



Black Alliance for Educational Options

2010 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Letter from the President	1
Symposium 2010: 10th Anniversary	2
Annual Seminar 2010	3
Advocacy and Outreach	4
Black Male Achievement Campaign	8
BAEO Gates Small High Schools Project	9
Advocacy and Outreach	10
2010 Financial Outlook	11
Contributors and Donors	12
Join the Revolution in Education	13

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Letter from the President



In 2010, the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) continued the critical task of informing, educating, and empowering our primary and most important stakeholders – low-income and working-class Black parents who are desperate for new and better educational opportunities for their children.

This year's Annual Review highlights some of our exciting activities and accomplishments, including updates from our Sixth Annual Education Policy and Parental Choice Seminar, where a record number of Black elected officials (and more than 216 total participants) had an opportunity to broaden their understanding of the need for high-quality educational options and to hear and learn from a wide variety of parent choice supporters, including other Black elected officials who have already taken a strong stand by supporting educational options for low-income and working class families, charter school experts, public and private school operators, parents, and students who are in various parental choice programs.

You will also see highlights from our local advocacy and mobilization sites, including our newest sites in Mississippi, Alabama, and Kentucky. Although the efforts in these states are just beginning, we are enthusiastic about bringing new educational options to families there, while we continue to work on protecting and expanding programs that currently exist in Connecticut, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

The report also highlights a number of national programs, including BAEO's Parents, Power, and Purpose (P3) Advocacy Institute. Deeply troubled by recent reports on the low graduation rates of Black males, BAEO joined forces with the Open Society Institute to implement P3 as part of the national Campaign for Black Male Achievement. This project is designed to empower parents/caregivers of Black males through quality educational options that will help our young men achieve educational excellence.

As always, it is important to acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that serve as partners and allies in the parental choice movement. Clearly, our parental choice policy and program progress would not have been possible without the continual commitment and support from individuals and organizations that have joined us in the fight to ensure that low income and working-class Black families across the nation have access to high-quality K-12 educational options.



Finally, we thank all of those who supported BAEO financially in 2010. Whether you are a corporate or foundation donor, a parent, student, educator, or advocate for parental choice, we appreciate your financial support and your shared commitment to our children. With your support, we will continue to fight until all of our children have access to high-quality educational options in their communities.

BAEO promises to continue to work diligently to build on our founders' legacy and to fulfill our mission, and I would love to hear thoughts or suggestions about how we are doing. Feel free to contact me at Kenneth@baeo.org.

The Fight Continues,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Symposium 2010: 10th Anniversary



Symposium 2010 Celebrated 10 years of Dedication & Service to Parents

The 10th Anniversary celebration of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) during Symposium 2010 in Milwaukee was one for the record books. Our theme this year, “A Decade of Progress... The Struggle Continues,” brought together more than 520 participants—parents, clergy, elected officials, students, educators, emerging leaders and funders to rededicate themselves to our mission to increase access to high-quality educational options for Black children by actively supporting parental choice policies and programs that empower low-income and working class Black families.

Since our launch in 2000, BAEO has empowered low-income and working-class families to stand up for high-quality educational options for Black

children. Through the years our focus, actions and overall philosophy have remained the same.

This year’s Symposium had many memorable moments including the cheerleading squad during the Welcome Luncheon, the passing of the BAEO Board Chair gavel from Dr. Howard L. Fuller to Kevin P. Chavous during the annual Chair’s Dinner, the special award recognition and tribute to Dr. Deborah M. McGriff, BAEO Founder, Symposium Planning Committee Chair, and loyal and devoted BAEO board member and Board Chair of the Milwaukee Chapter of BAEO.

For more photos visit www.baeo.org and click on the Symposium icon.

Annual Seminar 2010



Annual Elected Officials Seminar Exceeded Attendance Goals

The Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) hosted its Sixth Annual Seminar on Educational Policy and Parental Choice in Jersey City, NJ, in November, in partnership with the Program on Educational Policy & Governance (PEPG) at Harvard University.

