

As the school year comes to a close, we reflect on how much hard work teachers, students and administrators have exemplified with constant shifts between online schools, hybrid models and the return to in-person.

Despite everyone's best efforts to make remote learning seamless, students and teachers alike, understandably, felt the shock this past year. [According to Harvard Business Review](#), students' determination during online school dropped by 7%, indicating that student's effort to remain in more challenging courses or complete necessary classwork to pass has dropped. If these students did stay in the challenging classes, they were also likely to have a lower overall GPA. 75% of registered voter parents in California reported that their children were doing worse in school due to online classes. ([Edsource.org](#)) These parents reported that their children struggled with grappling the curriculum while online as the parents and teachers struggled with finding the time to help their students navigate both technological issues and class work.

Why was online learning such a shock for a country that was known to be technologically advanced? Over the past 10 years, there has never been as much policy work and ground level funding to push for more STEM based programs. In reality, [prior to COVID](#), only 21% of public and 13% of private schools offered select courses fully online - during Covid those numbers had to increase to nearly 100% - despite most students from kindergarten through 3rd grade having no experience with online classes, those in 3rd through 12th grade with incredibly limited experience in online classes and many low-income districts without access to stable internet and funding to give out devices. A large factor to why the education industry was caught unprepared: a lack of federal funding for these technological adjustments and necessary training.

So, how can we look forward as we wrap up this year and look forward to the next? The answer is in President Joe Biden's most recent educational policy proposal, a new funding project that will set a precedent for equity in education. President Biden has proposed the largest-ever one-time federal investment in K-12 education with a budget proposal of \$130 Billion flexible funds ([cpbb](#)). These funds are eligible to all schools alike, private, public, charters, and religious school districts with the amount allocated dependent on funding the school already has. In light of the technological issues faced across the country to all schools alike, this money is specifically earmarked to be used for "closing the digital divide" to ensure students and teachers have devices and connectivity as necessary.

This includes making sure that faculty is equipped with the knowledge of the technology and with the right knowledge to teach about this technology. There has never been a better time to have these conversations with your staff about the types of professional development and learning they believe will better their students and your school districts. There has never been a better time to invest and make the most of the policy work currently being done in Washington D.C. to ensure that your district is moving forward in the best way possible from this pivotal moment.

Educators of America, Inc. has trained over 500 teachers and has been conducting remote professional development sessions throughout the pandemic, trying to share our wealth of knowledge and passion for education equity. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have regarding professional development!

We cannot wait for in-person school to begin again as it is shaping up thanks to vaccinations and our front-line workers, for students and school faculty across the country. We hope that all education professionals get the relaxing summer they deserve after this past grueling year. We also would like to thank those running and teaching summer school programs to help combat students that may have fallen

behind this past year. We recognize and commend all educational professionals who did everything they could this year and are looking forward to the best ways for their students to improve.