

A Broader, **BOLDER** Approach to Education

Here is a simple yet powerful way to support children, families, and public schools. Add your signature, as a faithful citizen, to this powerful statement.
<http://www.boldapproach.org/>

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), was scheduled for its five-year reauthorization in 2007, but that reauthorization has been delayed and left hanging. With ecumenical and community partners, faithful advocates including many in the National Council of Churches have been working to ensure that serious problems in the law are remedied.

Time has made it clearer that the law needs more than mere fixing; it needs to be transformed. And one set of important challenges involve out-of-school factors for families and children that must be addressed along with improving schools themselves, because school achievement cannot be raised merely by demanding more of public schools alone.

Hence the **Broader, BOLDER Approach to Education** (<http://www.boldapproach.org/>) petition, which not only affirms what we know to be the urgent need for school improvement, but also declares the need for:

- developmentally appropriate, high-quality, affordable early childhood and pre-school education;
- more accessible health care including prenatal care for mothers, pediatric and dental care for children, and universal health coverage for children and families;
- cultural, organizational, athletic and academic enrichment activities for poor children that middle class families take for granted.



Creators of the **Broader, BOLDER Approach to Education** are over sixty leaders from many domains, including civil rights leader Julian Bond; child psychiatrist James Comer; pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton; educators Rudy Crew, Linda Darling-Hammond, Deborah Meier, and Arne Duncan; sociologists Pedro Noguera and William Julius Wilson; **and our own Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches.**

By becoming a co-signer of the **Broader, BOLDER Approach to Education** you will help our new President and Congress envision a society that can truly begin to pay back an educational debt to children whose families may have been marginalized for generations.

Action Needed: Go to <http://www.boldapproach.org/> to become a co-signer of the **Broader, BOLDER Approach to Education** statement. Sign-ons are for individuals; adding the name of your church or other organization is for identification purposes only and does not express endorsement by your organization.

Our National Council of Churches Committee on Public Education and Literacy web page (<http://www.nccusa.org/elmc/specialministries.htm#anchorwgpel>) features additional resources to help you advocate to our new President and Congress for specific changes to the philosophy, strategy and mechanics of NCLB — to uphold high expectations but honor every child’s accomplishments, reduce high stakes testing, shift from punishing public schools to strengthening them, and fully fund the law. Check out “Ten Moral Concerns in the No Child Left Behind Act” (<http://www.nccusa.org/elmc/2009moralconcerns.pdf>).



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