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## America can help raise global literacy

It's standardized testing time at Walnut Creek Intermediate School.

While I'm thinking about our kids trying to meet or beat grade level, I'm shocked to learn nearly 40 percent of the world's children cannot read or write. Some 57 million don't go to school; 193 million who do attend school remain illiterate.

Developing countries provide 90 percent of their own education costs. However they clearly need help to get the result they desperately need — literate citizens.

The Global Partnership for Education, the only multilateral organization dedicated to quality global primary school education, has had tremendous success supporting quality education for 22 million children in some of the world's poorest countries. If given adequate funding, they're poised to assist an additional 29 million would-be learners.

At June's GPE pledging conference, the United States should pledge \$250 million over two years, and become a leader in support of global education, rather than the follower it is today.

What can you do? Urge your representative to sign Rep. Jan Schakowsky's letter encouraging President Barack Obama to make this GPE pledge.

**Sharon Solstice**  
*Walnut Creek*