

**Shares: Report: No Way to Reopen Schools Safely Without Federal Bailout**

A new cost estimate from school superintendents shows reopening following CDC guidelines is cost-prohibitive.

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See chart below and [click cost analysis](#) from the superintendents organization and the Association of School Business Officials International shows that in some cases school districts can expect to spend an additional \$490 per student in order to cover costs associated with purchasing hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and other cleaning supplies, gloves, masks and other personal protective equipment, hiring additional custodial staff and nurses, and more. The additional expenses for an average school district of about 3,700 students total \$1.8 million.

## WHAT WILL IT COST TO REOPEN SCHOOLS?

This document estimates some of the expenses school districts may incur in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and as they plan to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. These calculations assume the statistics of an average\* school district with 3,659 students, 8 school buildings, 183 classrooms, 329 staff members, and 40 school buses (transporting at 25% capacity, or 915 students, to comply with recommended social distancing guidelines).



This list of costs is not intended to be exhaustive but illustrates how the overall cost of school operations will substantially increase to safely reopen as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on K-12 education, please contact ASBO International & AASA.



External References:  
 "How 'What?' Navigating K-12 Reopening, A Collaborative Planning Process?" National Council on School Facilities, Working Document, May 2020.  
 "School Bus Driver Pay Rises as Shortage Worsens," Thomas McMahon, School Bus Fleet Magazine, November 2018.  
 "Total School Districts, Student Enrollment by State and Metro Area," Governing The Future of States and Localities, eRepublic, Accessed June 2020.