

FY2022: International Basic Education Funding

Please join Representative Quigley (D-IL) and Representative Fitzpatrick (R-PA) in the call for robust funding for international basic education in Fiscal Year 2022.

****The closing date for this letter is April 21, 2021****

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to sign a letter urging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) to provide strong funding for Basic Education, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait, in the FY2022 SFOPS Appropriations bill.

COVID-19 has disrupted the education of over 91 percent of the world's children and youth and severely exacerbated a pre-existing global learning crisis. For children who have been deprived of access to school and distance learning during the pandemic, learning loss and other harms pose a generational threat that could widen existing gaps in educational and economic attainment in low- and middle-income countries.

To recover from COVID-19 globally and prepare for future emergencies that may further disrupt education, U.S. foreign assistance will need to support improved access to distance learning materials and technology, safe school reopening plans, reenrollment initiatives for out-of-school children and youth, and curriculum and teaching adaptation to ensure that all students get back on track and reach their full potential.

Please join us in urging the House Appropriations Committee to provide strong funding for international Basic Education in FY2022. To sign onto the letter, please contact Elazar Chertow in Congressman Mike Quigley's office (Elazar.Chertow@mail.house.gov) or Evan Schuler in Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick's office (Evan.Schuler@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley

Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick

Member of Congress

LETTER TEXT

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Ranking Member Rogers:

Thank you for your commitment to fighting extreme poverty and improving education for children in need around the world. We are writing to urge you to provide strong support for Basic Education in the fiscal year 2022 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait.

COVID-19 has disrupted the education of over 91 percent of the world's children and youth and severely exacerbated a pre-existing global learning crisis. For children who have been deprived of access to

school and distance learning during the pandemic, learning loss and other harms pose a generational threat that could widen existing gaps in educational and economic attainment in low- and middle-income countries. Research indicates that a three-month school closure could cost children over a year's worth of learning and, if left unaddressed, many children may never catch up.

U.S. Basic Education assistance strives to increase access to quality education, provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional skills, and prepare youth for successful careers. To recover from COVID-19 globally and prepare for future emergencies that could further disrupt education, U.S. foreign assistance will need to support improved access to distance learning materials and technology, safe school reopening plans, reenrollment initiatives for out-of-school children and youth, and curriculum and teaching adaptation to ensure that all students get back on track and reach their full potential.

U.S. support for multilateral partnerships, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), complements our bilateral programs and leverages additional resources for this important work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, multilateral organizations have been quick to respond to the dire education needs of children. GPE has mobilized \$500 million to help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. ECW activated \$140 million in 2020, including through its First Emergency Response fund, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which aims to reach 32 million children in 34 countries.

To sustain and enhance international efforts to support learning during and after COVID-19, it will be imperative for the Subcommittee to fully fund Basic Education in the Fiscal Year 2022 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,
