

Just the Facts: A Monthly Report on the 2020 Presidential Candidates

Spotlight on COVID-19

More than [30 million](#) children are out of school because of the recent outbreak and spread of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This week, NEA called on the CDC to shut down all schools in the country for at least two weeks because our primary concern is for the health, safety, and welfare of students, families, and educators. But that's just the start. From students who desperately need the safety and food that public schools provide, to working families who are facing lost paychecks and/or unsafe working conditions, our nation must provide support and confront the prevailing systemic inequities and racism that have been amplified by this crisis. Now more than ever, leadership is required to implement urgent policies that ensure that all members of the community are fully supported in caring for their health and the health of those around them; that solutions for homelessness and food insecurity are prioritized; that all employees are able to stay home without fear of losing income; and that states and districts take all necessary steps to ensure students who rely on school meals still are able to access them.

Here's what Democratic candidate Joe Biden has to say:

Former Vice President Joe Biden [minced](#) no words in describing President Trump's response to COVID-19. He observes that "unfortunately this virus laid bare the severe shortcomings of the current administration... [and that] public fears are being compounded by pervasive lack of trust in this president." To combat the pandemic, the former Vice President [has proposed](#) a comprehensive plan that would provide "free public testing and rapid deployment of supplies, as well as economic measures such as emergency paid leave and the creation of a state and local emergency fund." Additionally, his plan would provide resources for food relief and remote student learning. According to the former Vice President, President Trump's [actions](#) in "downplaying it [COVID-19], being overly dismissive, or spreading misinformation is only going to hurt us and further advantage the spread of the disease."

Here's what Republican candidate President Donald Trump has to say:

Rejecting science and ignoring the conspicuous realities of the global pandemic COVID-19, President Donald Trump and his administration [failed](#) to prepare the country for the known virus and compromised the safety of millions of Americans. As the World Health Organization [called](#) on "all countries to educate their populations...and to take an all-of-government and all-of-society approach," President Trump [complained](#) that "now the Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus." Following scathing criticism and confirmation of the virus now present in all 50 states, the President is backing a [\\$1 trillion stimulus](#) to provide cash payments and relief. According to him now, "We're going big...I think we want to get it done and have a big infusion as opposed to going through little meetings every couple of days."