
Trump urged to add education expert to reopening task force

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Trump urged to add education expert to reopening task force

By Bianca Quilantan

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WASHINGTON — Rep. [Josh Harder](#) (D-Calif.) is urging President Donald Trump to appoint a member focused exclusively on schools to the new [White House task force](#) created to reopen the economy.

“[I]t remains unclear as to what the reopening of our nation’s campuses will look like,” [Harder wrote in a letter sent Friday](#). “Our K-12 and higher education leaders will face potential challenges such as staggered start times, smaller class sizes, and extra safety precautions regarding food preparation and transportation when these campuses are reopened.”

The letter follows Trump’s push last week for a swift reopening of the economy. He has extended [invitations to a bipartisan group of lawmakers](#) to participate in the task force that is advising him.

[Others giving input include a list of dozens](#) of executives and companies, faith leaders and thought leaders from sectors including technology, agriculture, banking, financial services, defense, energy, transportation, sports and health care.

Education was not on the list.

Harder, a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, also emphasized that opening school systems is important in the administration’s economic recovery efforts.

“It’s not just big corporations that need a say in these decisions — our country’s students and teachers need a voice,” Harder said in a statement. “This is a weird omission that the President could easily correct.”

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