

## Support International Basic Education in FY2025

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**FY24 Signers:** Quigley, Fitzpatrick, Plaskett, Beyer, DeSaulnier, Bonamici, Moore (WI), Davis, Titus, Panetta, Tlaib, Courtney, Houlahan, Sablan, Grijalva, Lynch, Ross, Sanchez, Veasey, DelBene, Schiff, Pascrell, Schakowsky, DeGette, Castro, Norton, Brownley, Williams (GA), Garcia (TX), McGovern, Brown (OH), Horsford, Cohen, Strickland, Cleaver, Ruiz, Lieu, Nadler, Tokuda, Connolly, Neal, Pappas, Swalwell, Cicilline, Stevens, Raskin, Pallone, Larsen, Bera, Kuster, Foster, Escobar, Chu, Omar, Doggett, Dingell, Keating, McBath, Pingree, Himes, Carbajal, Radewagen, Boyle, Johnson (GA), Payne, Blunt Rochester, Higgins, Porter, Magaziner, Ryan, McClellan, Hayes, Casten, Wild, Allred, Crockett, Malliotakis, Thompson (CA), Smith (WA), Kelly (IL), Budzinski, Jacobs, Kildee, Evans, Crow, Spanberger, Perez, Slotkin, Eshoo, Levin, DeLuzio, Hoyle, Balint, Krishnamoorthi, Gallego, Chertoff, McCormick, Barragan, Waters, Khanna, Garcia (IL), Scanlon, Ruppersberger, Wilson (FL), Larson, Salinas, Torres (NY), Kamlager-Dove, Bowman, Sewell, Cardenas, Fletcher, Scholten, Moskowitz, Carter (LA), Trahan, Velazquez, Schrier, Stansbury, Sherrill, Scott (GA), Jackson (IL), Davis (NC), Vargas, Soto, Green, Auchincloss, Carson, Lofgren, Jackson Lee

**\*\*Deadline COB April 17, 2024\*\***

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to sign a letter urging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) to provide robust funding for Basic Education, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait, in the FY2025 SFOPS Appropriations bill.

The need for U.S. leadership in global education has never been more important. A whole generation is at risk of falling behind in foundational literacy and numeracy skills due to pandemic disruptions. According to the World Bank, more than 70 percent of children living in low- and middle-income countries are now experiencing global learning poverty - the proportion of 10-year-olds unable to read a short, age-appropriate text. If left unaddressed, the long-term ramifications of inaction at the global level are real and severe, as lower educational attainment can lead to less economic opportunity and worse health outcomes.

Investments in U.S. international basic education programs are essential to addressing these challenges: they increase access to quality education, provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional learning skills, and prepare youth for successful careers. In fiscal year 2022 alone, U.S. basic education programs reached nearly 33 million learners in pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational and workforce development programs in 97 countries around the world.

Please join us in urging the House Appropriations Committee to provide strong funding for international Basic Education in FY2025. To sign this letter, please opt-in [on Quill](#) by **April 17th**. If you have any questions, please contact [Jessica.Merritt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jessica.Merritt@mail.house.gov) in Congressman Mike Quigley's office or [Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Matthew.Clarkin@mail.house.gov) in Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick's office.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley

*Member of Congress*

Brian Fitzpatrick

*Member of Congress*

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and  
Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and  
Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

Thank you for your continued bipartisan commitment to fighting poverty and improving education for children in need around the world by including \$970 million for International Basic Education in the fiscal year 2024 House State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies (SFOPS) bill. In recognition of the growing challenges facing the world's learners, we are writing to urge you to provide increased support for International Basic Education in the fiscal year 2025 SFOPS bill, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait.

The need for U.S. leadership in global education has never been more important. While we've made progress in increasing access to education, barriers to learning like poverty, conflict, ongoing impacts of pandemic-related school closures, and exclusion based on gender, disability, and ethnicity threaten the futures of learners around the world.

The world is dealing with numerous crises, and we cannot afford to leave behind an entire generation of learners. According to the World Bank, in 2023 over 70 percent of children in lower- and middle-income countries were not equipped with the skills needed to read and understand a basic text or demonstrate basic mathematical proficiency by age 10. This learning poverty, if left unaddressed, has the potential for severe long-term ramifications, including diminished economic opportunity and health outcomes.

Investments in U.S. international basic education programs are essential to addressing these challenges: they increase access to quality education, provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional learning skills, and prepare youth for successful careers. In fiscal year 2022 alone, U.S. basic education programs reached nearly 33 million learners in pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational and workforce development programs in 97 countries around the world.<sup>1</sup> Education is an essential lifeline in times of crisis. By investing in the improvement of resilient education systems, the U.S. can help mitigate the harmful effects of conflict, crisis, or other disruptive events that typically impact access to safe, quality learning.

Moving forward, U.S. foreign assistance must build upon and enhance ongoing efforts to support the world's learners, assess and address learning loss, support educators, provide psychosocial and protection services, and increase emergency preparedness and response capacity in partner countries.

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. GPE supports 88 lower-income partner countries to develop their own

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<sup>1</sup> "Fiscal Year 2022 U.S. Government Strategy Report to Congress," USAID, <https://www.edulinks.org/resources/fiscal-year-2022-us-government-strategy-report-congress>

pathways to transform their education systems. GPE has reached 160 million students through its grant activities and trained more than 1 million teachers. ECW, the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, has reached 8.8 million children and adolescents and supported the training of 140,539 teachers across 43 crisis-affected countries/contexts. It provides refugees, internally displaced persons, and other affected populations with comprehensive and context-specific assistance to access learning opportunities through first emergency rapid response and multi-year funding platforms.

To sustain and enhance international efforts to support foundational learning and improve learning outcomes, it will be imperative for the Subcommittee to robustly fund USAID's bilateral Basic Education programs, GPE, and ECW in the fiscal year 2025 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,