



Basic Education Coalition
Annual Report
2018

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.



BEC Member organizations in 2018: American Institutes of Research, Arizona State University, Cambridge Education, Catholic Relief Services, Chemonics, Creative Associates, FHI360, InterAction, Juarez & Associates, RTI, Room to Read, Save the Children, School to School International, SIL International, SIL Lead, UMass Amherst, Teach for All, World Education, Worldreaders, World Vision, World Learning

At left: BEC Members visit USAID for a special briefing on the new *Assistance and Acquisitions Strategy*

For more information, see www.basiced.org

Letter from the Co-Chairs

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This 2018 Annual Report of the Basic Education Coalition (BEC) marks our first year as co-chairs of the Board of Directors. Having spent our careers focusing on the intersection of education and foreign policy, we are deeply impressed by the breadth and depth of the Coalition’s work this year.

Building on momentum of the 2017 passage of the READ Act, BEC maximized every opportunity to lead 2018 conversations around next level of work in the international education sector. High expectations were fulfilled by fruitful collaboration- it was year of tremendous productivity and progress. All was made possible by the clear vision and dedication of our BEC Board of Directors and our member organizations.

In 2018, BEC representatives frequently gathered with USAID officials to consult on development of the new U.S. Strategy for International Basic Education and the new USAID Education Policy. On Capitol Hill, members of Congress working on legislation for international education turned to the Coalition for input and analysis. BEC’s working groups rallied around opportunities to speak truth to power and compiled numerous technical best-practice documents and recommendations to increase efficiency

and effectiveness of international education programs. In 2018, the Coalition had our strongest showing ever at the annual CIES conference in Mexico City.

We are grateful for our Coalition staff, colleagues, and advocacy partners- people who share our vision for a world where every child has the opportunity to learn. The loyalty and dedication of our member organizations, who demonstrate their belief in the importance of the Coalition by providing 100% of our operating budget and countless hours of thoughtful participation, is unmatched. We are proud to work alongside each and every one of them.

We are committed to continuing to build a Coalition that honors the diverse range of perspectives held by our members. In 2019, we look forward to crafting a new Strategic Plan, to respond to the evolving landscape of our sector and new opportunities afforded by the Coalition’s strong work to date. Thank you to everyone who has helped us get here along the way.

Nancy Devine



Candace Debnam



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 2015-2018 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**.

1

Elevate the Sector

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

2

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.

3

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.

Elevate the Sector

Executive Branch Outreach

U.S. Government Strategy on Basic Education

In September 2018, as a part of the implementation of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act, USAID released the 2019–2023 U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education, which applies to the education work of 10 different U.S. government agencies and departments.

The Strategy demonstrates the U.S. government's commitment to international education and seeks to address pressing international education challenges.

BEC provided technical expertise and the implementers' perspective during the development of the Strategy. Key input focused on coordination between agencies, local capacity-building, and responsive program design.

USAID Education Policy

The USAID Education Policy, released in November 2018, provides direction for supporting partner countries to deliver quality learning opportunities for children and youth. The policy applies to education programming across all levels, contexts, settings, and providers. The Education Policy is accompanied by Program Cycle

Implementation and Operational Guidance.

Over the course of the year, BEC members participated in multiple Board and Working Group level consultations on USAID's Education Policy and frequently provided USAID with feedback throughout the consultation process.

USAID Acquisition and Assistance Strategy

USAID launched a new Acquisition and Assistance Strategy on December 10, 2018. The Strategy outlines key changes and strategic shifts that USAID plans to implement through its effective partnership and procurement reform work. Representatives from BEC member organizations met with USAID officials at the end of the year and discussed expected changes to the procurement process.

USAID Private Sector Engagement Policy

On December 12, 2018 USAID released a new Private Sector Engagement Policy. This policy applies broadly to all of USAID's work and encourages greater linkages to the private sector in the Agency's approach to international development and humanitarian response. BEC continues to monitor application of the PSE in the Education sector.

Elevate the Sector

U.S. Policy & Funding Influence

Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus

BEC continues to work with Congress to ensure that the U.S. remains a leader in providing children in need with the education that they deserve.

In March 2018, Congress rejected the Administration's proposed cut to Basic Education funding. The fiscal year 2018 omnibus package that was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President level-funded Basic Education at \$800 million and included 87.5 million for GPE.

Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations

Basic Education was once again targeted for drastic cuts in the FY19 Budget Request. The Administration proposed a 51% cut from the FY17 enacted level of \$800,000,000. BEC worked with partner organizations and allies on the Hill to ensure strong support for Basic Education throughout the FY19 appropriations process. Congress ultimately rejected the Administration's proposal and maintained \$800,000,000 in funding for Basic Education.

Recissions

The White House Office of Management and Budget attempted to rescind previously appropriated foreign assistance funding on two occasions in 2018. BEC rallied with other actors in the humanitarian and development assistance community each time and engaged Congress to successfully oppose the Administration's attempts to cut spending through rescissions proposals.

Keeping Girls in School Act

BEC worked with the Girls Not Brides Coalition and the offices of Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL), and Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN) to revise the Keeping Girls in School Act and introduce this bill in the House of Representatives in October 2018. An initial version of this bill was introduced in the Senate in May 2017 by Senator Shaheen. The Keeping Girls in School Act will be a vehicle for Congress to engage and express support for education for adolescent girls. If passed, the bill would also codify the *Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls* into law and requires successive five-year renewals of the strategy.

Protecting Girls Access to Education in

Vulnerable Settings Act

Before the end of the 115th Congress in December 2018, the House and Senate passed the Protecting Girls Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act into law. This Act promotes girls' education in conflict settings and encourages the Department of State and USAID to increase access to educational, economic, and entrepreneurial opportunities for displaced children, especially girls.

Congressional Letter on READ Act

To ensure continued Congressional engagement on the implementation of the READ Act, BEC worked with Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA) on a Congressional letter to USAID Administrator Mark Green that expressed support for the U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education. The letter aligned with BEC's policy recommendations and gained 21 cosigners in the House of Representatives.

Funding for West Bank and Gaza

The Taylor Force Act restricts funding for programs that are "available for assistance for the West Bank and Gaza that directly benefit the Palestinian Authority." Congress included the Taylor Force Act as part of the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill and the President subsequently signed it into law. Furthermore, the Administration announced in late August that it would cut \$200 million in funding to programs that provide vulnerable Palestinians with clean water, food, education and medical services. In tandem, the

Administration stated that the United States will cease funding UNRWA, the UN agency created by a General Assembly resolution to provide humanitarian relief and development aid to Palestinian refugees across Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the West Bank and Gaza. BEC has joined the humanitarian and development community in public communications and direct advocacy to call for these vital funds to be restored.

Trafficking in Persons Report Sanctions

The President released a memorandum on November 29th stating that 22 countries designated as Tier 3 on the State Department's 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report will not be eligible to receive FY19 "nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related assistance" until "such governments comply with the minimum standards or make significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance" with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Several BEC Members subsequently received notifications that their programs may not receive further obligations. BEC has been working with colleagues in the advocacy community and with allies on Capitol Hill to mitigate the effects that this decision may have on U.S. international education assistance.



Elevate the Sector

Basic Education Champions

Congressional International Basic Ed Caucus

Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA) retired at the end of the 115th Congress, thereby ending his service as Co-Chair of the Caucus. BEC is thankful for Congressman Reichert's leadership in cosponsoring the READ Act and authoring annual appropriations letters in support of basic education funding.

BEC is looking forward to working with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the new Republican Co-Chair of the Caucus, and Congressman Quigley (D-IL) to grow support for international basic education in Congress going forward.

Appointment of Julie Cram

On March 26th, the Administration appointed Julie Cram to serve as the Senior Coordinator of United States International Basic Education and the Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment.

BEC members have met with Ms. Cram on multiple occasions since her appointment

and look forward to continuing to work together in 2019.

Leadership by USAID Administrator Green

USAID Administrator Mark Green began his career teaching English in Kenya, and he frequently cites education as key to sustainable development and a country's journey to self-reliance. In remarks at the USAID Education Policy launch, Administrator Green described international education as "an extraordinarily high priority for us" noting, "when you have kids that are desperate to learn, you can do almost anything."

2018 Midterm Elections

Longstanding champion of international basic education, Nita Lowey, became chair of the House Appropriations Committee following midterm election.

With each new Congress, BEC eagerly works to bolster our existing supporters and cultivate new champions to ensure that elected officials continue to express strong support for international basic education.

