



## Advisory Council

**Mary Filardo**, Executive Director,  
21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund,  
BASIC Founder

**Jeff Vincent**, Director of Public  
Infrastructure Initiatives, Center  
for Cities and Schools, University  
of California, Berkeley,  
BASIC Co-Founder

**Ally Bernstein-Talcott**, Principal  
and Co-Owner, Step Up Advocacy,  
BASIC Executive Director

**Kevin Sullivan**, Senior Advisor,  
21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund and  
BASIC

**Anisa Heming**, Director of the  
Center for Green Schools at the  
U.S. Green Building Council

**Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald**,  
Director, Children's Defense  
Fund's Southern Regional Office

**Stephen Ward**, Principal, VH  
Strategies

## ***Support Safe School Reopening for In-Person Education and Prepare to Build Back Better***

**Washington DC, December 22, 2020** —The [Re]Build America's School Infrastructure Coalition ([BASIC](#)) is incredibly grateful to Congress, particularly the members who have long supported federal investments in school facilities, for the explicit clarification that COVID-19 relief dollars can be used to make repairs and improvements to our deteriorated school facilities in order to create a safer teaching and learning environment.

If school districts are to open schools for in-person schooling, and stay open during this pandemic, staff, students and their families need to work together to keep the virus out of the schools. But also critical, is that school districts employ proven mitigation measures to minimize the transmission of the virus when staff and students are onsite. One important part of this is making sure the school facilities have bathrooms, nurses suites, mechanical systems, and outdoor learning spaces to support personal hygiene, health services, fresh air, and social distancing.

BASIC endorses these provisions and believe they are a step in reducing the deficit created by federal disinvestment in our public school infrastructure. This infrastructure deficit can be further addressed with a comprehensive bill to support the nation's PK-12 public school facilities. We look forward to continuing our work in the next Congress to pass Senator Reed and Chairman Bobby Scott's Rebuild America's Schools Act (RASA) into law to address the long-standing teaching and learning inequities resulting from the decrepit conditions of our nation's schools. RASA would help modernize our country's school buildings and grounds to make them more resilient in the event of a health crisis or natural disaster, a safer place for students, and provide a healthy environment in which educators can teach and children can learn.

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[The Re\[Build\] America's School Infrastructure Coalition \(BASIC\)](#) is a non-partisan coalition of civic, public sector, labor, and industry associations who support federal funding to help under-served public school districts modernize and build K-12 public school facilities. We believe that ALL children should attend healthy, safe, and educationally appropriate school facilities. It's BASIC.

**To learn more:** Visit BASIC's [website](#), which includes [resources](#) and recent school facilities news.

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