



# Basic Education Coalition

*Annual Report*

2021

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# Leading Together

## 2021 BEC 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.



**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.**





# Mission

*To promote expanded, equitable access to quality basic education so that a*

As the leading coalition of U.S.-based organizations implementing global basic education, we bring together a diverse set of actors, unite the community around common messages and build upon the tremendous progress that has occurred in global basic education, focusing on **four priority areas**.

1

## Secure Funding for Bilateral Basic Education Programs

- 1.1. Cultivate Congressional champions
- 1.2. Produce advocacy materials
- 1.3. Promote bilateral programs in joint advocacy efforts

2

## Influence Policy that Governs Basic Education Programs

- 2.1. Support implementation of the 2017 USG Strategy for International Basic Education & the 2018 USAID Education Policy
- 2.2. Advance bipartisan legislation that strengthens basic education programs
- 2.3. Defend against policies that threaten basic education programs

*All children have the chance to learn.*

al basic education programs, BEC has the unique ability to bring together a  
 nd elevate the education sector. BEC’s 2020-2024 Strategic Plan looks to  
 education and to utilize future opportunities to strengthen the sector, by

**3**

**Advance the Evidence About What Works**

- 3.1.** Identify gaps in technical guidance for basic education priorities
- 3.2.** Facilitate collaboration and sharing of best-practices through BEC’s technical working groups
- 3.3.** Publicize new research, evidence, and ideas to key decision-makers

**4**

**Maintain an Organization Positioned for Leadership**

- 4.1.** Maintain financial security
- 4.2.** Empower BEC members as leaders and advocates
- 4.3.** Strengthen strategic communications to inform members and amplify efforts
- 4.4.** Build partnerships within the network of other actors

## Progress towards Goals 1-2

### Summary

#### Goal 1: Secure Funding for Bilateral Basic Education Programs

President Biden's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request was released in May 2021 and included an 11% increase in funding for the international affairs budget. However, consistent with recent years, the fiscal year 2022 President's Budget Request included a substantial decrease in funding for Basic Education compared to the enacted funding level.

In the wake of the release of President Biden's first Budget Request, BEC mobilized Coalition members and allies in Congress to demonstrate their support for education funding publicly in Congressional hearings, statements, and letters, and to also reach out directly to Congressional leaders to reiterate the importance of sustained funding for international education. Chairwoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) acknowledged the outreach she received when presenting the House of Representatives' fiscal year 2022 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill that included \$950 million for Basic Education. This funding level equal to the fiscal year 2021 funding level for Basic Education and includes \$800 million for bilateral U.S. Government Basic Education programs, \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education, and \$25 million for Education Cannot Wait. Congressional negotiations over final fiscal year 2022 funding levels are ongoing.

#### Goal 2: Influence Policy that Governs Basic Education Programs

In 2021, BEC staff had over 150 direct advocacy meetings with U.S. Government representatives, worked with stakeholders across Congress and the administration to promote and provide feedback on the implementation of the 2018 USAID Education Policy, and hosted several widely attended events on how Basic Education programs are supporting learning during the pandemic.

In addition to advocating for Basic Education funding and education-focused policies, BEC also advocated for the inclusion of education in the humanitarian responses in Haiti and Afghanistan and convened the international education community to provide feedback on a range of new Biden administration policies that will affect the delivery of U.S. foreign assistance.

*"We cannot overstate the profound impact COVID-19 is having on education across the world."*

*- Congresswoman  
Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)*



## Progress towards Goals 3-4

### Summary

#### Goal 3: Advance the Evidence About What Works

BEC advanced the evidence about what works by identifying technical gaps and publicizing new research and ideas to key decision-makers. Some illustrative (non-exhaustive) examples include: regularly holding technical exchanges in its working groups; further formalizing the Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion task force as a working group; responding to new needs during COVID-19; participating in donor consultations on LGBTQI+, ECE, and M&E guidance; holding events on continuous professional development, the education sector during COVID-19, the future of education in Afghanistan, USAID's new ECE guidance, etc.; and producing eight ECE home learning infographics in French, Spanish, and Mayan languages.