This year the event exceeded its participation goal — more than 216 participants attended — including 76 elected officials and 26 staff of elected officials from Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Mississippi and Wisconsin just to name a few. The seminar's goal is to bring together Black elected officials from across the country who believe that low-income and working class parents should be given a choice and children a chance at academic excellence.

The 2010 seminar provided participants opportunities to network with other elected officials, policymakers and allies who strive to empower low-income parents to choose the best educational options for their children. Participants also heard real-world experiences from Black elected officials who have decided to become advocates for our children using parental choice programs as a lever of power in the effort to reform education in America. Elected officials were given techniques and resources for expanding high-quality educational options in their home states and received information from various studies and reports about the impact of the parental choice movement in the continuing

struggle to close the achievement gap between white and black children in our nation. "This is my first elected officials seminar and I am beyond impressed," said newly elected Wisconsin State Rep. Elizabeth Cogg. "I am ready to go home and fight on the behalf of our children!"

This year general session speakers included: Cory Booker, BAEO Board of Directors, Mayor City of Newark; Anthony Williams, BAEO Advisory Board, State Senator and former Candidate for Governor, Pennsylvania; James H. Shelton III, BAEO Founder and Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education; Michael Benjamin, Assemblyman, New York State; Whitney Tilson, Co-Founder, Democrats for Education Reform, Founding Member, Teach for America, Vice Chairman, KIPP Academy Charter Schools in New York City and; Peter Groff, President and CEO, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

"I am honored to have been a part of the BAEO Annual Seminar," said James Ragland, an Ohio legislative staffer. "The sessions were very insightful, and I learned from competent leaders that have a passion for children. I am excited about the future for BAEO here in Ohio, and look forward to working with them to achieve ultimate success for our children in Ohio!"

For more highlights visit www.baeo.org and click on the Annual Seminar icon.



From (R to L) David Thomas –AL BAEO Outreach Coordinator, Cleretta Blackmon, Publisher The Mobile, Shreé Medlock – BAEO National Advocacy Director, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr – BAEO Senior Advisor for Strategic Alliances, Kevin P. Chavous, BAEO Chairman, Kimberly Pettway, AL BAEO Outreach Coordinator and Tyrone Williams – AL BAEO Outreach Coordinator.

First Roundtable Held in Mobile, AL

The Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) recently held its first Chairman's Roundtable in Mobile, AL. More than 40 elected officials and community leaders attended a luncheon on education reform. Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Senior Advisor for Strategic Alliances for BAEO gave the keynote address.

The Chairman's Roundtable provided a venue for BAEO to make its entrance into the state of Alabama by facilitating an intimate dialogue about options in education. As BAEO begins its efforts to expand, Alabama is ripe for our work in parental choice. "Our goal is to awaken communities across the south to the number of options that exists in education as well as to build their understanding about the work of BAEO," said Shreé Medlock, National Advocacy Director for BAEO.

BAEO is proud to collaborate and work with the following national mobilization allies to help ensure that low-income and working class Black families have high-quality educational options.

- American Federation for Children
- Democrats for Education Reform
- Milton & Rose Friedman Foundation
- Institute for Justice
- National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- Open Society Institute



(From L to R) Shreé Medlock, BAEO National Advocacy Director; Dr. Howard Fuller, BAEO Board Member; Kim Mapp, Kentucky State Consultant; Pastor Jerry Stephenson, Kentucky State Consultant; Pastor Donnie Eddins; and Kenneth Campbell, BAEO President.

BAEO Started Groundwork for Parental Choice in Kentucky

Under the leadership of National Advocacy Director, Shreé Medlock, the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) started grassroots efforts in Kentucky 2010. Kim Mapp and Pastor Jerry Stephenson, two BAEO KY State Outreach Coordinators have hit the ground running, holding events to inform and educate local community and business leaders, clergy and parents about education reform and the parental choice movement.

The team recently held meetings in Louisville, Lexington, and Frankfurt. Medlock gave the keynote address during a parent meeting in Louisville where approximately 25 parents participated in discussions focused on the need for parents in Kentucky to be involved in the education reform movement.

