



Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 4 Targets:

- 4.1) By 2030, ensure that **all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education** leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- 4.2) By 2030, ensure that **all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development**, care and **pre-primary education** so that they are ready for primary education.
- 4.3) By 2030, **ensure equal access for all women and men** to affordable and quality **technical, vocational and tertiary education**, including university.
- 4.4) By 2030, substantially **increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills**, including technical and vocational skills, **for employment**, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.
- 4.5) By 2030, **eliminate gender disparities in education** and ensure **equal access to all levels of education** and vocational training for the **vulnerable**, including **persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples** and **children in vulnerable situations**.
- 4.6) By 2030, ensure that **all youth** and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, **achieve literacy and numeracy**.
- 4.7) By 2030, ensure that **all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development**, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of **peace** and non-violence, **global citizenship** and **appreciation of cultural diversity** and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.
- 4.a) Build and **upgrade education facilities** that are **child, disability and gender sensitive** and provide safe, non-violent, **inclusive and effective learning environments** for all.
- 4.b) By 2020, substantially **expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries**, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.
- 4.c) By 2030, substantially **increase the supply of qualified teachers**, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States.

See further resources on goal 4 and education on page 4.

Take action toward achieving goal 4

Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action either through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
 - **Hold a book drive for a local school:** Reach out to local schools to assess need for books, and hold a book drive for used books within your congregation. Ask members to donate books that promote [racial](#) and [gender](#) equality.
 - **Rethink your congregation's religious education spaces:** Organize a committee to look around your religious education classes and think about ways of improvement.
 - Are the decorations gender sensitive, inclusive, non-violent and loving for all children and youth? Are your classrooms accessible for children and youth of any physical, mental or learning disability?
 - **Lobby local schools for greater accessibility:** If you know of a local school that does not meet the requirements of either the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)) or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)) in the U.S., or the [Canadian Human Rights Act](#) and/or [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) in Canada, by providing ramps or elevators and resources for deaf/blind students or family members, organize a group within your congregation to lobby the school district to make these changes.
 - **Organize a tutor volunteer group for a local school.** Mobilize congregation members in volunteering a few hours of their time each week to serve as classroom assistants in a local school, if needed.
 - **Support your local school teachers and R.E. teachers at your congregation** with flowers, a card, or a gift for [National Teacher Appreciation Day](#) on May 3rd. Join the [Thank a Teacher](#) campaign, or share their story online at [TakePart's TEACH](#).
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for equality in access to education in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
 - **[Urge Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau](#)** to devote \$75M to education of Syrian refugee children who have been displaced, kick starting the [Education Crisis Platform](#) at the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit.
 - **[Tell the U.S. government to pass the Education For All Act](#)**, which will increase their budget devoted to education worldwide and will ensure millions more children have access to 12 years of education.
 - **[Tell university presidents](#)** of the University of California and California State systems to put suicide hotline numbers on student I.D. cards, making university a safer, more welcoming space for all students.
 - **[Urge the state government of North Carolina](#)** to require cameras in special education classes to regulate and take action against abuses against disabled students.
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on education and equity in the U.S. and Canada at your congregation.*
 - **[Waiting for Superman](#):** A film on the growing educational inequality gap in the U.S. and the failures of the education system to provide top-notch education for all students, regardless of socioeconomic class.