Photo Credit: Worldreader

#### Goal 4: Maintain an Organization Positioned for Leadership

BEC remained positioned for leadership by maintaining financial security (moving one member up to full membership and adding two new members in 2021), empowering BEC members as leaders and advocates (via conferences, webinars, consultations, working group exchanges, and advocacy), strengthening strategic communications (e.g. ECE infographics, COVID-19 advocacy materials, webinars, social media and website presence, etc.), and building partnerships (e.g. the GRN, USAID, UNICEF, and others).



Photo Credit: Cambridge Education

## *Goal 1: Secure Funding for Bilateral Basic Education Programs*

### **1.1: Cultivate Congressional Champions**

#### **Congressional International Basic Education Caucus**

BEC supported Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) to re-establish the Congressional International Basic Education Caucus in the 117th Congress and recruit Members of House of Representatives to join the Caucus for the new Congress. 17 members of the House of Representatives joined the Caucus in 2021, including 4 new members.

#### **Girls' Education Briefing with Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)**

In advance of the re-introduction of the Keeping Girls in School Act, BEC convened girls' education experts from member organizations to provide a private briefing for Rep. Frankel on the harmful effects that COVID-19 is having on girls' lives and education in advance of the re-introduction of the Keeping Girls in School Act.

#### **Response to the Haiti Earthquake**

To ensure that support for education was provided in the earthquake-affected zone of Southwestern Haiti, BEC worked with Rep. Quigley (D-IL) and Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Co-Chairs of the Congressional International Basic Education Caucus, to develop and send a letter to USAID Administrator Power that successfully urged the Agency to include funding for education as part of the U.S. humanitarian response to the disaster.

#### **U.S. Engagement in Afghanistan**

In the wake of the U.S. military drawdown and subsequent collapse of the Afghan government, BEC supported members by convening across organizations, facilitating the exchange of rapidly-changing information and policies, and advocating for the safe evacuation of current and former colleagues and staff.

BEC also hosted a private briefing on December 2nd for nearly 20 key Congressional staffers on U.S. support for education in Afghanistan and called on the U.S. Government to expand the general license in Afghanistan to include education assistance. BEC members presented an overview of past U.S.-funded education programs and progress, analysis of the current state of the education system in Afghanistan (including on access for girls and women), and opportunities for the U.S. to continue to provide support. On December 22nd, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a general license that explicitly authorizes activities to support education in Afghanistan.

#### **Capitol Hill Advocacy Days**

BEC hosted two virtual advocacy days in March 2021, inclusive of meetings for BEC members with over 20 Congressional offices. BEC members highlighted effective programs and advocate for federal funding for Basic Education in fiscal year 2022, the Keeping Girls in School Act, and the Global Learning Loss Assessment Act.

Photo Credit: World Learning



## *Goal 1: Secure Funding for Bilateral Basic Education Programs*

### **1.2 Produce Advocacy Materials**

#### **Presidential Transition Recommendations on International Education**

BEC worked with member organizations in 2021 to distribute recommendations on international education to Biden administration officials, which promote education as a foreign assistance priority and highlight increased education needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Appropriations Advocacy**

In consultation with its members, BEC developed appropriations advocacy materials that were shared directly with Congressional offices in spring 2021, calling for \$1.05 billion in funding for Basic Education in fiscal year 2022. BEC also submitted Outside Witness Testimony to the Appropriations Committees in both chambers of Congress.

## *Goal 1: Secure Funding for Bilateral Basic Education Programs*

### **1.3 Promote Bilateral Programs in Joint Advocacy Efforts**

#### **Congressional Letter in Support of Basic Education Funding**

BEC worked with partners across the international education advocacy community to garner signatures from 121 Members of the House of Representatives and 34 U.S. Senators on a letter encouraging the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide robust funding for international basic education in the fiscal year 2022. A corresponding letter from BEC member organizations to Congress generated 23 organizational signatories.

