

Covid-19 and the Entering Freshman Classes of 2020 to 2032

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My grandchildren range from 2 to 17 years old...

Age	Last year	This year	Home support	Potential learning lost?
2	Daycare	Daycare	Lots	Succeeding
5	Daycare	Preschool	Lots	Succeeding
8	1 st grade	2 nd grade 2d/wk; strong school; OK IT	Some	Work ethic, study skills, social skills
9	3 rd grade	4 th grade 2d/wk; strong school; OK IT	Some	Independence, self-confidence, social skills
9	3 rd grade	4 th grade online; weak school, poor IT	Little	Failing
11	5 th grade	6 th grade online; weak school, poor IT	Little	Essay writing, science methods, math, work ethic, critical thinking, study skills
17	11 th grade	12 th grade online; weak school, adequate IT	None	Algebra, chemistry, academic help, career or college planning/guidance

They are in middle-of-the-road situations.

- They are in school, but nationally
 - Many students are not enrolled or not attending school
 - Many students are below grade-level academically and socially
 - Many schools cannot offer minimal online/technological support
 - The socioeconomic divide in education is growing
- Recovery from covid-19 will be complicated by
 - The willingness of legislators to act now
 - Funding challenges
 - DEI-related differences in quality of K-12 educational opportunities
 - Dependence of mitigation strategies on age/grade in 2020

They will be in our pipeline for ≥ 12 more years.

- Now, layer this fact on top of
 - Declining demographics
 - Ballooning student indebtedness
 - Pre-covid poor academic preparation of many students
 - Erosion of male enrollments in higher education
 - Racial and socioeconomic inequities among school districts
 - Long-term exacerbation of financial challenges faced by students
 - Erosion of public confidence in higher education
- Changing academic needs of freshman students affected
 - In high school
 - In grades 5-8
 - In grades K-4

We have been planning for a pre-covid PennState 2025...what about post-covid?

- We have some data
 - SP20
 - Existing studies of the effects of
 - Absenteeism
 - Summer knowledge loss
 - Nutritional deficiencies and poverty
 - Declining enrollments in K-3 grades in public schools
- We certainly will have more data as time passes
- But what do we do **now** to prepare for the incoming Penn State classes of
 - 2021
 - 2032

Can we convert the challenges to opportunities?

- Identify the questions
- Gather and analyze data
- Identify and implement mitigation strategies BEFORE students reach our classrooms
 - Partner with schools, community centers, government agencies, philanthropists
 - Redesign curricula and student support services to
 - Enable covid-disadvantaged students to achieve learning outcomes
 - While maintaining quality and rigor of courses and programs and the value of a Penn State degree

I look forward to future work with you as we continue to respond to the challenges posed by this challenging time.