In Lexington, the team met with a coalition of groups at the Imani Church. BAEO President Kenneth Campbell led a discussion on charter schools and the educational options BAEO supports. Participants included members of the faith-based community, elected officials, candidates, business and community leaders, and coalition members.

“Parents in Kentucky want more options. We’re planting seeds that will reap tremendous fruit for education reform and parental choice in Kentucky,” said Medlock.

Under the leadership of Campbell and Todd Ziebarth, Vice President for State Advocacy and Support for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, BAEO and its community partners presented to the Kentucky House Education Committee. The BAEO team in Kentucky also met directly with Senate President David Williams.



Danielle K. Smith
Connecticut State Director

CT BAEO held Outreach Events

In 2010 the Connecticut BAEO Mobilization Team (CT BAEO) held its second Education Policy Forum and Education Champions Dinner at the Yale Law School. “The Economics of a Great Education” was the event theme. CT BAEO also held its first Black Leaders Roundtable on Education Policy at the State Capitol with the Connecticut NAACP and the African American Affairs Commission.

MO BAEO Informed 4,000 Parents about Parental Choice

The Missouri BAEO Mobilization team (MO BAEO) directed by Bertha Gilkey Bonds successfully prevented the Missouri Summer School Program from ending. MO BAEO also informed more than 4,000 parents about parental choice in six cities: Wellston, Pine Lawn, Florissant, St. Louis, Kansas City and University City.

Gilkey Bonds and her team collaborated with St. Louis Public School District to create five new charter schools, one African-centered school and two single-gender schools. In addition, she was appointed by the president of the St. Louis Public School Board to an oversight committee that will oversee \$125 million in funding.

MCBAEO Joined Fight to Improve Reading Scores

The Milwaukee Chapter of BAEO (MCBAEO) supported and participated in the Milwaukee Community Response to the Reading Crisis Stakeholder group, whose work led to the successful Milwaukee Summer Reading Project (MSRP). Five Milwaukee elementary schools participated in the pilot reading project. Spearheading this project was Dr. Howard Fuller, former MPS Superintendent and BAEO Board Chair and dozens of other Black elected officials, heads of community organizations, parents, educators, religious and community leaders and students. MCBAEO also partnered with Great Schools of Milwaukee, College Explosion and Washington Koen Media Productions “Beyond the Bricks” national community engagement project and continued its work with Choice Schools Association, Milwaukee Charter School Advocates and Step-Up Milwaukee Early Childhood Education Initiative.



BAEO Heralds Waiting for Superman

BAEO chapters and mobilization sites held special VIP screenings of the acclaimed education documentary *Waiting for Superman* in Milwaukee, WI; New Haven and Hartford, CT; and Dayton and Columbus, Ohio. Screenings were also held in Kentucky and Louisiana. The audience included: parents,

students, clergy, school board members, community and business leaders, and public and private school teachers. After the movies panel discussions were held with the audience. These screenings were held in partnership with the Connecticut Charter School Network, and Done Waiting.

Ohio BAEO



Ohio BAEO



Milwaukee Chapter of BAEO



Milwaukee Chapter of BAEO



Connecticut BAEO





800 Kids Helped by Ohio BAEO

Ohio BAEO, BJ Kids 91 Foundation and 25 other organizations joined forces to provide more than 800 K-8th grade students with back to school supplies and free hair cuts in Dayton, Ohio, during the third annual BJ Kids 91 Foundation back to school fair.

New Orleans Launched Media Campaign

The Louisiana BAEO team launched a media campaign to educate and inform the New Orleans community about charter schools. In New Orleans more than 70 percent of students attend a charter school. The Louisiana BAEO team launched a media campaign to educate and inform the New Orleans community about charter schools. In New Orleans more than 70 percent of students attend a charter school. You can view the ads at www.BAEO.org, click on the video section.



LaBAEO Featured on Reason.tv

The state of Louisiana took control of most of the schools in the Orleans Parish School District and has been chartering those schools since. This fall, more than 70 percent of the students in New Orleans will attend charter schools.

