



ANNUAL REPORT

Basic Education Coalition 2017



The Basic Education Coalition (BEC) is a group of leading US-based organizations and academic institutions working together to promote global peace and prosperity through education. By leveraging our collective technical expertise and combining advocacy efforts, BEC members raise a unified voice to ensure US policy makers support and strengthen education for the developing world.



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Message from the Co-Chairs

2017 was an extraordinary year for the Basic Education Coalition (BEC). In a time of political uncertainty, the coalition has grown stronger and proven that when we work together, we can achieve remarkable gains for the world's children.

Following the 2016 election, we thought deeply about how to communicate the importance of international basic education. As with every transition in leadership, we strategized how to best align our advocacy efforts with the priorities of the new administration. We gathered an abundance of evidence to show that access to a quality education for all children improves global economy and society, and ultimately benefits American jobs and stability.

However, we concluded that strategic considerations only complement the strong moral imperative that all children, regardless of where they were born, deserve a chance to study, learn and thrive. We put our faith in U.S.

policy-makers to uphold the foundational American values of leadership and education for all, and they delivered.

We are grateful to our allies in Congress, on both sides of the aisle, none of whom is more tenacious than our champion, Congresswoman Nita Lowey. After more than a decade of collective efforts spearheaded by Rep. Lowey, our flagship piece of legislation, the READ Act, was signed into law on September 8th, 2017.

With the READ Act in place, maintained funding for our programs, and a unified international education community, we look forward to continuing our momentum into 2018.

Please join us, and take inspiration that we close the year with full confidence in our colleagues, country, and coalition. It has been our honor to serve as your 2017 BEC Co-Chairs.

2017 Co-Chairs



Dan Stoner
Associate Vice President
Education and Child Development
Save the Children-US



Jerrold Keilson
Vice President
International Programs, Policy, &
Systems Change
American Institutes for Research

2015-2017 Strategic Plan



Mission:

To promote expanded, equitable access to quality basic education so that all children have the chance to learn.

As the leading coalition of U.S.-based organizations implementing global basic education programs, BEC has the unique ability to bring together a diverse set of actors, unite the community around common messages and elevate the education sector. BEC's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan looks to build upon the tremendous progress that has occurred in global basic education and to utilize future opportunities to strengthen the sector, by focusing on **three priority areas**.

Elevate the International Education Sector

Seize opportunities in the coming years to elevate the education sector and bring together key actors to strengthen policy, improve coordination and accelerate progress in global education.

Establish the Coalition as a Leading Voice in Basic Education

Take strategic steps to both broaden and amplify our voice, utilizing social media, storytelling and evidence-based results to highlight the impact of education programs around the world and to articulate why basic education must be a U.S. priority.

Leverage the Evidence

Utilize the expertise of BEC's working groups and evidence from existing communities of practice to highlight both the quantitative and qualitative impact of education projects around the world.



Elevating the Sector



Kevin Rachlin (BEC), Jessica Kruvant (Creative Associates), Jerrold Keilson (AIR), and Dan Stoner (Save the Children-US) after meeting with Senior Staff at the Office of Management and Budget

Transition

In response to the President's election, BEC published a collaboratively written, detailed 2017 Presidential Transition Memo. The memo was distributed to the President-Elect's transition, landing and beachhead teams, key staff at the State Department, USAID, the Office of Management and Budget, and Capitol Hill. It outlined the importance of basic education, successes, challenges, and recommendations for the future. The memo was met with positive feedback by the Hill and career staff at USAID.



Candace Debnam (STS Intl), Julia Frazier (FHI360), and Jill Meeks (Chemonics) meeting with Sen. Jerry Moran's office about the importance of international basic education

Since assuming office in August, Ambassador Green's actions have encouraged many in the global education sector. Green promoted Evelyn Rodriguez-Perez, former Director of USAID's Office of Education, to Deputy Assistant Administrator in E3, overseeing the Offices of Education and Local Sustainability. The Ambassador and several senior USAID staff joined senior Congressional leaders and BEC members to celebrate passage of the READ Act in November.

The Budget

In May, President Trump unveiled his "America First" budget proposal for FY18, with a dramatic 31% cut to foreign assistance and a 53% cut to USAID's international basic education programs. The proposal was rejected by

conservatives and liberals, alike.

