



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR  
**EDUCATION**  
 UNITED STATES CHAPTER

The **Global Campaign for Education (GCE)**, founded in 1999, brings together major nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), teachers' unions and local groups in **more than 150 countries**, forming a unique political force to campaign for universal education. GCE promotes access to education as a basic human right and mobilizes public pressure to create the political will for governments and other leaders in the international community to fulfill their promises to provide at least a free, public basic education for all children.

**US Chapter, Global Campaign for Education:** In early 2003, the U.S. chapter of the Global Campaign for Education was formed to ensure the United States does its part in the global effort to ensure universal education to all children. The U.S. Chapter was founded by **Gene Sperling**, Director of the Center for Universal Education at the Council on Foreign Relations. The US Chapter of the Global Campaign for Education is a broad-based coalition of more than 30 non-governmental and religious organizations, teachers unions, foundations and child advocates to promote the cause of universal basic education in the world's poorest nations.

**The GCE serves as an umbrella group that works to:**

- increase public awareness of the need for universal basic education
- help people in the United States identify steps they can take to realize the goal of universal basic education by 2015
- push for donor financing to adequately support basic education
- support the idea that the U.S. should take a leadership role in promoting universal basic education.

**Our Coalition Members:**

Academy for Educational Development

Action Aid USA

AFL-CIO

American Federation of Teachers

American Institutes for Research

Americans for Informed Democracy

Amnesty International

Basic Education Coalition

Bread for the World

CARE

Catholic Relief Services

CEDPA

Center for Universal Education, CFR

Centre for Development & Population Activities

Christian Children's Fund

Concern Worldwide

DATA

Global Aids Alliance

Global Kids

iEARN (International Education and Resource Network)

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies

International Center for Research on Women

International Center on Child Labor and Education

International Rescue Committee

IREX

Mercy Corps

Mothers Acting Up

National Education Association

One World Youth Project

PBS Wide Angle / Channel 13 New York

Relief International

RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund

RTI International

Room to Read

Save the Children

Scholastic

School Girls Unite!

Teach for America

The ONE Campaign

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

UN Global Teaching and Learning Project

Women's Commission for Refugee Women & Children

Women's Edge

World Education

World Learning



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR  
**EDUCATION**  
 UNITED STATES CHAPTER

## ACTION WEEK 2003      THE WORLD'S BIGGEST LESSON

In 2003, nearly **2 million young people took part in the GCE Week of Action**, which included simultaneously learning the **World's Biggest Lesson**.

The World's Biggest Lesson had the following objectives:

- To raise awareness of the current numbers of people who have no opportunity to attend school
- To raise awareness of the fact that education is everyone's right, and of the importance of education for both girls and boys
- To explain the particular difficulties girls face in getting a good education
- To explain the world record in which students are taking part
- To explain the campaign to get all of the world's children into school



The lesson did not have to take place in a "real" classroom, but could happen anywhere, and any competent person could take the role of the teacher. Anyone of any age could take part in the "class" and be counted toward the world record.

## ACTION WEEK 2004      MISSING AN EDUCATION

The focus of Action Week 2004 was on the 100 million children missing an education and the focus activity was children **lobbying their leaders** to increase resources for education to ensure that no more children miss out on the right to go to school.

In the US, leading up to Action Week, students learned about the challenges young people in poor nations face just to enroll and stay in school. Students **wrote letters of solidarity for the over 100 million children worldwide** who are currently unable to go to school.



On April 20, 2004 **Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)** headlined Action Week in the U.S. by unveiling legislation designed to provide universal basic education for all children throughout the world.



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR  
**EDUCATION**  
UNITED STATES CHAPTER

**ACTION WEEK 2005**

**SEND MY FRIEND TO SCHOOL**

---

The theme for Global Education Action Week 2005 was "**Send My Friend to School,**" and the goal was to raise awareness about the 100 million children (friends) out of school in developing countries. **Over 1 million letters and cutouts representing children out of school** were delivered to the world's leaders in July at the Group of Eight Summit in Scotland, the annual meeting of leaders from the richest countries. Schools around the country made cut out "friends" for Send My Friend to School week.



**ACTION WEEK 2006**

**MAKE THE CASE: SEND MY FRIEND TO SCHOOL**

---



The theme for Global Education Action Week 2006 was "**Send My Friend to School,**" and the goal was to **hold mock hearings** to make the case for education for all children around the world. Many GCE chapters focused on the role of teachers. Angelina Jolie was the Honorary Chair of the 2006 Global Education Action Week and made an appearance on NBC.

**ACTION WEEK 2007**

**EDUCATION RIGHTS NOW!**

---

Thousands of Americans joined up across the country to tell world leaders that education is a human right. From California to New York and Washington State to Alabama, students, educators and youth groups mobilized to give voice to the over 80 million children worldwide without access to education. **About 60 students from across the country and ten international students traveled to Washington, DC to meet with nearly 50 Congressional offices about the importance of supporting universal education.** Students attended a training program about how to speak to congressional leaders about universal education. During the training, students practiced their "30 second" and "15 minute" pitches that were used later on Capitol Hill.



The International Center on Child Labor and Education organized an event in the Russell Senate building featuring three former child laborers who spoke about the importance of education. Representatives from the Global Campaign for Education, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank also spoke at the event. Hundreds of pieces of artwork on education as a human right were delivered to the nation's capitol and put on display during four separate events. The art was displayed in Washington, D.C. in four locations during Action Week: the Churchill Hotel, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Russell Senate Building on Capitol Hill, and the Center for American Progress. Angelina Jolie launched *Global Action for Children* during a press event in Washington, D.C.



# GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION UNITED STATES CHAPTER

## ACTION WEEK 2008

## WORLD'S BIGGEST LESSON



Grammy award-winning artist Shakira served as Honorary Chairperson for this year's Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Action Week from April 21 - 27, 2008.

On April 21st, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, World Bank President Robert Zoellick, Director of the Center for Universal Education Gene Sperling and Grammy award-winning artist Shakira participated in a media conference call to discuss the state of global education and out-of-school children in developing countries. This

event kicked off the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Action Week 2008. Brown, Zoellick, Sperling and Shakira joined with GCE's coalition in 120 countries calling on government leaders to support a basic education for all children, including the 72 million young children and 226 million older youths who are out of school around the world.

Over 50 high school and college delegates from across the U.S. participated in a two-day training organized by the Global Campaign for Education and RESULTS. During the training, youth learned the important facts and figures on the current state of global education, as well as how to speak effectively and convincingly about the Education for All Act.



On April 22, Shakira joined Rep. Nita Lowey, Chair of the US GCE Gene Sperling, and students from across the country to participate in a press conference to raise awareness about the bipartisan Education for All Act of 2007 (EFA) and call on government leaders to support basic education for all children.

On April 23rd, millions of children worldwide took part in the "World's Biggest Lesson," breaking the world record for the largest simultaneous lesson featuring a curriculum about the denial of quality education to tens of millions of impoverished children. By taking part in this lesson, children from across the globe joined an estimated 7.5 million of their peers in learning about the importance of education and the barriers that young people face all over the world in accessing a quality education.