In 2008, Louisiana enacted the Student Scholarship for Educational Excellence Program, a pilot state-funded scholarship program designed to allow low-income students in failing schools to attend private schools in the area.

The result: more competition and more choices for parents.

In the spring of 2010, Reason.tv went to New Orleans and spoke with Shree Medlock, Louisiana BAEO State Director and National Advocacy Director and folks at the Conquering Word Christian Academy to learn more about the city's new scholarship program. You can view the video at www.BAEO.org, click on the video link.

BAEO Gates Small High Schools Project



BAEO Gates Project Added Two Schools

This year, the BAEO-Gates Small High Schools team enrolled 1,560 students in four schools. Participating schools are: CEO Leadership Academy in Milwaukee, WI; Boys' Latin of Philadelphia, and Eastern University College Prep in Philadelphia, PA; and Madison Prep in Baton Rouge, LA.

BAEO-Gates coaches continued to implement the quality principles guidelines during professional and staff development workshops for each school. The BAEO quality principles are also used when school site visits are conducted. In 2010, BAEO continued its work in developing new small high schools.



Gates Small High Schools:

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)

CEO Leadership Academy (Milwaukee, WI)

Eastern University College Prep
(Philadelphia, PA)

Madison Prep (Baton Rouge, LA)



BAEO Launched Parents, Purpose, Power Institute



Kenya Archer, parent; Darlene Callands, president, Philadelphia BAEO; and Carol Archer (Kenya's mom) posed for pictures after the training.



Naryan Leazer, President of the Milwaukee Chapter BAEO conducted a P3 training session at the Institute for the Transformation of Learning at Marquette University.

Recognizing the crisis that exists for Black males in America's schools, BAEO is working to empower parents and caregivers to become more effective advocates for their Black male students. Part of the Campaign for Black Male Achievement, the P3 (Parents, Purpose, Power)

project is underway in Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and four cities in Louisiana (New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Lake Charles). In 2010, 475 parents/caregivers attended BAEO P3 seminars across the network. The Philadelphia BAEO team trained 239 parents including 52 fathers.



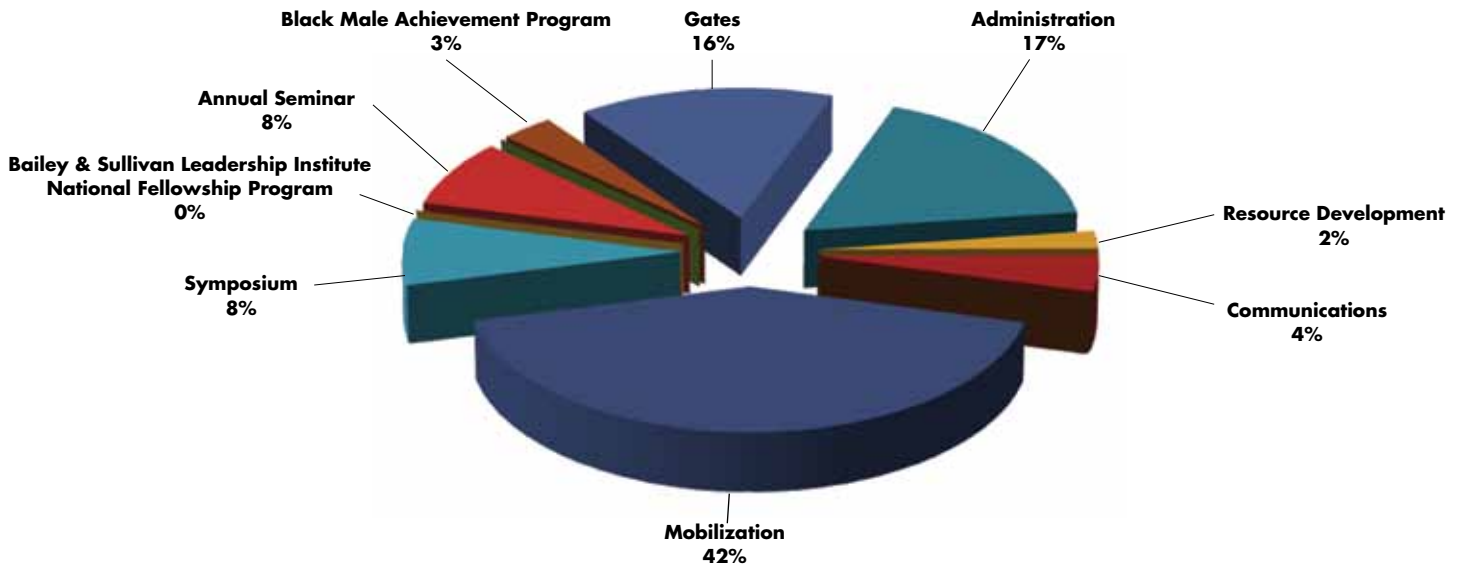
Shréé Medlock, LA BAEO State Director and National Advocacy Director, facilitated a Parent Advocacy Leaders session in Baton Rouge, LA.



