

FIX ACT 66

Act 66 gave every student the option of an extra year of education for time lost to COVID-19, except some of the most vulnerable: youths with developmental disabilities who will graduate in 2022 or 2023.

Pass new legislation to give these youths the extra year offered to everyone else.

It's simple. It's fair. It's needed



ACT 66 was Unfair

Most students with disabilities were denied an extra year of school under Act 66 because the law does not allow them to stay past 21.



Act 66 only allowed students with disabilities who turned 21 during the 2020-21 school year to stay in school until they turned 22.

Special education laws create many barriers to recouping time lost to COVID-19 without Act 66.

This is unfair to parents of those with disabilities.

This includes many students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), some of whom also have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Under Act 66, parents of typical children did not have to document COVID-19's impact. They just had to spend 5 minutes filling out a 1 page form.

But parents of those with disabilities would have to spend dozens of hours documenting COVID-19's impact and meeting with the school team.

Many of these parents would have to incur hundreds or thousands of dollars in lawyer's fees to have any chance of recouping schooling lost to COVID-19.

The Solution:

Extend Act 66's protections for youths with disabilities for two more years

THE SOLUTION IS FAIR

Parents of those with disabilities should only have to complete the same Act 66 forms that other parents did.

THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE

A new bill extending Act 66's provisions to also cover those who will graduate in 2022 or 2023.

THE SOLUTION

COSTS TAX-PAYERS NOTHING

Schools can cover 100% of costs through federal pandemic relief funds.

THE SOLUTION

BURDENS FEW SCHOOLS

Only 7-15% of districts would have to hire additional teachers to cover youth who stay an extra year.

Extend Act 66's protections for youths with disabilities who graduate in 2022 or 2023

It's Simple. It's Fair.

It's What Pennsylvania's Most Vulnerable Youth Need

Speak to your Legislator TODAY about our solution



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The Solution Is Just What These Youths And Their Families Need As They Step Into Adulthood After COVID

No one was more vulnerable to COVID-19's impact than youths with disabilities about to transition out of school.

Their success as adults hinges on a smooth transition from the classroom to the community during their final 2-3 years in public school. COVID-19 stole that.

Those with more significant disabilities, who rarely benefit from remote learning, lost 5 months of school when schools first closed.

They continued to miss hundreds of hours of community-based job training after schools re-opened.

For some, the break in routines increased problems like aggression and self-injury.



Their families were also hard hit.

Many parents had to adjust their childcare or work for 5 months or more when schools were closed, costing thousands of dollars in expenses or lost wages.

Funding for programs for adults with disabilities might not even cover all of the costs, leaving parents with still more expenses for decades to come.

This is hard for parents whose lost work opportunities had already cost them tens of thousands of dollars over their child's lifetime.

Youths with disabilities already faced a difficult and uncertain adulthood before COVID-19.

Only 8-10% of 20-25 year olds with Autism in Pennsylvania are employed full-time, most in low-wage jobs.

The unemployed face very long waiting lists for the Medicaid waivers needed to pay for day services and programs.

Even with waivers, day programs and services can be very hard to access in most rural and many suburban regions.

And so many young adults with disabilities are stuck at home.

**Extend Act 66's protections
for youths with disabilities
who graduate in 2022 or 2023**

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TODAY about our solution**

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