Opposite page: Clockwise from top left: Rep Mike Quigley (co-chair of the Congressional International Education Caucus), Julie Cram, Senior International Education Coordinator, USAID, Rep Brian Fitzpatrick (new chair of the Congressional Basic Education Caucus), Mark Green (USAID Administrator), Rep Nita Lowey (long-standing champion of International Basic Education), Rep Susan Brooks (co-sponsor of the Keeping Girls in School Act), Lois Frankel (co-sponsor of the Keeping Girls in School Act), Sen Jeanne Shaheen (co-sponsor of the Keeping Girls in School Act), Rep Dave Reichert (outgoing co-chair of the Congressional Basic Education Caucus).

Establish the Coalition as a Leading Voice

A Growing Audience

Online Communications

Launched in fall of 2017, BEC's official website, www.basiced.org, was refined in 2018. The site features members' programs, news about relevant policy, and helpful resources and information for international education professionals and policy-makers.

Stay in the loop by checking for new content on the website and following BEC's social media accounts:

- Twitter: @BasicEdTweets
- Facebook: @BasicEducationCoalition
- Instagram: @BasicEdCoalition
- LinkedIn: Basic Education Coalition

#LiteracyChat for 52nd Literacy Day

To celebrate International Literacy Day 2018, BEC co-hosted a #LiteracyChat with FHI 360 about evidence for literacy and skills development. Over 100 twitter accounts participated in the online conversation, sharing evidence, experiences, and recommendations. The chat reached over 500,000 twitter accounts and exposed 1.75 million twitter users to the conversation.

Annual Roundtable of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability

On March 6th, Dan Stoner (representing BEC) gave opening remarks at the World Bank's Global Partnership for Social Accountability annual roundtable, titled "Accountability in Education: The Role of Citizens in Accelerating Learning for All."

World Bank's Civil Society Policy Forum

BEC was pleased to engage in dialogue about lessons learned with a high-level panel at the World Bank's Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) on April 18th. The panel highlighted the work of one BEC's board member organizations, Teach For All. Enseña por México and Enseña Chile, partners in Teach For All's network, discussed their work to develop the collective leadership necessary to ensure all children have the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Partnerships with a Network of Actors

BEC continued to build partnerships within the sector, working closely with InterAction and other advocacy organizations to coordinate messaging and expand our reach to maximize overall impact.

Leverage the Evidence

Technical Working Groups

Early Childhood Education

Co-Chaired by Katherine Merseeth (RTI), Nathalie Louge (FHI360), and Kate Thomas (Cambridge Education)

In 2018, the group celebrated their biggest success, yet- inclusion of early childhood in the new USAID Education Policy!

The group presented recommendations for next level of ECE work to representatives from USAID in August, and followed up with additional resources and suggestions for implementation.

The ECE working group represented the education sector in the THRIVE Coalition, a multi-sector ECD advocacy network. They

worked with champions in the U.S. House of Representatives to thank USAID for greater recognition of ECE, request an updated report of USAID's ECE work, and urge USAID to increase focus on early childhood education.

The ECE group also presented a CIES panel: "Influencing ECE Policy around the World: 4 case studies," which highlighted the work of Cambridge Education, CRS, BEC, RTI, and Save the Children-Mexico.

Gender and Girls' Education

Co-chaired by Rebecca Spotts (World Learning) and Casey McHugh (School to School Intl)

Throughout the year, the G&GE group



Photo: "Mountains and Cloud" sculpture by Alexander Calder, in the Hart Senate Office building on a BEC advocacy day.

Leverage the Evidence Technical Working Groups continued...

served as the technical sounding board for a new version of the *Keeping Girls in School Act*, a bill to promote access and learning for adolescent girls.

The group submitted collaborative written recommendations regarding inclusion of gender and girls' education in the USG Strategy. Group members attended consultations at USAID to provide additional input in person.

The group ended the year with a presentation by Room to Read about their girls' education programs and conversation about opportunities and challenges of working with governments and taking effective programs to scale.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Co-Chaired by Hetal Thukral (STS Intl) and Jordene Hale (Chemonics)

The "Big Goal" of this group is to increase effectiveness and accountability in the field of international education. They began the year by welcoming representatives from USAID for discussions on IRB, Evaluation Quality Review findings, and the new Disability Measurement Guidance. They also hosted representatives from the Education Equity Research Initiative (EERI) for a presentation and Q&A session.

