

Our six organizations – Advancement Project, Education Law Center – PA, FairTest, Forum for Education and Democracy, Juvenile Law Center, and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. – have come together to write the attached position paper, *Federal Policy, ESEA Reauthorization, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline*. We request that your organization consider endorsing it, which you can do by forwarding your response to stopschoolstojails@advancementproject.org by January 31, 2011.

As explained in the position paper, our organizations view the expanding School-to-Prison Pipeline as an outgrowth of various factors over the past decade, including aspects of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or ESEA). This statement proposes improvements to that law as well as other modifications in federal policy. We will share the paper with members of Congress and the Administration early in 2011, as one important part of our advocacy efforts. We expect to have many endorsers from the civil rights, education, and juvenile justice communities, and we hope that you will join us in showing our collective support for federal education policies that better address the causes and consequences of the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

Endorsement Instructions:

- While all endorsements are welcome, we strongly prefer organizational endorsements. **If you work for, volunteer for, or are otherwise involved with an organization that looks to affect these issues, please encourage the organization to endorse this letter.** Whenever possible, please sign on as an organization instead of as an individual. Send us the name of the organization and the authorizing person.
- Individual endorsements are also welcome. You may include your title (e.g., "Robert Schwarz, Attorney") and/or your affiliation (e.g., "Monty Neill, FairTest"). All individual endorsements will be listed under the following heading: "the following individuals are listed with their affiliations for identification purposes only."
- **Please send all endorsements to stopschoolstojails@advancementproject.org by January 31, 2011.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us at the addresses below.

We hope that your organization can endorse the position paper, and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Jim Freeman, Advancement Project, jfreeman@advancementproject.org

Len Rieser, Education Law Center, lrieser@elc-pa.org

Monty Neill, FairTest, monty@fairtest.org

George Wood, Forum for Education and Democracy, george.wood@earthlink.net

Bob Schwartz, Juvenile Law Center, rschwartz@jlc.org

Matt Cregor, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., mcregor@naacpldf.org