Our Next Assignment:
Where Americans Stand on Public K-12 Education
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Who we are

• The Leadership Conference Education Fund builds public will for laws and policies that promote and protect the civil and human rights of every person in the United States.

• We also seek to promote an appreciation for the rich diversity of the country, and attitudes that are accepting of our differences and similarities.

• We were founded in 1969 as the education and research arm of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (then called the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights), the nation’s premier civil and human rights coalition of more than 200 national organizations.
Perspectives of Black and Latino Parents

• What do Black and Latino parents think about the American school system?
• Our Parent Advocates Pilot
• Recommendations for engaging communities of color in education
Perspectives of Black and Latino Parents

The 2nd Annual New Education Majority Poll
Black and Latino Parents and Families on Education and Their Children's Future

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#NewEdMajority
Key Findings

- **Perceptions of racial disparities remain strong among new education majority parents, and in some cases are even more pronounced than last year.**
  - There is an overwhelming sense of racial inequity in school funding and among African Americans, the already strong sense of racial inequity in both funding and school quality continues to rise.
  - The lack of funding for students of color is seen as the biggest cause of racial disparities in education, and racism has risen to become the second biggest driver among both African-American and Latino parents.
  - Parents of color whose child’s teachers are mostly White are more likely to believe schools are “not really trying” to educate students of color than those with mostly Black or mostly Latino teachers.

- **New education majority parents continue to place a premium on high expectations and academic rigor for their children.**
  - These parents prioritize high-quality and well-equipped teachers, the fair treatment of students, and opportunity to take challenging classes above all else.
  - Both African-American and Latino parents overwhelmingly believe that students today should be challenged more in school than they currently are.
Key Findings

Black Parents and Families

Fifty (50) percent of Black parents and families believe that U.S. public schools do not do a good job preparing Black children “for success in the future.”

Latino Parents and Families

Seventy-five (75) percent of Latino parents and families believe that U.S. public schools do a good job preparing Latino children “for success in the future.”
Identified Priorities

• Equitable school funding

• Strong academics and resources

• Want students from all backgrounds to be treated fairly
Parent Advocates Training Pilot

The Leadership Conference Education Fund’s Parent Advocates training seeks to advance educational equity in American public education and is rooted in our experience working with coalition partners, decision-makers, community leaders and parents at the state and local levels, assuring advocates can:
- create a network to work together to make change
- learn how to ensure their child’s success
- understand how to navigate the school system that impact their child’s education
- use concrete tools to advocate for change
Why Parent Advocates?

To affect change, it’s critical that we prepare parents to lead in their communities.

By working together, learning together and training together, parents gain a sustained, deep understanding of advocacy and a support system of other parents.

Parent Advocates is intended to engage diverse parents and be rooted in the history and current moment in civil and human rights.

Parent Advocates is designed to be adapted to local needs and diverse communities.
Recommendations

- Include parents of color and families in the decision making process
- Remedy resource disparities
- Ensure access to strong teacher’s and rigorous courses
- Identify, support and improve schools
Resources

https://leadershipconferenceedfund.org/new-education-majority/

http://civilrights.org/essa
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Effective Business Engagement: Making a Difference in Public Education

Business leaders can make a positive difference for children
ReadyNation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan volunteer membership organization of business leaders who advocate for investments to create solutions, opportunity and equity for all children.

Business Executives building a skilled workforce by promoting solutions that prepare children to succeed in education, work, and life.
“Investing in children and youth is the social, moral and economic imperative of our time.”

JOHN PEPPER, FORMER CEO & CHAIRMAN OF P&G, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF WALT DISNEY COMPANY

ReadyNation Member
Organize to Make a Difference

Business leaders already have a job so....

- Join a regional, state, or national business organization, focused on improving education to add your voice to hundreds of others to advocate for education improvements.
- Lend your name as an influencer for public education change.
ReadyNation Members are Pursuing Six Types of Actions:

1. Advocate for **smart public investments** from early childhood, K-12, to young adulthood - connect with leaders who are making policy decisions.
2. Give high-level presentations or media appearances that call attention to the issues and solutions for public education.
3. Provide products that generate revenue while also **contributing to social goals** - pursue social responsibility.
4. **Disseminate information** to customers or supply chains on the importance of high quality education.
5. **Educate employees** about the importance of early childhood and public K-12 education and support family-friendly practices in the workplace.
6. **Support local programs**, with funds, expertise, volunteers or other resources.
Mobilize to Create Change

When organized for action, business leaders can mobilize and impact decision makers at the federal, state, and local level.

- Content Standards
- School Funding
- Teacher Preparation
- Growth Measurements
- Continuous Improvement
- School Climate/Behavior
Students need improved critical thinking, problem solving, and computational skills to succeed in a globally competitive workforce.
The California Challenge:

6.2 Million K-12 Students

Deepen All Students’ Learning

Breaking through in CA

- State Computer Science Education Standards - adopted 9/6/18
- CS Statewide Implementation Recommendations 11/18
- CS Statewide Implementation Plan 4/19
Sample K-2 Standard:

Debug errors in an algorithm or program that includes sequences and simple loops.

Descriptive Statement: Algorithms or programs may not always work correctly. Students use strategies such as changing the sequence of steps, following the algorithm step-by-step, or trial and error to fix problems in algorithms and programs.

Example: When given images placed in a random order, students could give step-by-step commands to direct a robot, or a student playing a robot, to navigate to the images in the correct sequence. Example of images could include storyboard cards from a familiar story (Language Arts Standard) and locations of the sun at different times of the day. (NGSS - Science Standard)

https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/computerscisco ntentstds.asp
Closing the Computer Science Skills Gap for All Students

Partnering with:

- Elected State Assemblymember, County Superintendent, School Board Members
- Teachers
- Regional Business Organizations/ Business Leaders
- Military Leaders
- Philanthropy/Nonprofits

- Create urgency for change
- Prioritize critical thinking and problem solving in curriculum development
- Increase stakeholders
- Build momentum
- Inform education policy
- Include the community
Mobilizing Partnerships for Change
Unexpected Allies:

Poorly prepared young people = a national security concern

National security spending in CA. equates to $156.3 billion in economic output and 767,000 jobs.

Business leaders have an integral role to play in improving education.
→ A family friendly work environment gives children a stronger start with learning

→ Increase your impact by being “organized” - join a business organization focused on education

→ Mobilize to form cross sector partnerships for change

→ Be a voice for the children who do not have an advocate
Thanks!

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FROM OUR 23 COMMUNITY DESIGN MEETINGS THE QUESTION AROSE, HOW DO WE DESIGN FOR JUSTICE AND LIBERATION?

1) Co-create with and for community stakeholders.

2) Leverage the strengths located within our local eco-system.

3) Pilot to test our assumptions.

4) Parent education workshops to bridge access.

Key findings from as we illicit family and student responses.

- Families in our community have identified a lack of authentic school choice. Parents have stated, it is either a failing public school or a zero-tolerance strict charter school.

- Students verbalized a desire and demand for a transformative education, grounded in project-based learning and the real world.
1) Identity - Diversity - Justice - Action

2) Aligning state standards with ‘social justice’ standards so that equity and communal liberation is at the core of our educational praxis

3) Parent outreach to unpack PBL & decolonizing education

4) Redefining and reimagining college & career readiness for our community.

**Our Solution**

- To provide students with a culturally relevant, engaging, and responsive education grounded in a decolonized curriculum.

- Students verbalized a desire and demand for a transformative education, grounded in project-based learning and the real world.
Q&A