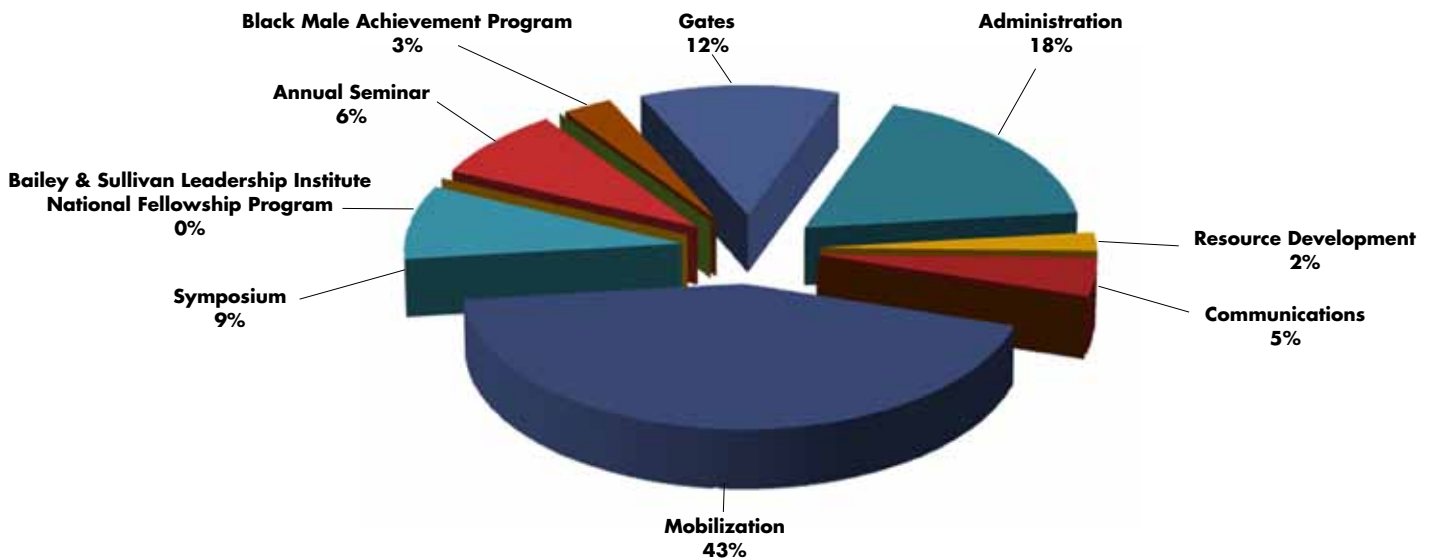
Deborah Jones, a mother of two sons, and partner with the YWCA Family Empowerment Baton Rouge, responded during the training session.

