



TOGETHER, WE DO
THE **COMMUNITY**
JUSTICE

COVID-19 and Schools:

Advocating for Your Ideas for Your Children in School

How can I ask my child's school to give more help to students to learn?

It is your right to be involved in your child's public school. Superintendents and boards of education should listen to parents, students, and the community. You can ask for what your child needs to learn now.

» **Tell** your child's school board and superintendent that you are concerned and your ideas of what help students should be getting by:

- **Writing** to school board members
- Writing to the superintendent
- Calling your school board office
- Calling your superintendent
- **Sharing** your concerns during a school board meeting. Check your district website. Meetings may be being held by video conference.

How will our schools be able to afford giving more help to students?

The federal CARES Act sent COVID-19 emergency dollars to public schools, part of the federal stimulus package. They can be spent until September 2022. Local school boards and districts have choices for spending the extra money. Your voice matters as they make plans!

» **Ask** your school board and superintendent to use **CARES Act Emergency Money** for what you know will help children learn. The money could be used for:

- more hours for lessons (such as longer school day or longer school year)
- before- or after-school or Saturday tutoring
- summer school
- technology for students, like computers, tablets, or internet (for example, hot spots)
- software for learning at home
- mentoring, counseling, or mental health services
- services for children with disabilities
- services for children who are English Learners
- services for low-income learners
- services for students who are homeless or in foster care
- services for students in career and technical high schools or
- other creative help for children to learn.

» **Use** ABLE's template letter to the school board to get you started on your email or letter.

Note:

Read ABLE's Special Education and COVID-19 School Closures Fact Sheets for helpful information, if your child has a disability.