At CIES, the group co-hosted a very popular "Mind the Gap" trivia night to

publicize findings from the EERI. In April, they discussed new methods and challenges for measuring social emotional skills.

The group submitted written recommendations on measurement, accountability, and systems-strengthening for the USG Strategy and USAID Education Policy. They concluded the year with a consultation for the Global Reading Network (GRN) on their forthcoming Literacy Landscape Assessment Toolkit.

Education in Conflict and Crisis

Co-Chaired by Eileen St. George (Creative Associates) and Paul Frisoli (FHI360)

The EiCC group co-hosted a CIES reception with ECCN, JEiE, INEE, and the CIES Ed in Crisis SIG. Over 150 guests attended the reception to meet eminent leaders and scholars in the Education in Conflict and Crisis field.

On June 1st, the group co-hosted a roundtable event on Social Emotional Learning in EiCC Settings, at FHI360. This event brought together practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to discuss current evidence, implementation challenges, promising approaches, and innovative SEL interventions.

In August, the group collaboratively compiled revisions to the Education in Conflict and Crisis sections of the USAID Education Policy.

Leverage the Evidence CIES in CDMX

BEC members headed to Mexico City for CIES 2018 with a record number of presentations.

In addition to immense technical contributions, the Coalition co-hosted the first ever CIES Trivia Night with the Education Equity Research Initiative, RTI, Save the Children, and FHI360.

BEC also ran an exhibit hall booth and co-hosted a reception with ECCN, JEiE, INEE, and 2 Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Over 150 guests attended the reception to meet eminent leaders and scholars in the Education in Conflict and Crisis field. We look forward to CIES 2019, in San Francisco!



Leading Together

2018-2020 Executive Committee

Per the BEC Bylaws, elections for Coalition leadership were held in Fall of 2018. With unanimous support from the BEC Board of Directors, the following leaders were appointed to the BEC 2018-2020 Executive Committee. This

dynamic team will steer the Coalition during a pivotal moment in U.S. policy. They will shape the Coalition's strategic plan for the next two years, setting priorities for BEC's advocacy and technical work.



Nancy Devine
Co-Chair



Candace Debnam
Co-Chair



Kevin Hardy
Vice-Chair



Jo Kennedy
Treasurer



Heather Simpson
Secretary

2018 BEC Staff



Kirby Henslee
Director of Government Relations



Beth Johnson
Director of Communications & Outreach



Andrea Vergara
International Education Policy Intern

Leading Together

2018 Board of Directors

Organizations with Full membership in BEC are entitled to representation on the BEC Board of Directors.

Representatives to the BEC Board are senior staff at their respective

organizations. They determine the policies and manage the affairs of the Coalition. The following individuals represented their organizations on the BEC Board of Directors in 2018:

Jerrold Keilson & Wendi Carman
American Institutes of Research

Iveta Silova & Kristine Wilcox
Arizona State University

Andrew Lewis & Emet Mohr
Chemonics

Earl Gast & Eileen St. George
Creative Associates Intl

Kevin Hardy
Cambridge Education

Noam Unger
InterAction

Nancy Devine
Education Development Center

Ana Florez
FHI360

Melinda Taylor
Research Triangle Institute

Heather Simpson
Room to Read

Dan Stoner & Eric Eversmann
Save the Children

Mark Lynd & Candace Debnam
School to School Intl

Ana Molero
Teach for All

James MacNeil
World Education

Josephine Kennedy
World Learning

Leading Together

2018 Members

BEC members are connected to a community of practice and build relationships within the industry. Through opportunities to interface and collaborate with policy-makers, BEC members gain insight into USG planning and practice and make valuable contributions to the sector as a whole.



Opposite page: Cherry blossoms outside of Union Station on the way to a briefing on Capitol Hill

Special Thanks

Rep. Nita Lowey

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY17/Rockland-Westchester), Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee

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

Outgoing BEC Executive Committee

Dan Stoner (STC), Jerrold Keilson (AIR), Mark Lynd (STS), Andrew Lewis (Chemonics) & Melinda Taylor (RTI)

We have tremendous gratitude for the service of our outgoing BEC Executive Committee. They are a team of exceptional leaders and gifted advocates for global education. They helped the Coalition reach new levels of sustainability and influence and acted as supportive and inspirational supervisors to BEC staff.

USAID

United States Agency for 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.

“Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world.”

- Malala Yousafzai