#### **Advocacy Partnerships**

BEC collaborated with Interaction and other actors to promote education as an urgent need and priority in foreign assistance advocacy documents that were shared with Congress and the Biden administration. Areas of focus included supplemental funding for the international COVID-19 response, the humanitarian response in Afghanistan, and NDAA 889 (the ban on procurement and usage of Chinese telecommunications equipment and services).



## *Goal 2: Influence Policy that Governs Basic Education Programs*

### **2.1 Support implementation of the 2017 USG Strategy for International Basic Education and the 2018 USAID Education Policy**

#### **Consultations with USAID Center for Education Leadership**

BEC's Board of Directors met with LeAnna Marr, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator and Acting USAID Senior Coordinator for Basic Education, during BEC's January 2021 and September 2021 Board meetings to consult and provide feedback on USAID's Basic Education work. Michele Sumilas, Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL), also joined the September 2021 Board meeting to discuss Agency-wide policies and priorities.

#### **High Level BEC Event on COVID-19 and International Education**

BEC hosted a collaborative convening on Thursday, May 13th that focused on how the international education sector has responded to COVID-19, the pandemic-related challenges that need to be addressed, and how the sector should adapt and improve. The event featured U.S.-based and international speakers, including a panel of implementing partners and USAID Education Officers, breakout rooms for facilitated conversations, and a high-level fireside chat with Nancy Devine, Co-Chair of the Basic Education Coalition, and Leanna Marr, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation.

#### **USAID Education Progress Report Launch with the Implementers**

On December 9th, BEC convened the implementing partner community for a widely-attended virtual launch event for the USAID Education Progress Report 2018 - 2021. The event featured an overview of key findings from USAID Center for Education leadership and a panel discussion of USAID and implementing partner experts on international basic education programming guided by the 2018 USAID Education Policy.



Photo Credit: Paige Morency

#### **Feedback on Biden Administration Policies**

In 2021, BEC convened member organizations to discuss and provide formal feedback on USAID's draft Climate Strategy, Acquisition and Assistance Strategy, Co-Creation Field Guide, and draft Youth Policy. BEC also facilitated community discussions with USG representatives on the Climate Strategy, Local Capacity Development Policy, and USAID's cost data collection initiative.

## *Goal 2: Influence Policy that Governs Basic Education Programs*

### **2.2. Advance bipartisan legislation that strengthens basic education programs**

#### **The Keeping Girls in School Act**

BEC partnered with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Rep. Lois Frankel (R-FL), and Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL) to reintroduce the Keeping girls in School Act, a bill that directs U.S. foreign assistance to address the barriers that prevent adolescent girls from staying in and completing secondary school, in the 117th Congress in the summer of 2021. The bill has garnered 60 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 4 cosponsors in the Senate in 2021, and BEC will continue to advocate for this bill to be passed into law in 2022.

#### **The Global Learning Loss Assessment Act**

In spring 2021, BEC worked with Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL), Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Senator John Boozman (R-AR) to reintroduce the Global Learning Loss Assessment Act in the House of Representatives and the Senate in the 117th Congress. The bill (which highlights the harmful effects COVID-19 has had on children's education) was passed by the House of Representatives in June 2021 and BEC continues to push for progress in the Senate.



Photo Credit: Luminos Fund

## Goal 2: Influence Policy that Governs Basic Education Programs

### 2.3. Defend Against Policies that Threaten Basic Education Programs

#### Ban on Usage and Procurement of Chinese Telecommunications Technology

Section 889 of the fiscal year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act limits the ability of the federal government to partner with organizations that use or procure telecommunications technology and services from Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, Dahua Technology Company, and any of their subsidiaries. The inclusion of internet and cell service providers in the prohibition is particularly problematic for USAID and its implementing partners, and in 2021 BEC partnered with member organizations, Interaction, PSC, and other actors to raise awareness of the harmful effects

of NDAA 889 and advocate for a permanent solution. In December 2021, USAID was granted a waiver of the prohibitions under NDAA 889 that will last until September 2028.

#### Counter Policy Proposals that Could Decrease U.S. Support for International Education

In conversations with the foreign assistance advocacy community, administration officials, and Congress, BEC consistently made the case in 2021, based on member feedback, for upholding the U.S.'s commitment to achieving SDG 4 and sustaining funding for Basic Education in response to policy proposals that would weaken the Basic Education funding directive in the Congressional appropriations process and jeopardize U.S. leadership in international education.



