

Put a spotlight on global education

As kids in the United States prepare to head back to school in a few weeks, let's remind our leaders that we can be doing more to support a quality education for *every child, everywhere*. This month, write a letter to the editor calling for U.S. support for the Global Partnership for Education.

A staggering [263 million children and youth](#) are out of school globally. In places like South Sudan, a young woman is more likely to die in childbirth than she is to graduate high school. But world leaders are starting to mobilize around a plan to give **25 million more children** a quality education through the Global Partnership for Education. This is the only partnership of its kind dedicated exclusively to education in the world's lowest-income and most fragile countries.

Since 2011, the U.S. government has made increasing annual investments in the Global Partnership for Education, helping drive its success. Unfortunately, earlier this year, the White House proposed slashing U.S. investments in the fight against global poverty, including education. These issues have strong bipartisan support in Congress, and now is no time to turn our back on the world's most vulnerable children. As the Global Partnership kicks off its fundraising drive for this [ambitious new plan](#), it's time for leadership, not retreat, from our elected officials.

The Global Partnership is asking its developing country partners to allocate a full 20% of national government expenditure to education annually, and it is asking for a collective \$3.1 billion from donor governments over 2018-2020. Leaders like Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai have reminded the world that education is a human right — and that a quality education can radically change the trajectory of a child's life. This year, the U.S. has a chance to do its part, investing in a brighter future for millions.

Right now, a congressional resolution is circulating in the House of Representatives (H. Res. 466), and members of Congress can sign on to show their support for GPE. Use the media to call on your representative to sign the resolution and make sure the U.S. steps up its commitment to education.

You can tailor the template letter below – or just write from the heart. With back-to-school time approaching, try sharing a story about your own education and how it affected you. You could reference a favorite teacher, or your favorite school subject as a child, or what your education helped you accomplish, as a way to make the letter personal and relatable. Just don't forget to end it with the call to action, asking your member to cosponsor [the resolution](#).

Why write a letter to the editor?

Writing a letter to the editor is a great way to make sure our government's commitment to this fight continues. Your senators and representatives are reading your local paper every day, trying to understand the issues that their constituents care about. They need to hear from you so they know that global education needs to be a top priority. Even one published letter can make a big difference!

Tips

- Keep your letter short. Check your newspaper for their length requirements, or simply keep the letter to 150-200 words. Even shorter is better!
- Make the letter personal. Customize with your own ideas, examples, and passion.
- Not sure where to submit your letter? Look up media contacts [here](#).
- Keep a look out for your letter in print and, if you're published, share on social media and with your members of Congress.
- Let RESULTS staff know you've been published, too!

Sample LTE in EPIC Format

To the Editor:

Engage the Reader: In this never ending news cycle, most people probably missed the news that Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai just graduated from high school. Malala risked her life for the chance to go to school. As she says, "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

State the Problem: A staggering 263 million children and youth are out of school globally.

Inform on Solution: It doesn't have to be this way, and now The Global Partnership for Education is launching a new plan to give millions more kids the education that is their fundamental right. But that plan requires resources to make it a reality.

Call to Action: I hope we can count on [Your Senator], [Your Senator], and [Your Representative] to help make sure the U.S. shows leadership in education.

[Your name]

[Your city and state]

Leading with Action: Advocacy Workshop Agenda

Below is a sample agenda and script that you can use to put people in your community into action. We know that when people take action they get inspired. The agenda below would require a meeting of roughly 60 minutes. Adapt the elements to fit your style and timeframe.

I. Setting the Stage – 15 Minutes

2 min: Welcome and acknowledge people for being there.

“Thanks to all of you for coming. There are a lot of ways you could be spending the day, and I want to thank all of you for coming out and learning more about how YOU can play a role in the movement to end poverty. Can the RESULTS volunteers briefly say their name and how many years you’ve been involved? Also, can you all be sure to sign our sign in sheet?”

3 min: State the purpose of the meeting.

“Our purpose today is to inspire you all about the difference you can make, working with others, to create the political will to end hunger and poverty. In the next few minutes, we’ll . . .

- Learn a bit about RESULTS, the group organizing this.
- We will learn about an issue of poverty.
- We will take an action that will make a difference on that issue. We'll write a letter to the editor about the Global Partnership for Education.
- Finally, we'll see who is interested in continuing to make a difference with RESULTS.”

10 min: Center the room and do introductions.

“Let’s see who’s in the room tonight and get in touch with why we are here. Please give us your name and tell us briefly why acting on issue of poverty is important to you.” Other possible questions, “What are you committed to in life?” or “Who do you want to be in the world?”

Afterward, “Thank you all for sharing what is important to you. We have a lot in common.”

II. The Basics of RESULTS – 10 Minutes

RESULTS is...

“So, what is RESULTS? RESULTS is movement of passionate, committed, everyday people. Together we use our voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. As volunteers, we receive training, support, and inspiration to become skilled advocates. In time, we learn to effectively advise policy makers, guiding them toward decisions that will improve access to health, education, and economic opportunity. Together we realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world. “

Show the video if you have time: We Have a Vision:

http://www.results.org/blog/we_have_a_vision/

1. An example of our success is protecting development assistance for FY2017. We helped secure the highest number of letter signers ever for AIDS, TB, and malaria; global

education; and maternal and child health, which helped protect funding, even when the President has proposed a 30% cut to these programs.

2. A local example of our role in creating change is: We moved Rep. _____ to sign on to xxx letter as part of this—he met with us in _____ (month) of 2017, which was key in getting his/her support.

A few more details if you have time:

- RESULTS partners meet twice per month to plan and take action.
- During one of those meetings, we connect to a national webinar to learn more about an issue, learn to speak powerfully, and take action to communicate with our elected officials.
- We also develop plans for influencing our decision makers through face-to-face meetings, the media, and community action.

III. Issues & Action Component – 30 Minutes

1. Introduce the issue of the Global Partnership for Education with a story or video:
 - *GPE in Chad*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r--C6L-8LcE&feature=youtu.be>
 - *All Girls Deserve School Beyond Primary*: <http://time.com/3736611/malala-all-girls-deserve-education-beyond-early-childhood/>
 - *Investment in Pre-School Pays*: <https://youtu.be/dFUW8Bdqzv8>
 - *GPE supports countries after disasters*: <https://tinyurl.com/GPEinMadagascar>
2. Read the August Action Sheet together, including sample letter.
3. Everyone writes letters. Encourage them to personalize. Remember to tell people to add date, name, address, email, phone.
4. Have one or two people volunteer to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
5. Make a plan to submit the letters.
6. Debrief on the action-taking.

IV. Invitation to Attend the Next Meeting & Closing – 5 Minutes

“Lastly, we are planning to have future meetings like this one about RESULTS and taking people through the process of taking action by writing letters like the ones you wrote tonight.

- Who is up for doing this again?
- Who knows other people or groups who might be interested?
- We are also looking for people who want to take the next step in using their voice to work with the media and Congress with our group. Who is curious about what our chapter does and wants to learn more?
- Who is interested in learning more about supporting RESULTS financially?”

Share thank yous, and be sure to capture contact information including name, phone, email, address. If you send it to Ken Patterson (kpatterson@results.org), we can sign these new people up for twice-monthly action alerts.