- [**A Race to Nowhere**](#): A documentary that follows the pressure put on students in the U.S. to succeed in school and in their extracurricular activities.
- [**TED Talks from Sir Ken Robinson**](#): These 10-20 minute talks spark conversation on the failure of the US education system to develop creativity and innovation in students.
- **Book club reads**: *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on education and equity in the U.S. and Canada.*
 - [**Will Standards Save Public Education?**](#) – Deborah Meier questions the idea of a centralized authority in the North American education system and rejects “teaching to the test,” arguing for an education system that provides teachers with greater creativity and freedom.
 - [**For White Folks who Teach in the Hood...And the Rest of Y’all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education**](#)- Drawing on his own experiences as a student and teacher of color in urban schools, Christopher Edmin proposes a paradigm shift in urban education in the U.S., challenging the harmful stereotype of young urban students of color as “unteachable.”
 - [**Degrees of Inequality: How the Politics of Higher Education Sabotaged the American Dream**](#)- Suzanne Mettler critiques the rapidly increasing costs of higher education in the U.S. that make it out of reach for more and more students, and the politics that prevent successful change in the education system from occurring.
- **NGOs working toward the cause**: *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to increase access to education in the U.S. and Canada.*
 - [**Donorschoose.org**](#): This online crowdfunding site allows teachers in the U.S. to fundraise for classroom projects to improve the quality of education for their students.
 - Check out the Canadian equivalent, [**My Class Needs!**](#)
 - [**The Canadian Safe School Network**](#): A national non-profit to reducing violence in Canadian schools and surrounding communities, making them safer educational spaces for all students.
 - [**Canadian Education Association**](#): A Canadian non-profit that conducts and publishes educational research and provides resources for teachers.
 - [**Project Tomorrow**](#): A non-profit that mobilizes educational change in the US by providing online resources for students and teachers and conducting research projects on the state of education nationally.
 - [**New Teacher Center**](#): A non-profit that supports the growth of new teachers by developing induction programs within state governments and school boards and providing one-on-one mentoring and professional development for new teachers. Donate [here](#).

Take action internationally:

- **Petitions**: *Sign the following petitions advocating for equity in educational accessibility across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
 - [**Tell the government of Sierra Leone**](#) to lift the ban preventing pregnant girls from attending school.
 - [**Urge the government of France**](#) to ensure the right to education for the children of 80 Roma families who were forcibly evicted from their homes in 2015.
 - [**Call on world leaders**](#) at the World Humanitarian Summit to commit increased funding to education in international crises, kick starting the Education Cannot Wait fund.

- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on education and equity across the world at your congregation.*
 - [2 Million Minutes](#): A documentary that compares the educational pathways and pressures for students in the US, China, and India.
 - [Wings of Evolution](#): A documentary that tells the story of the Siragu Montessori School in rural India, a free school offering quality education to children who are homeless or from low socioeconomic status families.
 - [Girl Rising](#): A documentary following nine girls in developing nations pursuing their education, speaking to the power of gender equality and female empowerment in the education system internationally.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on education across the world.*
 - [I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban](#)– The story of the teenage girl—now Nobel Peace Prize winner—who stood up for her, and all girls’ right to education, and paid the ultimate price.
 - [Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon: Why China Has the Best \(and Worst\) Education System in the World](#) – Yong Zhao offers an insider look at the Chinese education system, its flaws, and the factors that allow it to produce the highest-scoring students in math, science, and reading year after year.
 - [What Works in Girls’ Education: Evidence for the Worlds’ Best Investment](#)– Gene Sperling explores the vast body of research on the economic, political, and social benefits of investing in girls’ education across the world.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working to increase access to education across the world.*
 - [Every Child is Our Child](#): The UU-UNO’s program in Ghana that provides school supplies and health care cards for primary and secondary school children who are vulnerable to HIV.
 - [The Malala Fund](#): Malala Yousafzai’s international non-profit that advocates for resource and policy changes and invests in organizations, all to improve the quality of education for girls across the world.
 - [Asha for Education](#): A non-profit with projects across India to improve the educational circumstances of children in low socioeconomic classes. Donate online directly or reach out to your [local chapter](#) to offer help.
 - [Paper Planes Tutoring](#): A tutoring program started by several university students in the U.S. that connects tutors with Syrian refugees in their new countries for free English lessons and assistance with college applications.

Further resources on goal 4 and education:

- [Goal 4 targets and related publications](#) on poverty and elimination strategies.
- [UN facts and figures](#) on Goal 4 and the state of poverty worldwide.
- [Global Goals images](#) and infographics relating to goal 4.
- [UNESCO report on inequality undermining educational opportunities worldwide.](#)