

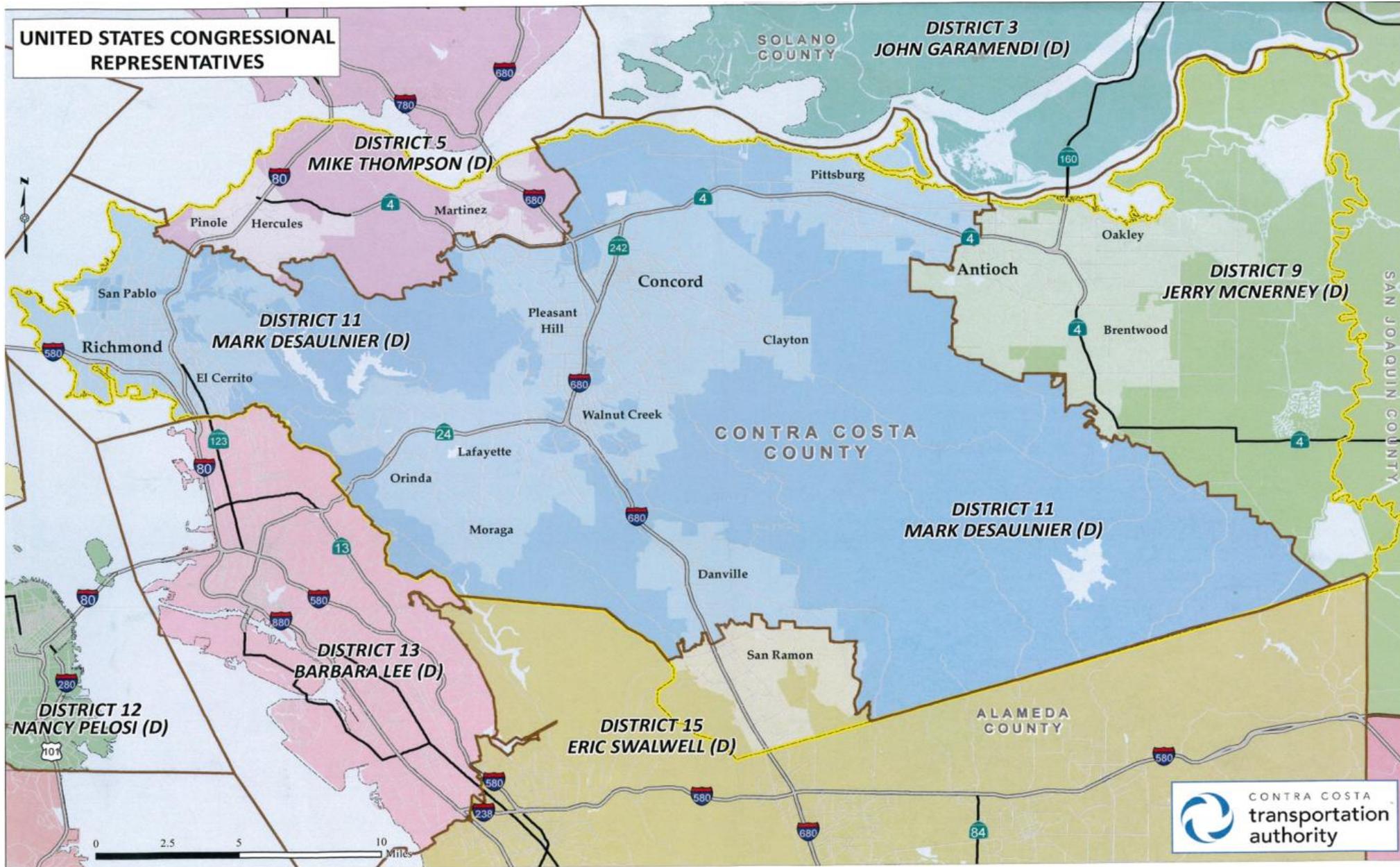


# Coronavirus, Education, & Getting Children Back to School

Featuring: State Superintendent Tony Thurmond,  
Contra Costa County Superintendent Lynn  
Mackey, and Dr. Petra Steinbuchel of UCSF