BEC publicly rejected the President's budget proposal, releasing a statement on the moral imperative for funding basic education and its alignment to the President's national priorities. BEC was also among 81 members of InterAction to sign on to a letter in response, urging Congress to protect foreign assistance.

House and Senate leadership both came out strongly against the President's proposal, reiterating that the power of the purse resides with Congress and not with the President.

Congress passed the FY17 Omnibus Package, reinforcing Congress's oversight role in foreign policy, explicitly stating that the Administration must consult Congress before any

closures, cuts, etc. occur due to the reorganization or the President's priorities. The FY17 Omnibus maintained \$800 million for basic education, with \$75 million towards multilateral initiatives, as well as report language in support of early childhood education.

In August, BEC Board members met with senior staff in the Office of Management and Budget to discuss the President's FY18 proposal and the Coalition's FY19 request.

BEC on the Hill

Prior to the passage of the FY17 Omnibus, BEC led the advocacy effort on Capitol Hill to maintain funding for basic education programming. In addition to meeting with Congressional offices, BEC successfully advocated for 91 members of the House of Representatives to sign a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee in support of basic education funding for FY17 and FY18.

BEC, with advocacy partners, organized an international basic education day on Capitol Hill, urging Congress to support \$800 million funding for basic education and report language

regarding early childhood education.

BEC's advocacy efforts led to the sustained funding in FY17 for basic education programming.

Following the passage of the FY17 Omnibus, BEC released a statement praising the final basic education numbers for FY17 and submitted testimony by Co-Chair Jerrold Keilson to the House and Senate Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) Appropriations Committee, regarding the importance of continued funding for Basic Education in FY18. BEC was pleased to see the House SFOPS Appropriation bill allocate \$800 million towards basic education, though Senate counterparts allocated only \$500 million. BEC spearheaded a letter from 18 organizations urging appropriators to use the House basic education numbers in the final SFOPS bill.

Finally, BEC successfully advocated for the reconstitution of the International Basic Education Caucus in the House of

Representatives and is working with Caucus Co-Chairs Representatives Reichert (R-WA) and Quigley (D-IL) to recruit additional members.

Legislation

2017 was a landmark year for international education bills in Congress. In addition to the READ Act's enactment, Congress introduced several bills related to girls' education, early childhood development, multilateral education initiatives and education in crisis and conflict.

BEC consulted closely with Congress as these bills were drafted, offering technical input at all stages of the legislative process.

Ben Piper (RTI) and James Hunter (RTI) on the way to brief Congressional staffers on International Education progress



Celebrating Passage of the READ Act

I introduced the Education for All Act and READ Act because I believe education is the single greatest force multiplier in foreign aid.
- Congresswoman Nita Lowey



BEC Board Members John Gillies (FHI360), Nancy Devine (EDC), Jerrold Keilson (AIR), Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Dan Stoner (Save the Children), and Andrew Lewis (Chemonics) celebrating passage of the READ Act



Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA) celebrate the bipartisan READ Act



On November 1st, 2017, over 150 representatives from NGO's, USAID, Congress, and the Administration gathered to celebrate passage of the bipartisan Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (HR 601).

The "READ Act" was passed by Congress on September 8th, 2017, and signed into law by President Trump later that day.

The celebration paid special tribute to Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY), Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA), Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), for championing this bill.

USAID Administrator,
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Ambassador Mark Green, attended the celebration, as did Michelle Bekkering, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of E3, and many other champions of international education.

The event was co-sponsored by BEC, GCE-US, Global Citizen,

"Education is one of the most important investments a country can make in its people and in its future" - Congressman Ed Royce

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, ONE, RESULTS, Save the Children, and UNICEF USA.

BEC Board Members John Gillies (FHI360), Nancy Devine (EDC), Andrew Lewis (Chemonics), Dan Stoner (Save the Children), USAID Administrator Mark Green, Jerrold Keilson (AIR) and Sarabeth Berman (Teach for All) celebrating progress in international education



Establishing a Leading Voice

www.basiced.org

Leveraging the Evidence WDR18

Website Goals

1. Provide clear and compelling information to policy makers,
2. Inform current BEC members of emergent research and events,
3. Appeal to and connect with prospective members, and
4. Increase awareness among the general public about the importance of international basic education.

