

## Viewpoint: Shutting down schools during COVID? Democrats over-reached and screwed up their COVID response

I can't imagine that I would have arrived here—not a Republican, but questioning my place in the Democratic Party—had my son not been enrolled in public kindergarten in 2020.

Late that summer, the Cleveland school system [announced](#) that it would not open for in-person learning the first 9 weeks of the semester. I was distraught. My family relies on my income, and I knew that I would not be able to work full-time with my then-5-year-old son and then-3-year-old daughter at home.

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I kept hoping that someone in our all-Democratic political leadership would take a stand on behalf of Cleveland's 37,000 public-school children or seem to care about what was happening. Weren't Democrats supposed to stick up for low-income kids? Instead, our veteran Democratic mayor avoided remarking on the crisis facing the city's public-school families.

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Why did I hear so little about that immense social problem and so much shaming of the women who dared to complain about having their kids stuck at home? All in all, the party that supposedly focused on "systemic" issues was obsessed with demanding personal sacrifice. And the burden fell most heavily on mothers of young children, essential workers, and low-income children.

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.\*\*](#)