average was one in six.

The impact of COVID-19 within the classroom

Who is most affected by this learning loss?

A [recent study](#) shows that most students are five months behind in math and four months behind in reading.

The learning gap is even [higher](#) in marginalized communities where students lost about seven months of learning.

States like New York, California, and Idaho are [facing](#) even greater learning losses since they have less equitable funding for their schools.

How have school environments changed due to COVID-19?

Due to variations in student expectations, battling feelings of isolation and lower levels of confidence, many students face challenges with consistently staying motivated in the classroom.

For some students, the opportunity to learn independently instilled a stronger work ethic. For many others, however, the independent nature of learning during school closures created a scenario of no-accountability. Due to sudden shifts in instruction, many teachers had to alter student growth and achievement expectations, but are now resorting back to original standards of achievement. As a result, students are faced with added anxiety to adjust to regular school work expectations, which can lead to a lack in motivation due to feelings of helplessness caused by falling so far behind.

Teachers and schools have had to change how they approach the learning day to handle the fluid number of students in quarantine each day, and to find ways to continue to engage students in learning outside of the classroom. While many schools are adjusting their quarantine protocol, the disruptions in learning still continue to some degree.

In order to accommodate quarantines, as well as students and families with health concerns, schools are implementing remote and hybrid learning options. Based on the study's prediction, by the end of the 2020-2021 school year students were approximately 10 months behind in learning.

Through utilization of remote and hybrid learning environments, there have been proven benefits to students by providing opportunities to continue to build missing key skills that were lost during the pandemic, instead of halting learning entirely.

The impact of COVID-19 beyond the classroom – Mental Health

When schools shut down in 2020, many students became very isolated, and underwent major shifts in their day-to-day routines. For some students who relied on the structure that school provided, this resulted in a major toll on their mental health that they continue to work through.

The study stated that 80% of parents are concerned about their child's mental health post-pandemic. This study also mentions that there has been a 5% increase in students clinically diagnosed with anxiety, and a 6% increase in depression. In order to address the significant level of concern, schools are making shifts in their daily learning to include more focus on social and emotional topics, to equip students with more tools to process their experiences during the pandemic.

Poor mental health status and academic success have been shown to go hand-in-hand, as students who are typically further behind academically, like those in majority Black and low-income schools, are among those who feel more depressed and anxious. By working to accelerate learning and help lessen academic knowledge gaps, it will also help to improve the mental health of students.

Future Employment

According to this study, absenteeism is up 12% in 8th-12th grade students. This means that an additional 2.3 million to 4.6 million students across the nation are chronically absent from school.

High school dropout rates are also higher. It is expected that an additional 617,000 to 1.2 million students will drop out of school due to the pandemic.

Within this survey, 17% of high school seniors changed their plans to go to post-secondary school. Students in low-income schools said that money was the reason, while students in more affluent schools plan to take a year off of schooling.

Higher absentee and dropout rates and fewer students pursuing education after high school leads to a disastrous future for the workforce. As reported by the survey, this could lead to these students earning \$49,000-\$61,000 less in their lifetime.

By 2040, it's estimated that the lack of learning during the pandemic will cause a significant loss in annual GDP in the range of \$128 billion to \$188 billion.

Teachers shoulder additional tutoring to accelerate student learning

While battling against student motivation, mental health, and attendance, teachers are finding ways to close the learning gaps for their students.

In a recent [survey](#) of about 1,500 teachers, 46% of them say that they are tutoring outside of the school day to help their students learn. When asked if they would be willing to work more hours outside of school for extra pay, 78% of them answered yes.

On top of working extra hours outside of school to help meet students' needs, teachers are also working additionally during school hours to help combat the nationwide sub shortage. Instead of utilizing prep periods to take care of standard responsibilities, teachers are found covering classes for their absent colleagues, further contributing to the record-breaking levels of teacher burnout.

With less time and more challenges, teachers are in need of additional resources to help them successfully enhance student academic achievement.

Solutions to combat unfinished learning –

Government Funding

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) offered **\$13.2 billion** to K-12 schools across the nation. These funds are determined by each state according to their Title I status.

Schools also have access to Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) which is in its third round. These funds are available once given to a school until September 30, 2024.

Schools are continuing to research the best ways to use these government funds, which most commonly include purchasing extra materials and curriculum, with the latest trend being to include online tutoring for students in spending plans .

Acceptance of Online Learning

One positive result of the pandemic is that schools are devoting significant time and effort to finding ways to make online learning accessible for everyone. Some superintendents we interviewed even set up mobile hotspots on their campuses for students to use if they didn't have internet access at home.

With some students being quarantined and others choosing to learn from home, having access to their teachers and quality educational materials is essential. Through virtual learning, students are now equipped to learn in remote or non-traditional ways post-COVID-19.

How can school leaders help their district?

Using the resources given by the government, adding tutoring services, such as [Skooli](#), to your budget is a proven way to accelerate student learning and what many schools across the US have already begun to utilize to tackle unfinished learning. A service like Skooli is especially beneficial for low-income and majority Black schools who historically have lower test scores and less access to additional academic support, since it offers unlimited 24/7 access for 365 days at an affordable cost to your district.

Why choose Skooli?

[Skooli](#) was created to help accelerate student learning to close learning gaps, and build key foundational skills that students need to be successful both inside and outside of school. Skooli was built on the understanding of the importance of receiving equitable and personalized education, so we are in the perfect position to help your school district. We are also very different from other online tutoring companies for a number of reasons.

Skooli's 1:1 on-demand tutoring connects students directly with professional educators instantly. Designed to accelerate student learning while promoting safety, we provide instant, drop-in support across a variety of subjects, plus 24/7 essay and assignment review. This flexible, equitable learning access can be curated to meet the unique needs of students district-wide, at an affordable cost. Our expansive tutor network consists of carefully vetted, experienced educators who devote their full time and attention to one student at a time.

All Skooli tutors hold a teaching license and/or a Master's or PhD in their subject(s) of expertise to ensure your students are learning from true subject-matter experts. Skooli is one of the few platforms to offer live audio alongside a user-friendly whiteboard with an array of functionalities (such as a 700+ term Math Glossary!) not found on other platforms, ensuring students have all of the tools and technology they need for the very best homework help.

- **“Best in Class” online classroom** - Skooli’s digital classroom was designed with the purpose of accelerating learning in an online world. It’s one of the platforms that offer live audio, a user-friendly whiteboard, and an array of functionalities (such as a 700+ term math glossary!), ensuring students have all the tools and technology they need for the very best homework help. Not to mention, all of our teachers have either a Master’s degree or Ph.D., a current teaching license, and have a thorough background check.
- **Safe and secure learning environment** - We take student data security seriously so we offer 1-to-1 tutoring sessions with live audio and chat but no video. This protects students’ identities. With Skooli, students have 24/7 access to tutors all around the world.
- **Pricing** - Say goodbye to hourly fees. Skooli offers flexible, equitable access to student learning that can be curated to meet the unique needs of students at the district level and at an affordable cost. Rather than charging by the hour, Skooli charges one overall per-student rate, granting each student unlimited access for an entire year (365 days).

So whether your students need on-demand access for homework help, additional learning opportunities to master a subject, or help with an assignment review or essay proofread, they can instantly access our tutors. Students can ask licensed teachers questions at times that they can't access their own teachers. All of these combined will help your students and district see proven results in closing the learning gap from COVID-19 and beyond.