

50 Ways Your Church Can Further Education and Promote Literacy in Your Community

1. Identify and equip an “education advocate” in every congregation.
2. Encourage youth to attain education.
3. Bring youth to college campuses.
4. Establish a speakers bureau for education.
5. Church sponsored “True Love Waits” type emphasis to finish high school.
6. Project strong pro-education message in youth camps, etc.
7. Encourage celebration of educational achievement at every level.
8. Advocate for education with state legislature.
9. Create coalitions with other groups to promote educational issues.
10. Provide workshops to inform families about educational opportunities and resources.
11. “Adopt” a college student.
12. Encourage college students to serve as “educational ambassadors” with at-risk families.
13. Provide training opportunities in cultural competency for university leadership.
14. Summer intern program to provide speakers for conferences to address educational opportunities/resources.
15. Monitor reform efforts for public schools.
16. Support Even Start and Head Start programs in local communities.
17. Honor teachers for their work.
18. Encourage youth to enter teaching profession.
19. Insist that curricula reflect the best materials to broaden student understanding.
20. Encourage biblical literacy.
21. Encourage teaching of basic character and civic virtues.
22. Encourage reading from the pulpit and through other church venues.
23. Advocate for health education for students.
24. Support thoughtful reform of public education.
25. Encourage mentoring of at-risk children and youth.
26. Advocate for adequate funding of public education.
27. Encourage voter registration and awareness of issues related to school funding and programming.
28. Advocate for strengthening teacher training.
29. Support standards-based education at all levels.
30. Advocate for universals, early, and quality preschool education for all children.
31. Advocate for public education as a basic human right and not fund it through alternative revenues such as gambling.
32. Create motivational experiences for adults and children together (family literacy).
33. Support preschool and family literacy projects such as *Books for the Border*.
34. Use your church’s library in nontraditional ways.
35. Begin an English as a Second Language ministry.
36. Begin an adult literacy program.
37. Help adults earn their GED.
38. Provide citizenship education.
39. Sponsor computer literacy classes.
40. Host financial literacy instruction.
41. Develop family literacy programs.
42. Provide parenting classes.
43. Affirm churches who are creatively and successfully advocating educational attainment.
44. Develop networks and partnerships among congregations to address educational issues.
45. Assist high school dropouts in re-engaging in school through networks with schools.
46. Encourage dropouts to consider viable vocational and alternative education.
47. Encourage churches to provide tutoring and homework help/TAKS support.
48. Build partnerships between churches and at-risk schools.
49. Support local libraries including those in churches and schools.
50. Pray.

Above list based on:

Abriendo Puertas! Opening Doors for Hispanic Youth (Report of the Hispanic Education Task Force of the Baptist General Convention of Texas) and *Public Education and the Church --Resolution #263--* The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

**Literacy
ConneXus**
Helping churches help people with literacy needs

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Contact Literacy ConneXus for additional information about this list and how your church can further education and promote literacy in your community.