BAEO Financial Summary for 2010

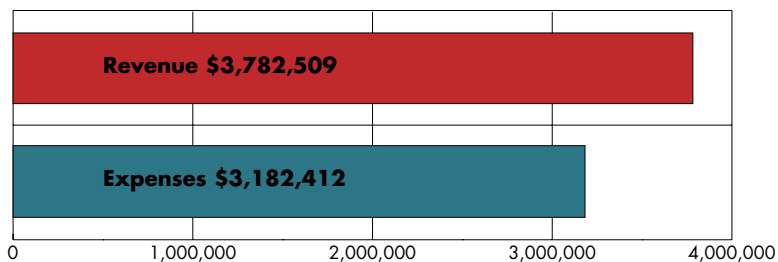
2010 Revenue



2010 Expenses



2010 Surplus



SURPLUS for 2010 \$600,097

In 2010, BAEO received donations and grants from individual supporters, foundations, and corporations.

Fully Paid Life Members

Thomas J. Adams
Jose Afonso
Anna Amato
Harriett Ball
Sandifer Barbara
Harrison Blackmond
Cory A. Booker
Larry L. Brandon
Clifton D. Brent
William Brooks
Cheryl Brown
Acey Byrd
Alfred Cade
Jacqueline Cooper
Tracie F. Craft
Fred Crouther
Herman Curry
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Simone Donald
Kevin Dow
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Dwight Evans
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K. Miata Fuller
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Kathy Harrell-Patterson
Nate Harris
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Tony Higgins
Mikel Holt
Sherry Hopkins
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Rodney Jones
Jacqueline Joyner Cissell
Jessie E. Kilgore
Louis J. King
Rev. Sterling Lands II
Patricia H. Lee
April Love
Joann B. Manning
Bill McCully
Deborah McGriff
John McVicker
Marilynn McVicker
Angelete Melhado
Michael & Tonya Milkie
Michael & Edith Miller
George Mitchell
Jeanette Mitchell
John C. Morris
Cory Nettles
Ellen Nowak
Jean Oden
Robert Pavlik
Jacqueline Y. Pelzer
Anita Peterson

Dan Quisenberry
Robert Rauh
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Gerard Robinson
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Male First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Female

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ms.

Mrs. Birthdate _____

Mr.

Dr. Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Fax _____ Email Address _____

Preferred Method of Contact: Day Phone Evening Phone Mobile Phone Fax E-mail

Company _____ Job Title _____

Highest Level of Education:

High School Diploma College Degree Masters Degree Doctoral Other: _____

Race/Ethnicity: _____

Please check all that apply:

My children attend:

- Traditional Public School
- Charter School
- Private School
- Home School
- Other: _____
- No school-aged children, but I support quality educational options for Black children

I am a:

- High School Student
- Undergraduate/Graduate Student
- Parent/Guardian of a K-12 Student
- PTO/PTA Member
- Teacher at a _____ school
- School Administrator
- Other PK-12 Educational Staff Person
- School Board Member
- College/University Faculty or Staff
- Elected Official
- Business Professional
- Community Activist/Leader
- Religious Leader/Minister
- Other: _____

How did you hear about BAEO:

- BAEO TV Ad
- TV News Program
- Radio
- Newspaper
- Magazine
- Internet
- Co-worker
- Family Member
- Friend
- Other, please specify _____

My age:

- 16-35 (emerging leader)
- 36-55
- 56 and over



Black Alliance for Educational Options

www.baeo.org

12th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

March 1-3, 2012

Grand Hyatt Washington
1000 H Street NW
Washington, DC

Questions contact: events@baeo.org

SAVE THE DATE

BAEO MISSION

To increase access to high-quality educational options for Black children by actively supporting parental choice policies and programs that empower low-income and working class Black families.

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EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Charter schools

Home schooling

Innovations in traditional public schools

Privately financed scholarships

Public-private partnerships

Supplementary education programs

Tax-supported scholarships (vouchers)

Tuition tax credits and deductions

Virtual and online learning

After-school programs

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Director of Gates Small Schools Project

Allen Penn
Program Manager - Gates Small Schools Project

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State Coordinator (Missouri)

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