MARCH 30, 2021

**UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**



# Where We Started

- ▶ **March 13, 2020** - The majority of schools in California closed for in-person instruction. Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order to ensure state funding for schools during physical closure.
- ▶ **April 7, 2020** - Contra Costa joined Bay Area counties in extending distance learning through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- ▶ **June 8, 2020** - State Superintendent Tony Thurmond released Stronger Together, the California Department of Education's comprehensive guidance that supported public school leaders across the state as they worked with their local health officers to plan for the safe reopening of campuses and classrooms.
- ▶ **July 17, 2020** - Governor Newsom ordered distance learning for schools and released requirements for schools to physically reopen for the new school year.

***Months after California schools closed, thousands of students were unaccounted for and teacher struggled to connect with them during distance learning sessions.***

# Where We Are Now

- ▶ **March 5, 2021** - Governor Newsom signed a \$6.6 billion plan to help support reopening schools and address the learning and mental and behavioral health needs of students.
- ▶ **March 14, 2021** - Contra Costa moved into the red tier on the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which allows, but does require, secondary schools to welcome students back to campuses.
- ▶ **March 20, 2021** - The California Department of Public Health issued new guidance, allowing schools to reopen with only 3 ft. of physical distancing.

***Many school districts in Contra Costa County have now released reopening plans for face-to-face and hybrid instruction.***

# Congressional Support for Education

## CARES ACT

- \$4 billion for expanding broadband access
- \$180 million "Rethink K-12 School Models" competitive grant program to help states focus on virtual learning and new models of delivering education
- \$100 million in grants under Project SERV to help recover from "a violent or traumatic event that disrupts learning"

## CRRSA ACT

- \$2.75 billion for parochial and private schools
- \$7 billion for expanding broadband access
- \$10 billion for childcare assistance

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

- \$123 billion for K-12 schools focused on helping schools reopen and helping students catch up on learning they have missed during the pandemic
- \$5 billion to give students uninterrupted access to meals during the pandemic
- \$800 million for education and wraparound services to support homeless children
- \$100 million for the federal Institute of Education Sciences to research COVID-19's impact on learning

**TOTAL**  
Over \$193 billion  
in support for  
K-12 schools

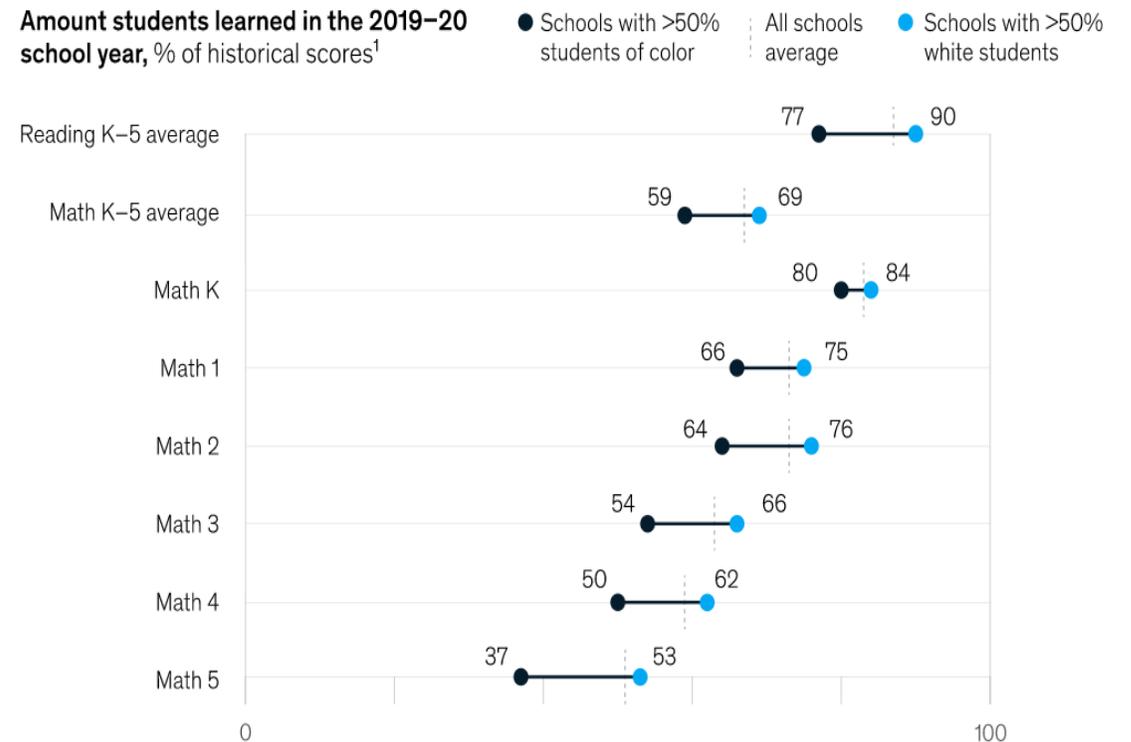
# Effects of the Pandemic on Students: Learning Loss

