



# REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

National Parent Teacher Association □ Council of The Great City Schools □ National Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers □ American Association of School Administrators □ National School Boards Association  
National Association of Elementary School Principals □ National Association of Secondary School Principals  
NAACP □ National Association of Federally Impacted Schools □ American Institute of Architects  
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education □ National Rural Education Association  
Californians for School Facilities

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Akron, OH  
Aldine, TX  
Birmingham City, AL  
Birmingham Public, AL  
Boston, MA  
Broward County, FL  
Brownsville, TX  
Chicago, IL  
Cincinnati, OH  
Clark County, NV  
Compton, CA  
Corpus Christi, TX  
Dayton, OH  
Detroit, MI  
Escambia, FL  
Houston, TX  
Jefferson Parish, LA  
Jersey City, NJ  
McAllen, TX  
Memphis, TN  
Miami-Dade, FL  
Milwaukee, WI  
Minneapolis, MN  
Montgomery, AL  
Nashville, TN  
Newark, NJ  
New Orleans, LA  
New York, NY  
Norfolk, VA  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Omaha, NE  
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, TX  
Philadelphia, PA  
Providence, RI  
Richmond, VA  
Rochester, NY  
Savannah-Chatham, GA  
St. Louis, MO  
St. Paul, MN  
Toledo, OH  
Tulsa, OK  
Ysleta, TX

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July 15, 2009

The Honorable George Miller, Chair  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

Rebuild America's Schools is writing to **express our support for the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act** which will ensure long term funding for Pell Grants and other critical student financial aid programs. The Act will also fund the modern, safe and technologically advanced schools of the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act**. Modern, energy efficient schools will help local communities increase opportunities for all students to develop the educational skills necessary to achieve and succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. We ask that the House Education and Labor Committee pass this much needed legislation which will ensure the funding of student aid programs and also fund grant programs to modernize, renovate and repair public schools and community colleges.

The demands of today's educational programs and services are overwhelming the structural capacity of the average school in America built almost fifty years ago. Many urban and rural schools were built much earlier than the 1960's. Growing communities across our country cannot build schools fast enough to accommodate increasing student populations. Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology all of which compromises their ability to achieve, succeed and build the educational foundations necessary for the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A 2008 study by the American Federation of Teachers revealed that funding needs for school infrastructure in the United States still exceed \$254 billion.

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act** already passed by the House and now funded through the provisions of HR 3221 will assist states and local communities in meeting these staggering needs through federal grants to local school districts for energy efficient school modernization projects. The Federal Government would provide \$5 billion in grants to states and local school districts. The federal grants will help states and communities stretch their limited resources to pay for additional school facility projects and essential education programs.

**HR 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act** will fund Pell grants and

other student aid programs while providing **resources to repair, renovate and modernize America's schools and community colleges. It will stimulate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs.** These jobs will be generated in the construction industry among suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing contractors and other construction workers who modernize, renovate and repair schools.

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act** funded through the **Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act** under consideration by the House Education and Labor Committee provides a federal investment to help renovate, repair and modernize thousands of public schools. School districts in every state have school renovation and repair projects that can be underway very quickly if federal financial resources are available to help underwrite the project costs.

**Rebuild America's Schools asks that the House Education and Labor Committee approve HR 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.** The modern, more energy efficient, green and better schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act will improve the learning environment for students, enhance the workplace for students, teachers and school administrators and most importantly modern schools will advance student achievement in urban, rural and suburban communities in every state.

Thank you.

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National PTA  
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American Institute of Architects  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition  
Californians for School Facilities  
Ecobuild America  
AEC Science and Technology  
21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
Council of Educational Facility Planners International  
American Association of University Women