Climate Action on Every Level: Local, State, and National Engagement

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Schools for Climate Action
National Children’s Campaign
How do you go from this...
Turning Disaster into Action
Energizing the Education Sector to Protect Students by Speaking Up for Climate Justice
Schools for Climate Action

- Grassroots
- Non-partisan
- Youth-adult
- Nationwide

We empower education sector organizations to protect our generation through climate resolutions
What the Resolutions Do

→ Drive a paradigm shift so people recognize climate change as a generational justice and equity issue

Excerpts from Credo High School Board Resolution:

“WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations”

“WHEREAS, the Credo High School Board recognizes climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue”
What the Resolutions Do

- Clearly articulate the political will for all elected leaders, especially members of Congress, to support or enact policies that will combat the climate crisis

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Credo High School Board calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students.”

Red/Purple District Resolutions: show members of Congress that there aren’t political consequences for taking action on the climate crisis

Blue District Resolutions: increases the number of resolutions nationwide, which lends credibility to the practice of passing climate resolutions
What the Resolutions Do

→ Celebrate and expand school district responses to climate change

- Climate curriculum
- Advocacy programs
- Renewable energy sources
- Composting/recycling programs
- Eco-friendly drinking fountains/toilets
- Air hand dryers
- Use less paper
- Compostable food materials
- Encourage a culture of sustainability
Pass a Student Group Resolution

- Student Council/ASB
- Eco Club
- Student Body

Use the Student Council Resolution Template to draft a climate action resolution for your student council to pass. Be sure to personalize the resolution with information specific to your school district. Do some research on the policies already in place in your district.
Why School Boards?

- School districts can make changes at the local level
- Close proximity to students and young people
- Elected officials
- School employees are mandated reporters
  - School officials have an obligation to report child neglect to the relevant authorities
  - Climate change is a form of child neglect
  - Schools must tell the relevant authority (Congress) to act on climate change
Pass a Climate Action Resolution

schoolsforclimateaction.org
Pass a School Board Resolution

Go online and find your school board members’ email addresses on your school district’s website.
Pass a School Board Resolution

Use the School Board Resolution Template to draft a climate action resolution for your school board to pass. Be sure to personalize the resolution with information specific to your school district. Do some research on the policies already in place in your district.
Pass a School Board Resolution

Use the School Board Outreach Email Template to draft an email to your school board members. You want to get the resolution on their radar and ask them to put it on the agenda.
Pass a School Board Resolution

If they say yes:

Show up to a school board meeting. Remember to bring printed copies of your draft resolution. Talk about why your district needs a resolution passed.
Pass a School Board Resolution

If they say no or don’t respond to your email:

Show up to a school board meeting. Fill out a comment card so you can speak during the open comment. Most school boards will give three minutes per person or 20 minutes per group. Remember to bring printed copies of your drafted resolution.
Pass a School Board Resolution

Speak during the open comment portion of the meeting. Tell them exactly what the resolution does and why climate action matters to you. Ask them to put the resolution up as an agenda item at the next meeting.
Pass a School Board Resolution

If they say yes:

Send a follow up email thanking them for listening to you and for considering your resolution.
Pass a School Board Resolution

Speak at the meeting!
Pass a School Board Resolution

If they say no:

Send a follow up email thanking them for listening to you. Remind them about all the effects climate change has on their students.

Be persistent! Engage with your school district online and show your community that they’re not defending your future. Keep showing up to school board meetings and keep the pressure up! Get other people involved. Contact Schools for Climate Action for support.
If the Resolution Passes

● Celebrate!

● Log it

● Share it
● Leverage it
Student Council Climate Action Resolution
Calling on Congress to Act on Climate Change

WHEREAS, there is consensus among scientists that human activities which create greenhouse gas emissions are the dominant cause of climate change,

WHEREAS, the global impact, the urgency, and the magnitude of climate change calls for leadership and action in all sectors of society, all institutions, and all elected leaders; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, young people are disproportionately impacted by national climate inaction because greenhouse gases will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will create a profound burden throughout our lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts all people and disproportionately impacts all young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and low-income communities, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

WHEREAS, more than 29 school boards in 5 states have passed non-partisan resolutions building political will for national climate action to protect students;

WHEREAS, the Santa Fe Indian School Junior student council recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America’s schools, students, and their communities.
Rep. Ben Ray Luján Endorses Green New Deal

Santa Fe Sunrise Movement town hall also features Rep. Deb Haaland and Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber
It marked the first time Luján has expressed his support for the resolution. After the event, he told SFR that speaking with young constituents swayed his stance on the issue and convinced him to add his name to the growing list of Democrats who publicly endorse the proposal. He singled out the impact of one student from the Santa Fe Indian School, Harlan Quintana, who recently traveled to Washington to urge the representative to do more on climate action.
National Children’s Campaign
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

https://forms.gle/bZZqftTedpxpaeTYi6

Schools for Climate Action

National Children's Campaign
Pass a Resolution in Your Community Today!

Schoolsforclimateaction.org

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Join our fight to make America’s 74 million children and youth a national priority!

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