- ▶ As of January 2021, 72% of the nation's 56.4 million schoolchildren were learning in remote or hybrid models (national survey).
- ▶ On average, **K-12 students lost about three months in math and 1.5 months in reading during the pandemic**. The study also shows that students on average could lose five to nine months of learning by the end of June 2021 (McKinsey & Company).
- ▶ **40% of first grade students and 35 % of second grade students are “significantly at risk” of needing intensive intervention** compared to previous years.
- ▶ According to Policy Analysis for California Education, there has been significant learning loss in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, with students in earlier grades most affected. The equity impact is severe—certain student groups, especially low-income students and English language learners (ELLs), are falling behind more compared to others.

# Effects of the Pandemic on Students Learning Loss

The learning loss was especially acute in schools that predominantly serve students of color where scores were 59 percent of the historical average in math and 77 percent in reading (McKinsey & Company).

## Most students are falling behind, but students of color are faring worse.



<sup>1</sup>Percent of an "average" year of learning gained by students in 2019–20 school year, where 100% is equivalent to historical matched scores over previous 3 years. Source: Curriculum Associates

# Effect of the Pandemic on Students

- ▶ **Nutrition:** 13 million children (1 in 6) may experience food insecurity in 2021. Many people who have been most impacted were food insecure or at risk of food insecurity before COVID and are facing greater hardship since COVID.
- ▶ **Physical Health:** Study suggests U.S. children performed less physical activity and engaged in more sedentary behavior during the COVID-19 period as compared to before the pandemic.
- ▶ **Behavioral and Mental Health:** 46% of parents say their teens had signs of new or worsened mental health conditions. A CDC study showed that the percentage of youth emergency room visits for mental health reasons increased during the pandemic.

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# Special Guests

## State Superintendent of Public Instruction

### Tony Thurmond



Tony Thurmond serves as the 28th California State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Prior to his current post, Superintendent Thurmond was an educator and social worker with 12 years of experience in education and after-school programs and he served in the State Assembly.

# Special Guests

## Contra Costa County Superintendent

### Lynn Mackey



Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa Superintendent of Schools, was elected to her current post in 2018. As a teacher and administrator, Superintendent Mackey has over 20 years of experience working with the Contra Costa County Office of Education.

# Special Guests

## Dr. Petra Steinbuchel, UCSF



Dr. Petra Steinbuchel is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and clinical professor at UCSF. She is the Director for the UCSF Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Portal, which is designed to integrate medical and behavioral health care for children.