Photo Credit: Worldreader

## *Goal 3: Advance the Evidence About What Works*

### **3.1 Identify Gaps in Technical Guidance for Basic Education Priorities**

#### **Established the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group**

BEC responded to this technical gap by establishing a task force of passionate and knowledgeable BEC members who are working together to determine how the international education community can confront racism and legacies of colonization in development, better empower local communities, and make the industry more inclusive in general. In September 2021, BEC's Board of Directors voted to transform this task force into a longer-standing working group, starting in 2022. Two temporary task force co-chairs were appointed in 2021 and longer-standing working group co-chairs will be elected in January 2022.

#### **EdTech Working Group COVID-19 Research**

The EdTech Working Group identified a gap in technical knowledge on how ministries of education around the world were/are responding to new EdTech needs that have arisen during the pandemic. The group then deployed an EdTech survey to learn about how Ministries of Education are responding to COVID-19, which was made available in four languages. The exciting findings of this research were published in a [jointly-developed paper](#).

#### **ECE At-Home Learning Infographics**

BEC's Early Childhood Education working group developed [at-home learning infographics](#) in English, French, Spanish, and local Mayan

languages to support parents of young children. See section 3.2 for more information.

#### **High Level BEC Event on COVID-19 and International Education**

BEC hosted a collaborative convening on Thursday, May 13th that focused on how the international education sector has responded to COVID-19, the pandemic-related challenges that need to be addressed, and how the sector should adapt and improve. The event featured U.S.-based and international speakers, including a panel of implementing partners and USAID Education Officers, breakout rooms for facilitated conversations, and a high-level fireside chat with Nancy Devine, Co-Chair of the Basic Education Coalition, and Leanna Marr, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation.

#### **USAID Education Progress Report Launch with the Implementers**

On December 9th, BEC convened the implementing partner community for a widely-attended virtual launch event for the USAID Education Progress Report 2018 - 2021. The event featured an overview of key findings from USAID Center for Education leadership and a panel discussion of USAID and implementing partner experts on international basic education programming guided by the 2018 USAID Education Policy.



## Goal 3: Advance the Evidence About What Works

### 3.2 Facilitate Collaboration and Sharing of Best Practices in Technical Working Groups

#### Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion Task Force

Together, the group developed and published a [statement on BEC's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts, alongside a compilation of related resources](#). The group also held monthly Anti-Racism deep dives, learning from and with Room to Read, Chemonics, Education Development Center, Food for the Hungry, Cambridge Education, InterAction, USAID, Catholic Relief Services, FHI 360, and more. The team also produced a [Glossary of Anti-Racist, Diverse, and Inclusive terms](#) to help our international basic education community to discuss these important topics using the same language and definitions.

#### Early Childhood Education (ECE) Working Group

The ECE Working Group had a fruitful year, including (but not limited to): holding regular working group meetings to share technical best practices, providing substantial input on [USAID's new Pre-Primary Guidance](#) (including planning its launch event in early 2022), and producing [ECE at-home learning infographics](#) in [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [local Mayan languages](#).

#### EdTech Working Group

The EdTech working group held regular working group meetings to exchange fascinating new solutions and technical best practices (e.g. technology for textbook supply chain, TangerineTeach, readability, machine learning,

virtual reality, blockchain, etc.), brought in external parties to share new EdTech tools, and deployed an EdTech survey to learn about how Ministries of Education are responding to COVID-19 (available in four languages). The exciting findings of this research were published in a [jointly-developed paper](#).

#### Gender & Social Inclusion (GSI) Working Group

The GSI Working Group had a busy year, including (but not limited to): holding regular working group meetings to exchange technical best practices, jointly executing a presentation on safety at CIES, providing feedback on USAID's new [LGBTQI+ in education guidance](#), holding a series of informative presentations on Equity (followed by Empowerment in 2022), and drafting recommendations around the use of UDL to more inclusively return to learning.

#### Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, & Learning (MERL) Working Group

The MERL Working Group had a productive year, including (but not limited to): holding regular working group meetings to exchange technical best practices, providing feedback on USAID's new education indicators and [reporting guidance](#), hosting multiple member presentations on data visualization, and internal presentations on internal vs. external evaluations, measuring SEL, better reporting for GBV, informed consent, and more.

## Goal 3: Advance the Evidence About What Works

### 3.3 Publicize New Research, Evidence, and Ideas to Key Decision-Makers

#### Early Childhood Education Guidance Support to USAID and UNICEF

After many years of advocacy for increased prioritization of early childhood development in U.S. foreign assistance, BEC's Early Childhood Education Working Group saw the results of its efforts in the publication of [USAID's new Pre-Primary Guidance](#), to which the group contributed substantially. The working group invited USAID to share out about the guidance internally, and will also host an official virtual launch event for both USAID's and UNICEF's (ECE Accelerator) guidance in 2022.

#### Supporting USAID's Education Data Initiatives

BEC's Steering Committee and MERL Working Group supported many of USAID's data initiatives including reviewing its new education indicators, educating its members on the proper implementation of USAID's cost reporting efforts, and disseminating the Agency's new reporting guidance.

#### Donor & Multilateral Agency Consultations

BEC provided consultations on [USAID's Pre-Primary Guidance](#), USAID's education indicators, [USAID's LGBTQI+ in education guidance](#), and more to donors and multilateral agencies. BEC also provided feedback on USAID's draft Climate Strategy, Acquisition and Assistance Strategy, Co-Creation Field Guide, and draft Youth Policy. Lastly, BEC facilitated community discussions with USG representatives on the Climate Strategy, Local

Capacity Development Policy, and USAID's cost data collection initiative.

#### COVID-19-related School Closure and Distance Learning Materials

In response to COVID-19, BEC mobilized members to highlight the work that international development organizations were doing to support continued learning during the pandemic. BEC published [updated in-depth collection of pivot stories](#) that illustrated how BEC members adapted to COVID-19 and continued to provide learning opportunities a year into the pandemic. BEC's materials were shared widely across implementing partners, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

#### More Member Content Shared

BEC held a photo contest early in 2021, and disseminated several newsletters, highlighting dozens of BEC member announcements and accomplishments collected via a new, streamlined newsletter content submission process. BEC also more consistently and equitably shared out member content via its social media channels, website, and more.

#### Webinars and Virtual Events

During 2021, BEC produced an FAQ document following a BEC-GRN webinar, published a BEC-member CIES brochure, and hosted several virtual events on continuous professional development, education and COVID-19, and the USAID education progress report (see section 3.1).



Curmaanoota

4 + 8 = 12  
7 + 6 = 13  
5 + 12 = 17  
3 + 9 = 11  
4 + 2 = 6  
2 + 10 = 12  
3 + 3 = 6  
+ 3 = 6

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| 47 | 5 | 9 |
| 59 | 6 | 7 |
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| 33 | 4 | 5 |
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| 68 | 8 | 2 |
| 92 | 2 | 2 |

Gulqunina  
Keenya Eessachu

1. Gulqunina maaga raawee...
2. Gulqunina maaga raawee...
3. Gulqunina maaga raawee...
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4 Toes  
3 FOOT  
2 Leg  
2 Knee  
1 Arm

Hand-drawn diagrams on the floor, including a large triangle and various geometric shapes.

## Goal 4: Maintain an Organization Positioned for Leadership

### 4.1 Maintain Financial Security

In 2021, [ChildFund](#) and [Right to Play](#) joined BEC as associate members, while [IREX](#) moved from associate membership to full membership, leading to an 8% increase in

BEC's overall revenue. BEC will continue to prioritize recruiting and sustaining members in 2022 to preserve the financial viability of the Coalition.

## Goal 4: Maintain an Organization Positioned for Leadership

### 4.2 Empower BEC Members as Leaders and Advocates

#### BEC at CIES

BEC members shared their expertise through hundreds of CIES presentations in 2021. BEC facilitated collaboration between its members, including a joint presentation on BEC's Safety work through the Gender and Social Inclusion working group. Additionally, BEC produced [a brochure](#) to highlight member presentations at CIES.

