

ACTION SHEET

Generate Media to Bolster Global Education

School is back in session and young minds are buzzing with the promise of fresh learning ahead. At least that's the case in the United States. But [263 million young people worldwide are missing out on life-transforming education](#). It's just not right. Write a letter to the editor calling for U.S. support for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

Education is Transformational

The positive impact of education on individuals, families, and nations is undeniable. Studies have shown that:

- Every year of schooling decreases chances youth will engage in violent conflict by 20%.¹
- An individual's earnings increase by about 10 percent for each additional year of schooling.²
- If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty—equivalent to a 12 percent drop in global poverty.³
- Out-of-school girls are three times more likely to be infected with HIV than girls who remain at school.⁴
- Women with at least some formal education are more likely than uneducated women to use contraception, marry later, have fewer children, and be better informed on the nutritional and other needs of children.⁵

So, we cannot stand by as the world is denied the talents of millions of youth, and out-of-school youths are denied life opportunities and the opportunity to be contributors to their nations.

The Global Partnership for Education is Making a Difference

GPE is the only partnership of its kind dedicated exclusively to education in the world's lowest-income and most fragile countries. GPE has a plan to get 25 million more children through school, and ensure hundreds of millions more get a quality education by 2020. This is on top of the 64 million children they've helped enroll in school since 2002. Since 2011, the U.S. government has made increasing annual investments in GPE, helping drive its success. As the GPE kicks off its fundraising drive for this [ambitious new plan](#), it's time for leadership, not retreat.

¹ <https://replenishment.globalpartnership.org/en/assets/gpes-engagement-with-conflict-migration-and-education/>

² <http://www.globalpartnership.org/content/gpe-replenishment-2020-case-investment>

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Media-Guides/2011/girls-education-fact-sheet.aspx>

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. On February 8, 2018 in Senegal, Dakar, the U.S. has a chance to do its part, investing in a brighter future for millions.

Congress is generating support for GPE via House Resolution 466, and Senate Resolution 286. But we need a commitment from Administration to make a bold pledge to GPE in February.

TAKE ACTION: Write a letter to the editor calling on the Administration and Congress to support GPE's efforts. Tailor the sample letter below to make it your own. Share a story about how education has positively impacted your life by referencing a memory, a teacher, or an opportunity as a way to make the letter one-of-a-kind. End your letter with a call to action.

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 global education continues. Your senators and representatives are reading your local paper every day, trying to understand the issues their constituents care about. Your letter is one way to let them know that global education needs to be a top priority.

Tips

- Keep your letter short. Check newspaper requirements, or just keep it to 150-200 words.
- Make the letter personal. Customize with your own story, ideas, examples, and passion.
- Keep a look out for your letter in print, then share it with your members of Congress, and on social media. Let RESULTS staff know you've been published, too!

Sample LTE

To the Editor: As students gain traction on their studies this fall, it's easy to forget the 263 million children and youth are out of school globally. This is alarming. Can any of us imagine life without school? But we can change this if our leaders to continue to act.

Last month, the President signed the READ Act, a global education reform bill, into law. Now the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is launching a plan to give 25 million more kids a basic education. Congress is generating support for GPE via House Resolution 466, and Senate Resolution 286. But we also need a commitment from Administration to make a bold pledge to GPE in February 2018 at the GPE replenishment conference.

GPE is the only partnership of its kind dedicated exclusively to education in the world's lowest-income and most fragile countries. The children and youth of the world need this. I hope we can count on Rep. XXX, Senators xxx and xxx, and the Administration to show leadership on global education. It will create a for a better world for us all.

[Your name], [Your city and state]

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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 about the Global Partnership for Education that we'll hand-carry to our representative.
- 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

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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 by sending them letters.
- 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:
 - *Individual stories:* <http://tinyurl.com/GPEStories>
 - *GPE in Chad:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r--C6L-8LcE&feature=youtu.be>
 - *All Girls Deserve School Beyond Primary:* <http://tinyurl.com/GirlsDeserveSchool>
 - *Investment in Pre-School Pays:* <https://youtu.be/dFUW8Bdgzv8>
 - *GPE supports countries after disasters:* <https://tinyurl.com/GPEinMadagascar>
 - *Find others here:* <http://www.globalpartnership.org/news-and-media/multimedia>
2. Read the October Action Sheet together, including sample letter.
3. If people don't know their members of Congress, show them how to find their legislators and relevant contact information online.
4. Everyone writes letters. Encourage them to personalize. Remember to tell people to add date, name, address, email, phone.
5. Have one or two people volunteer to read their letter out loud for feedback and encouragement.
6. Let people know how/when you'll deliver their letters and that you'll report back.
7. 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?”

Say thank yous, capture contact information: name, phone, email, address. Send contact info to Mark Campbell (mcampbell@results.org). Your new people will receive actions twice monthly.