

# Bipartisan Letter to President Biden: Support Global Basic Education

**Co-leads:** Representative Kilmer (D-WA), Representative Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

**Endorsing Organizations:** Global Campaign for Education U.S, ONE Campaign, RESULTS, Save the Children, and UNICEF USA

**Deadline to sign-on:** COB Friday June 18

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Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sending a letter asking President Biden to support the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in its multilateral efforts to ensure all children have access to a quality education.

A leading international organization in basic education, with a presence in 76 countries, GPE brings together international donors, the private sector, and community groups to build resilient education systems. During the COVID-19 pandemic, GPE has mobilized over half a billion dollars to help governments sustain schooling for 355 million children around the world. With its track record of effectively operating at scale, GPE is needed now more than ever to restore education systems ravaged by the pandemic and to return the world's out-of-school children to the classroom.

The U.S. government has long led in advancing basic education access and improving learning outcomes across the globe. However, as the world reckons with the pandemic's unprecedented disruption to education—pushing millions of children out of school—U.S. leadership in this space has never been more important. It is imperative that we act now, in concert with GPE and its international partners, to provide all children the foundational learning that they need and deserve.

**For these reasons, we ask that the Biden Administration commit \$1 billion over five years in support of GPE's 2021-2025 strategy for basic education.** This funding would be a meaningful contribution to GPE's goal of raising \$5 billion through its financing conference in July. U.S. financial support would help ensure 175 million primary-age children's education, provide professionally trained teachers to 140 million students, and enable 88 million more children—most of them girls—to enter the classroom.

We hope you will join us in ensuring that all children are able to learn and have access to a quality basic education. To sign onto the letter, please sign with Quill using this [link](#). For more information, please contact Bo Peard ([bowen.peard@mail.house.gov](mailto:bowen.peard@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Kilmer's office or Evan Schuler ([evan.schuler@mail.house.gov](mailto:evan.schuler@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Fitzpatrick's office. **The deadline to sign on is COB Friday June 18.**

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

## LETTER TEXT

June XX, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As members of Congress who support United States leadership on global education, we urge your Administration to commit \$1 billion over five years towards the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) 2021-2025 strategy, leading up to its financing conference co-hosted by the UK and Kenyan governments in London on July 29, 2021.

GPE is the only multilateral partnership exclusively dedicated to ensuring all children have access to a quality education and are equipped to learn. It is the only global entity that brings together all partners—international donors, the private sector, and community groups—around plans to build resilient education systems and to educate more children to higher levels across the world.

With U.S. government leadership, the world has seen great gains in learning outcomes and improved access to quality basic education. However, COVID-19 has been the largest disruption to education the world has ever seen. Without immediate action, school closures and economic hardship could combine to push millions of vulnerable children out of education and reverse decades of hard-won gains.

In 2020, GPE quickly mobilized over half a billion dollars to support partner countries' pandemic response. It continues to be the largest provider of grants for the COVID-19 education response. GPE's COVID-19 fund has helped governments sustain learning for 355 million children in the poorest countries, with a focus on remote learning, teacher support, and safe reopening of schools.

GPE has maintained its ability to support education globally through a track record of effectiveness, working at scale, and retaining national-level commitment from partner countries. GPE now supports 76 countries in getting their most vulnerable girls and boys to school, improving teaching, and advancing foundational learning skills—such as basic numeracy and literacy. It is also building resilient education systems capable of withstanding shocks, including pandemics, climate change, and violent conflict. Signaling the scope of GPE's work to come, a total of ninety countries and territories are eligible for GPE support from 2021-2025, accounting for more than 80% of the world's out-of-school children.

GPE's innovative financing "Multiplier" helps draw in external financing for developing country partners from development banks and other donors, in support of their education sector plans. This fund provides \$1 in GPE grant funds for every \$3 a country secures in external financing, generating more than \$882 million for education since 2018 and mobilizing nearly a billion dollars in total co-financing.

Continued U.S. leadership and financial commitments are critical to fulfilling GPE's replenishment target of at least \$5 billion from all donors at the upcoming financing conference. With these resources, GPE will be able to do the following:

- Enable 175 million primary-age children to learn
- Reach 140 million students with professionally trained teachers
- Get 88 million more children in school, more than half of them girls
- Save \$16 billion through more efficient spending

U.S. leadership is needed now more than ever to ensure that COVID-19 setbacks are not long-lasting. With its innovative financing mechanisms, co-financing from developing country partners, and results-based approach, GPE will make U.S. foreign assistance go even further.

The financing conference in July is a critical moment for **the U.S. to make a \$1-billion, five-year pledge to the Global Partnership for Education**. We encourage you to demonstrate our country's enduring commitment to ensuring every child's access to a quality basic education. We look forward to working with you to secure funding for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Cc:  
Secretary Tony Blinken  
Administrator Samantha Powers