#### Consultations

BEC provided consultations, input, and feedback for various technical teams at USAID. See section 3.3 for more.

#### Presentations within Working Groups

BEC's working groups held monthly or bimonthly meetings to exchange best practices via member presentations and discussions.

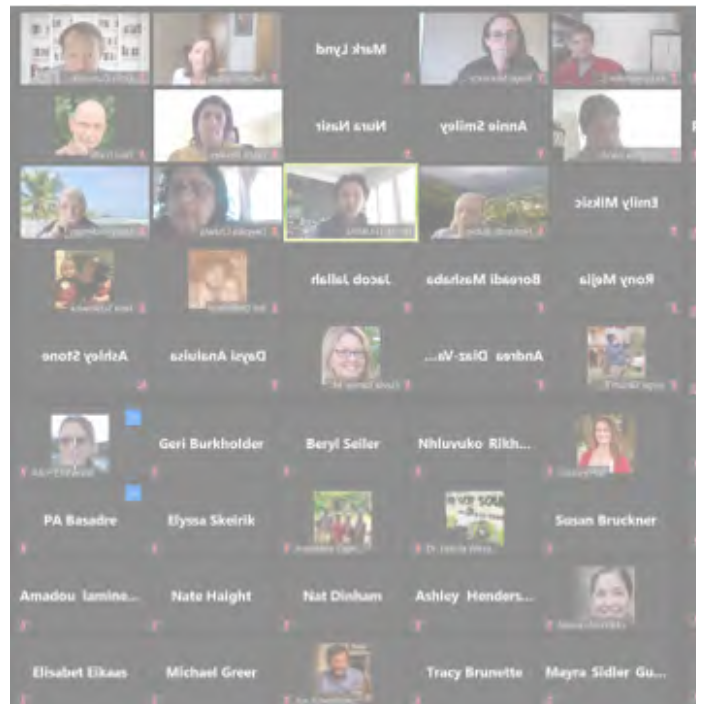
#### Capitol Hill Advocacy Day

BEC hosted two virtual advocacy days in March 2021, inclusive of meetings for BEC members with over 20 Congressional offices. BEC members highlighted effective programs and advocate for

federal funding for Basic Education in fiscal year 2022, the Keeping Girls in School Act, and the Global Learning Loss Assessment Act.

#### Webinars

During 2021, BEC hosted several virtual events on continuous professional development, education and COVID-19, and the USAID education progress report (see section 3.1).



## *Goal 4: Maintain an Organization Positioned for Leadership*

### **4.3 Strengthen Strategic Communications to Inform Members and Amplify Efforts**

#### **ECE Home Learning Infographics**

BEC's Early Childhood Education working group developed eight [at-home learning infographics](#) to support parents of young children in the following areas: learning at home – the why, story telling, creating, curiosity, problem solving, talking, and early math. In 2021, the group made these infographics available in [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [local Mayan languages](#).

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#### **Small Member Showcases**

BEC held its first ever Small Member Showcases in November and December 2021. They were widely attended by BEC members of all sizes and allowed for smaller, newer members to share out about their work and encourage potential partnerships.

#### **Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion**

Together, BEC's new Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion working group developed and published a [statement on BEC's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts, alongside a compilation of related resources](#). The group also held monthly Anti-Racism deep dives and the team also produced a [Glossary of Anti-Racist, Diverse, and Inclusive terms](#) to help our international basic education community to discuss these important topics using the same language and definitions.

#### **More Member Content Shared**

BEC held a photo contest early in 2021, and disseminated several newsletters, highlighting dozens of BEC member announcements and accomplishments. BEC also more consistently and equitably shared out member content via its social media channels (with 60k twitter impressions), website (with 15k page views) and more.