How to Engage

The new site is mobile friendly!

BEC's new website, www.basiced.org, was launched in fall of 2017. Site creation was a team effort- member organizations' communications teams provided content and contributed feedback.

BEC looks forward to ongoing collaboration to ensure this resource remains responsive and leverages our best evidence. We strive to tell a collective story, to motivate policy-makers and other champions in support of international basic education.

Check the news and events page for continuously refreshed government relations updates, the latest international education articles from around the web, and announcements of upcoming events. The Success Stories blog and Impact page showcase how our members are effecting real change for children around the world.

We encourage you all to explore the site and share it widely. The broader our reach, the greater our momentum!

Screenshot of www.basiced.org homepage shown below



Steve Kowal (USAID), Melinda Taylor (RTI), Halsey Rogers (World Bank), and Deon Filmer (World Bank) discuss strategies for using the WDR18 to contribute to growing momentum around international education in U.S. Foreign Policy

On October 24th, 2017, 40 representatives from NGOs, USAID, and the World Bank met to celebrate and discuss the World Bank's *World Development Report 2018 (WDR18): LEARNING to Realize Education's Promise*. The WDR is the World Bank's flagship report, prepared annually on a topic of global importance. For the first time in almost 40 years of the WDR series, the focus is on education.

The World Bank reached out to BEC to organize an event that would provide expert technical feedback on WDR recommendations and next steps for implementation.

Participants heard an overview of the WDR18 by Co-Directors Deon Filmer and Halsey Rogers, followed by remarks by BEC and USAID representatives. There was

ample time for Q&A, and breakout sessions convened around the topics of Early Childhood Development, Measurement, Ed in Crisis, and U.S. Advocacy.

Quotes from the day:

"We hope this is a rallying call for multi-sector support of education"- Halsey Rogers, Co-Director of the WDR18

"The opportunity to create a new Education Strategy and the WDR18 give us a clear entry into new conversations"- Steve Kowal, USAID

"There is a challenge for us to see and value long-term systemic change"- John Gillies, FHI360

Jerrold Keilson (AIR) and John Gillies (FHI360), provide insights at the WDR18 Launch at BEC

"The learning crisis is an injustice to each child whose time is wasted attending school without learning"- Melinda Taylor, RTI

"Our meeting today provides an opportunity to think about how to learn from and apply positive examples to create greater change"- Jerrold Keilson, AIR



250 million children are struggling to achieve a basic education. We work together, for them.



Rachel McKinney (Save the Children-US) addresses the audience at the co-hosted Ed in Crisis CIES 2017 reception

The 2017 BEC technical working groups began the year by publishing collaboratively-written technical annexes for BEC's Presidential Transition Memo.

Working group members participated in advocacy trainings and met with Congressional staffers to promote their recommendations in March of 2017. Through these experiences, they identified effective pitches and compelling evidence.



Leveraging the Evidence Technical Working Groups



Kate Thomas (Cambridge Education), Dan Waistell (Cambridge Education) and Katherine Merseith (RTI) celebrate passage of the READ Act

Early Childhood

Co-Chaired by Katherine Merseith (RTI), Nathalie Louge (FHI360), Katy Anis (Save the Children-US) and Kate Thomas (Cambridge Education)

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) working group joined the Global Agenda for Children taskforce, an informal multi-sector ECD advocacy network. The groups co-hosted a briefing for Congressional staff and stakeholders with Lego and Sesame Street, organized an ECD Hill advocacy day, and drafted common language to advance ECD across sectors.

At left: Nathalie Louge (FHI360) educating Congressional staffers on the importance of US support for international basic education

BEC's ECD group presented at InterAction's Annual Forum in June. In October, they facilitated a focus group with USAID and the World Bank to discuss opportunities for implementation of ECD recommendations from the World Bank's WDR18.

These efforts contributed to the inclusion of ECD-supportive language in the U.S. House of Representatives' FY18 budget justification.

Gender & Girls' Ed

Co-chaired by Jill Meeks (Chemonics) and Casey McHugh (School to School Intl)

By popular demand, an official BEC Gender & Girls' education group was established in January of 2017.

