

America's Education Challenge

Why CFV Rise Exists

America's education system was designed for a different era. While generations of students have passed through its classrooms, the challenges facing today's learners reveal that many schools are struggling to meet the needs of modern students, particularly those who learn differently.

The evidence is difficult to ignore.



SECTION ONE

The Literacy Crisis

Reading is the foundation of all learning. It affects a student's ability to succeed in mathematics, science, history, communication, and ultimately in life.

Yet according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often called "The Nation's Report Card":

- Only 31% of fourth-grade students are proficient readers.

- Only 30% of eighth-grade students are proficient readers.
- Only 35% of twelfth-grade students are proficient readers.

In other words, approximately 70% of America's students are not reading at a proficient level.

Millions of children advance from grade to grade while struggling to fully access the curriculum.

31%

of 4th graders read at a proficient level

30%

of 8th graders read at a proficient level

35%

of 12th graders read at a proficient level

For many students, the issue is not intelligence or potential. The issue is that the educational environment was never designed with their learning needs in mind.

SECTION TWO

Schools Are Closing

At the same time academic challenges persist, school districts across the nation are facing enrollment declines.

Lower birth rates, changing demographics, homeschooling growth, virtual learning alternatives, and increasing family demand for educational choice have forced districts to make difficult decisions.

As a result, hundreds of schools nationwide are currently:

- Closing permanently
- Consolidating with neighboring schools
- Under formal review for closure
- Restructuring because of declining enrollment

Communities are witnessing a growing disconnect between what families need and what traditional educational systems have been designed to provide.

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SECTION THREE

School Safety & Student Well-Being Concerns

Beyond academics, schools are also facing significant challenges related to safety, attendance, behavior, and student well-being.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE REMAINS A NATIONAL CONCERN

According to the K-12 School Shooting Database, 233 school shooting incidents were recorded in the United States during 2025.

Education cannot thrive where students do not feel secure.

STUDENT MISTREATMENT & EDUCATOR MISCONDUCT

Research and federal reporting continue to highlight concerns regarding student protection in school environments.

- Research estimates suggest that as many as 1 in 10 students may experience some form of educator sexual misconduct during their K-12 experience.
- Federal civil rights reporting has documented thousands of allegations involving inappropriate physical force, restraint, abuse, or misconduct by school personnel.

These findings underscore the need for transparency, accountability, and stronger student protection systems.

Chronic Absenteeism

Student attendance has become one of the most urgent challenges facing education.

Approximately 26% of public-school students are chronically absent, meaning they miss at least 10% of the school year.

Chronic absenteeism is strongly associated with:

- Lower literacy outcomes
- Decreased engagement
- Increased behavioral challenges
- Higher dropout risk

Students cannot benefit from instruction when they are not present to receive it.

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233

school shooting incidents recorded in
2025

Bullying & Cyberbullying

Student safety extends beyond physical spaces into social and digital environments.

National surveys indicate:

- Approximately 19% of students experience bullying at school

- Approximately 16% of students experience cyberbullying

Bullying affects academic performance, attendance, emotional well-being, and a student's ability to feel safe enough to learn.

SECTION FOUR

Transportation Safety

Each day, millions of students travel to and from school using transportation systems.

Across the nation, thousands of bus-related incidents occur annually, including:

- Traffic collisions

- Student injuries
- Loading and unloading accidents
- Behavioral incidents during transport

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