## Goal 4: Maintain an Organization Positioned for Leadership

### 4.4 Build Partnerships within the Network of Other Actors

#### The Global Reading Network

In 2021, BEC produced an FAQ document following a webinar held on the GRN's behalf at the end of its hosting arrangement with the Network in December 2020. BEC continues to collaborate with the GRN under the new leadership of the Leading through Learning (LTL) project, managed by BEC member Education Development Center.

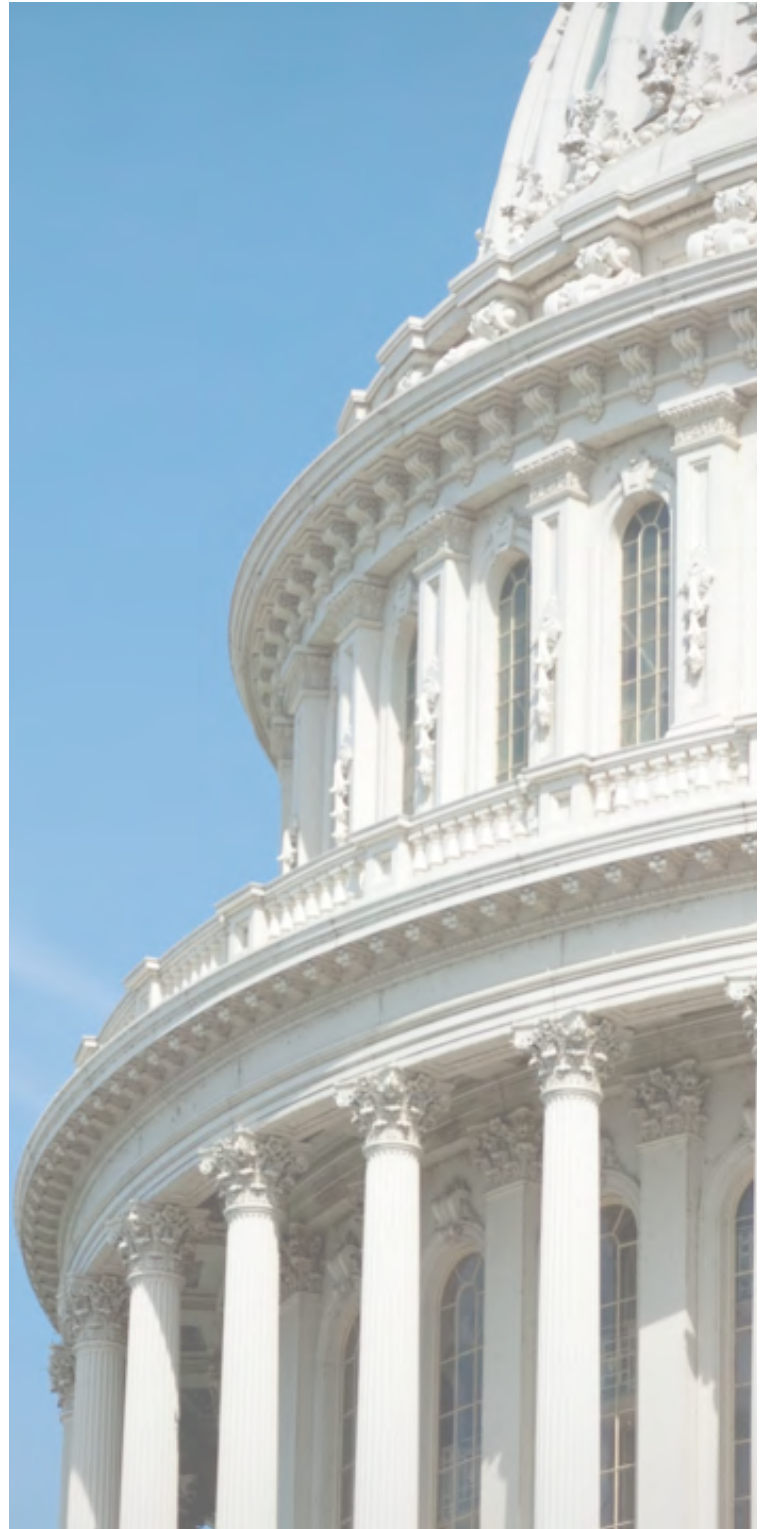
#### Donors and Multilateral Agencies

BEC took on leadership roles in key consultations on [USAID's Pre-Primary Guidance](#), USAID's education indicators, [USAID's LGBTQI+ in education guidance](#), and more to donors and multilateral agencies. BEC also provided feedback on USAID's draft Climate Strategy, Acquisition and Assistance Strategy, Co-Creation Field Guide, and draft Youth Policy. Lastly, BEC facilitated community discussions with USG representatives on the Climate Strategy, Local Capacity Development Policy, and USAID's cost data collection initiative.

