



Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (S.623) (READ Act)

The Problem: Currently, 59 million primary school-aged children globally do not attend school and 250 million do not have access to quality education. Gender discrimination in school contributes to the illiteracy of more than 500 million women in adulthood as well. These issues, along with frequent global conflicts and attacks upon schools, undermine the benefits of education.

The Solution: The READ Act (S.623) is a bipartisan initiative that will further advance quality basic education for all, while protecting U.S. national security interests.

The READ Act aims to:

- Leverage U.S. capabilities through technical assistance, training and research.
- Have the President appoint a current USAID employee to the role of Senior Coordinator of United States International Basic Education Assistance. The Senior Coordinator would be responsible for strategic development, coordination and oversight of programs and activities that promote international basic education.
- Improve the quality of education by supporting educational goals in developing countries, replicating successful education interventions and measuring learning outcomes in students, especially for girls and young women.
- Amend previous goals of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 in order to develop a coordinated, sustainable and effective plan to promote universal basic education.
- Promotes and contribute to an overall increase in economic growth for underdeveloped countries, improve democratic institutions of government, empower women and young girls and decrease extremism in politically vulnerable underdeveloped countries.

Cost: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that the 114th Congressional version of a similar bill, called the Education for All Act (H.R.4481), would cost U.S. taxpayers less than \$500,000 over a five-year period (2017-2021).

Other Noteworthy Facts

- Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced S.623 in the 115th Congress.
- The U.S. House of Representative passed its version of the bill, H.R.601, on Jan. 24, 2017.
- Upon the passage of H.R.601, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA-39) [noted that](#), the bill “introduces new guidelines and increases accountability for existing U.S. efforts to improve access to basic education in developing and conflict-torn countries.”