



## Join Our Grassroots Movement to Improve Public Schools

### Preparing Our Children for Success

Washington's pre-K–12 public education system is not preparing our children to succeed in the global economy.

- Fewer than 50% of children enter kindergarten ready to learn
- Only 74% of 9th graders graduate high school with their peers
- Only 60% of black and Hispanic students graduate with their peers
- Nearly one-quarter of employers report difficulty finding qualified job applicants

Washington compares poorly to other states in public education access, investment, and achievement. In 2005, Washington ranked

- 32nd in the nation for K-12 expenditures per student
- 45th in the nation for K-12 student-teacher ratio

Source: *Washington Learns: World-Class, Learner-Focused, Seamless Education*

Stand for Children is an innovative, citizen-led child advocacy organization. Rather than help one child at a time through direct service, we use a nationally recognized model for citizen involvement to teach everyday people how to join together in an effective grassroots voice to win concrete, long-lasting improvements for children. Together we advocate for improvements to and funding for schools and other programs that give large numbers of children a fair chance in life.

### Improving Opportunities for 1 Million Schoolchildren

Stand for Children will improve educational opportunities for the 1 million students in Washington public schools by building a strong citizen lobby that will:

- Establish a statewide non-partisan citizen voice for children capable of wielding significant grassroots pressure
- Hold elected officials accountable for establishing child-centered education policies aligned with best practices
- Increase funding for public schools at the local and state levels
- Help elect pro-children, pro-schools candidates to the state legislature and local school boards

### Organizational Strategy

Stand for Children achieves benefits for children and improvements for schools by channeling the collective energy of committed citizens to achieve best-practice solutions. Through a formalized system of leadership training and mentoring carried out by a skilled program staff, Stand for Children gives everyday people the tools to make a real, lasting difference for children in their communities.

In addition to helping children, our members themselves significantly benefit from involvement in Stand for Children – they learn to be effective leaders, developing key organizational skills and a heightened understanding of children's issues. These member-leaders, organized into local Chapters and Teams, research their major concerns, decide on an issue, set specific goals for change, and work in coalition with other organizations to produce significant results.

In three years we will build local Chapters in at least six communities across Washington. Our local and state organizations will achieve concrete victories for children that result in increased funding and improved policies for schools.

### Budget and Fundraising

The 2007 budget for Washington Stand for Children (a 501c4 nonprofit advocacy organization) and Stand for Children Leadership Center (a tax-deductible 501c3 charitable organization) is \$170,000. Staff are Stand for Children's primary expense. Financial support comes from private foundations, membership dues, and from generous individual donors and businesses that support our work to give all children a fair chance in life.

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On June 1, 1996, more than 300,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. for Stand for Children Day, the largest rally for children in American history. From that event grew Stand for Children Leadership Center, a 501(c)(3) training and leadership development organization, and Stand for Children, a 501(c)(4) membership organization (referred to collectively as Stand for Children).

Today, we have four state affiliates, Massachusetts, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington.

Since 1999, Stand members have leveraged more than \$1.7 billion in public funding for schools and other vital programs serving more than 2.7 million children.

Every dollar invested in Stand for Children has delivered \$115 in public funding for children's programs – a remarkable return on investment.



## Recent Successes Include

### Massachusetts

- Winning K-12 funding increases totaling \$436.6 million over two years through organizing thousands of school supporters from more than 85 communities for rallies on Boston Common and meetings with legislators.
- Protecting class sizes and programs in Lowell Public Schools by helping prevent \$800,000 in budget cuts.
- Helping deliver nearly \$10 million in extra funding to support schools and other vital children's services through successful local ballot measures.
- Improving learning environments for school children by winning improvements in school nutrition in Arlington and air quality in Lexington.

### Oregon

- Helping elect four pro-schools State Representatives, creating a pro-schools majority for the first time in 16 years.
- Enabling most school districts to begin to reduce class sizes or restore essential programs by helping secure a K-12 appropriation of \$6.245 billion for 2007-09—the first reinvestment in more than a decade.
- Increasing teacher quality and retention by designing and winning \$5 million in funding to provide mentors for nearly 1,000 new K-12 teachers and principals.
- Improving learning environments by securing legislation that enables school districts to collect a construction tax for school facilities, and that gives communities a voice in planning decisions that affect schools.
- Attacking the epidemic of childhood obesity by helping craft and win passage of statewide legislation removing unhealthy snacks and drinks from schools.
- Alleviating school overcrowding for more than 48,000 students in Hillsboro, Medford, and North Clackamas by helping pass three school construction bonds totaling more than \$580 million.