*"Thanks to [BEC's] tremendous efforts, the GRN remains globally vibrant."*

- LeAnna Marr  
Acting Deputy Assistant  
Administrator

*Acting U.S. Senior Coordinator  
for International Basic-Education  
Assistance*



# Special Thanks

## Rebecca Rhodes

### **BEC Says Goodbye to a Dear Friend and Basic Education Champion**

Rebecca Rhodes was a determined champion of early grade reading/foundational skills at USAID, EDC, and beyond. We have never met anyone who cared so passionately about providing quality education for kids around the world and helping other professionals grow and learn. She was a fierce advocate and brilliant technician, her contributions touching many people in every corner of the world. She had a heart of gold and was such a good friend to many of us. The days since her passing have been filled with friends and colleagues around the world connecting to honor her.

## BEC Working Group Co-Chairs

**Audrey Spencer (Chemonics), Ayan Kishore (Creative), Carmen Strigel (RTI), Carrie Lewis (EDC), Chris Cummiskey (RTI), Fabiola Lara (Save the Children), Hetal Thukral (STS), Janet Shriberg (Creative), Joanne Korandu (InterAction), Mary Sugrue (EDC), Nathalie Louge (FHI 360), Robbie Dean (Teach for All), Selamawit Tadesse (CRS), Victoria Neff (World Education)**

We have tremendous gratitude for the service of our working group co-chairs. They are a team of exceptional technical leaders and gifted advocates for global education. They have helped the Coalition reach new levels of productivity and influence, while acting as supportive and inspirational leaders for our working group members.

## USAID

### **United States Agency for International Development**

The Basic Education Coalition thanks the dedicated staff at USAID, particularly within the Office of Education/Center for 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.

## *Leading Together*

# 2021 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 2018-2021 Executive Committee. This dynamic team provide strategic guidance on the Coalition's activities and policy advocacy.



**Nancy Devine**  
*Co-Chair*



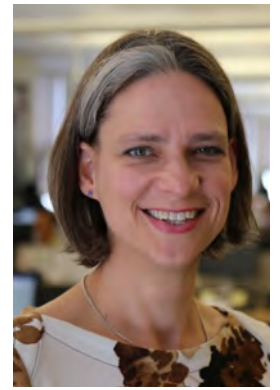
**Candace Debnam**  
*Co-Chair*



**Kevin Hardy**  
*Vice-Chair/Treasurer*



**Jo Kennedy**  
*Treasurer*



**Heather Simpson**  
*Secretary*

## *Working Together*

# 2021 BEC Staff



**Kirby Henslee**  
*Director of Government Relations*



**Paige Morency-Notario**  
*Director of Outreach & Communications*



## *Collaborating Together*

# 2021 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 2021:

### **Jeff Davis**

American Institutes of Research

### **Nancy Devine**

Education Development Center

### **Eric Eversmann**

Save the Children

### **Dr. Carole Basile**

Arizona State University

### **Julee Allen**

FHI 360

### **Candace Debnam**

School to School International

### **Kevin Hardy**

Cambridge Education

### **Noam Unger**

InterAction

### **Anna Molero**

Teach for All

### **Vicki Cooper**

Chemonics International

### **Amy Bernath**

IREX

### **Dr. James MacNeil**

World Education

### **Dr. Eileen St. George**

Creative Associates International

### **Heather Simpson**

Room to Read

### **Dr. Josephine Kennedy/ Rebecca Spotts**

World Learning

### **Melinda Taylor**

RTI International



