

# OUR EDUCATION

*A MILLION VOICES, ONE RIGHT*

## PETITION DRIVE OVERVIEW

Thank you for your interest in starting an Our Education petition drive! In running a drive at your school you will be joining the ranks of an elite group of students across the country who are leading the way in building a national youth movement for high quality public education. This document is designed to give you an idea for what a petition drive is, how you can run it, and what simple steps you need to take to make it happen.

### **WHAT:**

An Our Education petition drive is a school-based effort at which a group of student leaders (you and any others you know, perhaps through Student Council or Key Club, or other groups or classes that need service projects) sit out during free periods (in lunch rooms, study halls, etc.) to present students in your school with the opportunity to sign a petition for an American right to high quality public education. The goals of this effort are:

- 1.) To increase awareness among your peers about the importance of quality public schools,
- 2.) To show students that they can play an important and powerful role in bringing this change about by asking our nation's leaders to give our schools and educators the resources, policies, and support they need to excel, and
- 3.) To provide a community service opportunity to students in your school: an opportunity through which students can learn first-hand about the role of citizenship in a democracy, and about a respectful and positive form of youth civic engagement

### **HOW:**

Starting a petition drive is very simple! The first step is to find a group of students to work with on the campaign and get their approval of this as something to work on together during this school year. One option for a group to work with is to find a club or group that already exists at your school having to do with community service or political issues & activism (like key club, student council, a political activism club, etc.), and to see if that club would be interested in working together with you to run the petition drive project in your school. A second option would be to work with a group of your friends and maybe a supportive teacher on this as an independent project and just work with them to ask other students in school about signing the petition in classes, at lunch periods, etc. Either way is totally fine – whatever you think would work best! To explain this project to your friends or to your club & advisor, just show them all of the information that we send you, including this document.<sup>1</sup>

After you get your faculty advisor's approval to run the drive and approval for the work to count as service hours, all you need to do is pick a week to run the drive (a few weeks in advance, as you'll want ample time to plan and advertise for the drive), plan for it, advertise for it, and then execute it! But you won't have to figure this out by yourself – Our Education staff members will be on call to brainstorm and plan with you, to get you fliers & blank petition sheets when you need them, and help out any other way possible! Just email [aaron@oured.org](mailto:aaron@oured.org) or [ethan@oured.org](mailto:ethan@oured.org) with any questions!

---

<sup>1</sup> Once you have a group that will run the project, you'll want to see if students who volunteer in the effort can get community service hours counted for their time. Many schools have community service graduation requirements, so you'll want to talk to whomever is responsible for counting these hours and ask them to count the petition drive as one way to get hours (if you need a "supervisor," we at Our Education would be happy to serve as one). Additionally, some groups and clubs require service hours for membership or for certain recognition or awards – and work on this campaign could count towards that as well.