The group invites a member to present on a common challenge or topic in the field, followed by whole group

Carrie Lewis (EDC) demonstrates an Early Childhood learning activity at the co-sponsored early childhood reception with Lego



discussion on next level of work. AIR, RTI, World Vision, and GirlUp have each presented to the group.

The Gender & Girls' Education group has submitted extensive expert technical feedback on two relevant pieces of legislation: *The Keeping Girls in School Act* and the *Protecting Girls Access to Education in Conflict and Crisis Act*.

M&E

Co-Chaired by Karen Tietjen (Creative Associates) and Amber Gove (RTI). New Co-chairs: Hetal Thukral (STS Intl) and Jordene Hale (Chemonics)

The "Big Goal" of this group is to increase effectiveness and



Claire Nowlin (AIR) presents to BEC's M&E group on AIR's recent evaluation for UNICEF in Ghana

accountability in the field of international education.

In 2017, the group considered pros and cons of methods for measuring progress under USAID's Education Strategy, with particular focus on Goal 1 (Reading). The group engaged in robust conversation about measurement of learning during the focus group they facilitated at the WDR18 launch.

Representatives from USAID's Evaluations team visited BEC to hear the group's feedback and engage in open discussion.

Ed in Conflict & Crisis

Co-Chaired by Eileen St. George (Creative Associates), Rachel McKinney (Save the

At left: Casey McHugh (STS Intl) leads a conversation on common challenges to gender-sensitive M&E approaches

Children- US), and Steve Luke (FHI360)

The Ed in Crisis group co-hosted a CIES reception with ECCN, JEiE, INEE, and the CIES Ed in Crisis SIG, with 141 attendees and a mentoring theme. They have contributed resources to BEC materials on education and political stability, and engaged in ongoing dialogue with ECCN about how to best complement their work.

The group recently hosted a webinar for BEC members to meet and engage in Q&A with Education Cannot Wait, and facilitated a focus group on the topic of protracted crises at the WDR18 launch at BEC.

Naoko Kamioka (CRS) and Yolande Miller-Grandvaux (USAID) at the October meeting for Gender & Girls' Education



Special Thanks



Congresswoman Nita Lowey

Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives

The Basic Education Coalition thanks Congresswoman Nita Lowey for her determination and unyielding support in spearheading the passage of the bipartisan *Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act* through the United States Congress. Congresswoman Lowey's dedication to ensuring that all children, worldwide, have access to education is an inspiration to us all.

United States Agency of International Development

The Basic Education Coalition thanks the dedicated staff at USAID, particularly within the Office of Education, whose steadfast work and partnership with BEC organizations is helping expand access to quality basic education so that every child around the world has the chance to learn.

Melinda Taylor

Vice President International Education, RTI

Melinda Taylor has gone above and beyond her role as Secretary of the BEC Board of Directors in 2017. She is a leader in the field, inspires her colleagues, and works tirelessly on behalf of teachers and students everywhere. BEC recognizes Melinda's outstanding contributions to the Coalition and the field of International basic education.



BEC Board Members met with Evelyn Rodriguez-Perez (Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment at USAID), Robert Burch (Director of the Office of Education at USAID), and Anna Roberts (Partnership Specialist Adviser for the Bureau for Economic Growth, Environment and Education at USAID) on December 13th, 2017 at BEC

2017 BEC Board of Directors*

Jerrold Keilson, Co-Chair

AIR

Anna Molero

Teach for All

Josephine Kennedy

World Learning

Dan Stoner, Co-Chair

Save the Children-US

Nancy Devine

EDC

John Gillies

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Mark Lynd, Vice Chair

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Iveta Silova

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InterAction

Andrew Lewis, Treasurer

Chemonics

James MacNeil

World Education

Earl Gast

Creative Associates

Melinda Taylor, Secretary

RTI Intl

Steven Blunden

Cambridge Education

*As of Fall 2017



2017 BEC Members

									
									
									



Photo credits

Front cover (clockwise from top) photos by: School to School International, FHI360, Chemonics, RTI, Erick Gibson for Creative Associates International. Photo at center by: Chemonics

Page 2: BEC photo taken in Ghana

Page 3 (clockwise from top) photos by: Robin Hammond for World Education, EDC, AIR

Page 14: Banner photo by Cambridge Education

Page 16-17: Banner photo of Teach For All's Global Teaching Summit in Malaysia