

OUR EDUCATION

A MILLION VOICES, ONE RIGHT

Who

Across the country, regardless of wealth, race, and politics, education is an issue that affects all Americans. No group is affected more by education, however, than the 57 million actual recipients of k-12 schooling in this country: **students themselves**. **Our Education** is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization composed of and led by **students** to fight for a day when all American children enjoy the right to a quality k-12 education. While every person in our nation has a vital stake in fighting for this right, Our Education is composed mostly of students ages 13-24, in high schools, colleges, and junior high schools across the country.

What

Dedicated to giving students a voice fight for better schools in communities & local school districts, in states, and nationally, Our Education is working to build a **national student movement for quality k-12 education**. Through a National Youth Petition Campaign targeting more than one million youth signatures in support of a constitutional right to quality k-12 education, a National Youth Leadership Conference to pass a Students Bill of Rights, and a Student Voice Project to enrich community and local school policy conversations with the experiences and needs of young people themselves, Our Education is empowering students to bring about a k-12 education system that *all Americans can be proud of*.

Where

Children deserve access to quality education in every community throughout our great nation. While schools must meet the needs of the communities in which they are located, so too must they meet the needs of our country as a whole. Thus, Our Education seeks to build a youth movement on a **national scale** while empowering students on a **school-by-school basis**.

When

The future of our nation hinges on the quality of education we are able to provide to millions of American students, and the need for real and lasting commitment to educational excellence could not be more clear—or more urgent. Through Our Education, America's youth are demanding that all children be guaranteed the right to quality education **now**.

Why

Our Education was created as a response to two key observations. The first is that there is a critical, missing voice in the education policy and reform arena at the local, state, and federal levels: the voice of students themselves. The second observation is that the problems in our underperforming schools are not educational problems in nature—we actually *do* know how to educate all our kids and we know what kind of educators and resources are necessary to accomplish it. The problems facing our children are political ones: there is simply a stark absence of public demand and political will to make quality education an American priority. Our Education's belief is that we can begin to improve education in this country by addressing both of these observations—the absence of student voice in education, and a lack of political will for real improvement—in a single effort, by building a national youth movement for better schools. In other words, if we can build a highly motivated and large base of youth who are willing to fight *publicly & repeatedly* to improve America's schools, then the political will to provide high quality education to all our children will finally emerge.