



TAKE ACTION ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OTHERS INTERESTED

IF YOU HAVE

10
Minutes

- **Learn the Facts.** Read our fact sheet on the right to education and then test your knowledge with our short quiz at www.discoverhumanrights.org/toolkit.html.
- **Donate.** Make a donation to an organization like Parents for Public Schools (www.parents4publicschools.com/) or the National Association for Multicultural Education (www.nameorg.org/) that works to close the achievement gap and promote higher education in the United States.
- **Become a Cyber Lobbyist.** Sign up at <http://capwiz.com/nealmml/signup/> to get regular updates on ways to lobby for improving education legislation.

IF YOU HAVE

A Few
Hours

- **Write a Letter.** Research and write a personal letter to your federal representative urging them to ensure that all Americans have equal access to quality schools and higher education. Children's Defense Fund offers a guide on writing an effective letter at www.childrensdefense.org/child-advocacy-resources-center/child-advocacy-actions/write-a-letter-to-your-elected-official.html.
- **Educate.** Download our PowerPoint presentation or select one of our lesson plans for a presentation at your school, community center, or faith community about the right to education.
- **Give Books and Materials to Local Teachers.** Teachers often lack classroom supplies and teaching materials, and must spend their own money to stock their classroom. Contact your neighborhood school or visit www.iloveschools.com/ to find out what your local teachers might need that you could donate.

IF YOU HAVE

A
Month

- **Monitor Your School District.** Research how well your local schools are performing – examine student achievement, explore gaps between students of different racial or economic backgrounds, and look at budgets and curriculum. Education Trust provides a guide for parents and community members on how to analyze school data to improve student achievement: www2.edtrust.org/edtrust/images/dataguidefinal.pdf.
- **Present at a School Board Meeting.** Try to get on the agenda for a local school board meeting, and give a brief presentation on the right to education and what your community can do to close the education gap and promote equal treatment in the school system.
- **Start a Book Club.** Form a book club with friends and/or colleagues to learn about and discuss the right to education in the United States. Suggested books include *Shame of the Nation* by Jonathan Kozol, *Work Hard. Be Nice.* by Jay Mathews, and *Possible Lives: The Promise of Public Education in America* by Mike Rose.

IF YOU HAVE

A Year
or More

- **Promote Student Voice in School Reform.** Encourage meaningful student involvement and engage students as partners in school reform. Visit www.soundout.org/ for tools and information for students, educators, and advocates.
- **Volunteer at Your Local School.** Help out with school-sponsored fundraisers, after school activities or field trips. Get to know teachers and administrators and speak with them about their needs, as well as your questions and concerns.
- **Be a Mentor.** Encourage kids in your community to succeed in school through an organization like the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Or check if your local school or community nonprofit runs a tutoring program for struggling students.
- **Run for Office.** Run for your local school board or, if you are still in school, your student government, and use your position to advocate for closing the education gap, promoting higher graduation rates, and improving state funding.



RIGHT TO EDUCATION NATIONAL RESOURCES



The Advocates for Human Rights

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

A leader in bringing international human rights to the classroom and the community. Provides educational resources and trainings to support the human rights movement in the United States.

Achieve Inc.

www.achieve.org/

Helps states raise academic standards and achievement so that all students graduate ready for college, work, and citizenship.

American Association of University Women

www.aauw.org/ef

Advocates for equity in education for women and girls and fights discrimination and harassment in schools.

American Civil Liberties Union

www.aclu.org/rightsofthepoor/edu/index.html

Through litigation, lobbying and public education, the ACLU works to extend rights to segments of the U.S. population that have traditionally been denied their right to education.

Association for Women in Mathematics

www.awm-math.org/

Encourages and supports the involvement of women and girls in the mathematical sciences.

Broad Foundation

www.broadfoundation.org/

Seeks to improve K-12 public education by reforming the current system, encouraging change, and supporting successful new ideas.

Children's Defense Fund

www.childrensdefense.org/

Promotes policies and programs that provide children with the resources they need to succeed; including programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse; and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation.

Center on Education Policy

www.cep-dc.org/

An independent advocate for public education and more effective public schools. They help Americans better understand the role of public education in a democracy and the need to improve the academic quality of public schools.

Citizen's Commission on Civil Rights

www.cccr.org/education/index.cfm

Works to ensure equal access to education for all students regardless of race, disability, socioeconomic status or English proficiency.

Communities for Quality Education

www.qualityednow.org/

An education advocacy group that seeks to build partnerships between people inside and outside the education community who share the common goal of building better schools for every child.

Education Trust

www2.edtrust.org/edtrust/

Works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, and for closing the achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other youth.

MDRC

www.mdrc.org/

A nonpartisan social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works to improve the well-being of low-income people. They seek to enhance the effectiveness of social policies and programs.

National Association for Multicultural Education

www.nameorg.org/

Works to ensure that all students receive an equitable education and strives to fight the injustices in our schools and in the community.

National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

www.nesri.org/

Works with organizers, advocates and legal organizations to incorporate a human rights perspective into their work and build human rights advocacy models tailored for the U.S.

National Education Association

www.nea.org/

A volunteer-based organization that works at the local, state and national levels representing the interests of public schools.

Parents for Public Schools

www.parents4publicschools.com

Works in public schools and communities to improve education primarily through encouraging parental involvement.

Public Education Network

www.publiceducation.org/

A national association of local education funds (LEFs) and individuals working to advance public school reform in low-income communities across our country. PEN believes an active, vocal constituency is the key to ensuring that every child, in every community, benefits from a quality public education.

Quality Education for Minorities

www.qem.org/

Serves as a national resource and catalyst to help unite and strengthen educational restructuring efforts to the benefit of minority children, youth, and adults, while advancing minority participation and leadership in the national debate on how best to ensure access to a quality education for all citizens.

SoundOut

www.soundout.org/index.html

SoundOut is a nonprofit program promoting student voice in school. They have partnered with more than 75 K-12 schools and districts across the country, providing programs, training, and technical assistance on student voice.