### Tennessee

- Co-leading the Tennessee Alliance for Early Education, which secured \$70 million in public funding over three years providing 800 new Pre-K classrooms for 16,000 at-risk 4-year olds.
- Reducing class sizes, updating textbooks, and securing other improvements by helping to win more than \$19 million in funding for Memphis City and Shelby County Schools; \$10.1 million dollars in Hamilton County; and \$32 in Nashville.
- Winning \$200,000 in city and state funding for Nashville Supports Early Education Staff, an innovative, Stand for Children-created substitute childcare teacher program that enables teachers to access daytime training and helps maintain low staff-to-child ratios in their absence.



## What People Are Saying About Stand for Children

*Governor Deval Patrick*  
Massachusetts  
(following Stand's 2007  
Statewide School Funding Rally)

“Last year, I stood with Stand for Children as a candidate and spectator; this year, I stood with you as your Governor. To look out into the crowd and see nearly 2000 citizens from more than 85 communities taking the time to advocate for public education gives me great hope. We must achieve consistent excellence in every public school, consistent pride in every student, and consistent hope in every Massachusetts family. Together we can.”

*Governor Phil Bredesen*  
Tennessee

“I greatly appreciate the role Stand for Children played in helping to lead the Alliance for Early Education. You were instrumental in educating Tennesseans and members of the Tennessee General Assembly about the tremendous benefits of early education. Stand for Children did an excellent job building support for Pre-K throughout the state.”

*Governor Ted Kulongoski*  
Oregon

“I was proud to have earned the support of Democratic, Independent, and Republican Stand for Children members who were featured in a mailing from my campaign to more than 100,000 voters, and I am excited about the opportunity to work closely with you during the next four years. Together, we can provide opportunity through education to all Oregonians.”

*Chairman Robert DeLeo*  
Winthrop  
House Ways & Means  
Committee

“There are always a variety of interests on Beacon Hill competing for limited resources, and it takes strong grassroots organizing and persistence to make sure your message is heard. I’ve been working with Stand for Children members in my community for several years now, and have been impressed by their tenacity and commitment to improving our public schools. The fact that Stand for Children organized more than 400 citizens to meet with 48 different legislators to speak about education funding and reform is a true testament to their power, and I’m very pleased to be working with them on ensuring children in Massachusetts have the top-quality education they deserve.”

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*Continued*

*Oregon State Rep. Mary Nolan*  
Portland  
Co-chair,  
Ways & Means Committee

*David Briley*  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Metropolitan Council Member

*Jackie Doherty*  
Lowell School  
Committee Member  
July 2007

*Tina Kotek*  
Oregon State Representative,  
Portland

“Stand for Children was well organized and highly visible during both the campaign cycle and the legislative session. They brought hundreds of grassroots activists to the Capitol and to the Ways and Means road hearings. Stand for Children kept K-12 funding at the forefront of public and legislative awareness, and the pay-off was \$6.245 billion – the largest increase for K-12 in Oregon history.”

“I am impressed with the way that Stand for Children has brought important early childhood education issues before the Council and contributed to making those issues a major new priority in the City. We need this organization to continue to advocate for children, improve early education, and empower new community leaders in Nashville and throughout Tennessee.”

“Stand for Children has been instrumental in building a strong network of effective advocates for children across the state, which was evident by the impassioned speeches and turnout of the April 25 rally as well as the increase in state funding for education. In Lowell, I have seen firsthand how their work has impacted our community’s awareness and subsequently, increased our local government’s support of its schools. I am grateful for their continued efforts for children throughout the state and particularly the city of Lowell.”

“Stand for Children does an outstanding job in its efforts to improve the lives of Oregon’s children. As a strong member of the Oregon Nutrition Policy Alliance, Stand members advocated effectively for establishing statewide school nutrition standards. You attended key hearings and always presented informed, compelling testimony. Oregon children benefit from your effective presence in the State Capitol “

