



IOWA ALLIANCE
FOR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Parental Choice in Education During the Pandemic

Parents across Iowa have been faced with navigating their children's education in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, parents are becoming aware of the education system's shortcomings and they are motivated to seek out alternatives.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Once the pandemic came into our communities, parents of children in public schools were met with an unfortunate reality – the choice to continue their child's education in the classroom was no longer theirs to make. Instead, parents were at the mercy of the decisions made by their public schools.

Our education system was not built to deal with extended shutdowns like those imposed during the pandemic. Many have worked hard to continue advocating for students at home, but studies on student achievement during these shutdowns show that our children are falling far behind.

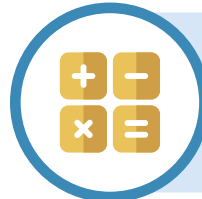
Perhaps more troubling is that the pandemic has made our most vulnerable children even more exposed to the academic achievement disparities they suffered before the shutdowns. Low-income and minority students are falling further behind than other student groups and the damaging effects may last a lifetime.

Parental choice in education is accomplished through school choice policies, empowering parents and ensuring there is always a choice available no matter what the world throws at them.

THE LIFETIME IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC



22% FEWER STUDENTS MADE ACADEMIC GAINS over the course of the pandemic year than same-grade students the year prior.



10 PERCENTILE POINTS WORSE IN MATH ACHIEVEMENT for students during the pandemic compared to same-grade students the year prior.



\$61,000 – \$82,000 IN LOST LIFETIME EARNINGS for the average pandemic student due to COVID-19 related loss of learning time.



30% LOWER RATE OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS USING ONLINE INSTRUCTION versus high-income students due to a lack of high-quality remote learning resources.



7 MONTHS OF LOST LEARNING TIME FOR THE AVERAGE U.S. STUDENT as of January 2021 due to mandatory remote instruction policies during the pandemic.



10.3 MONTHS OF LOST LEARNING TIME FOR BLACK STUDENTS as of January 2021 due to mandatory remote instruction policies during the pandemic.



\$110 BILLION IN LOST ANNUAL INCOME across all pandemic students during their careers as a result of increased COVID-19 drop-out rates and the lost learning time which will only continue to grow.