



Bringing the World Education Forum (WEF) to the United States

The World Education Forum in the United States (WEF-USA) became official on September 22, 2015. On that date, we were officially and legally recognized as a domestic, tax-exempt non-profit corporation.

Please allow me to turn back the clock a few years to the words of encouragement and a request from then WEF President Ton Duif. At that time he asked three long-time National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) leaders and Past Presidents Mary Kay Sommers, Rich Barbacane, and Darrell Rud to consider leading the charge to bring WEF to the United States. We joined Ton at the official christening of Global WEF in Toronto in the fall of 2011 and proceeded to develop plans to work with the European and Global WEF countries to engage our United States colleagues in dealing with our issues of millions of children not enrolled in any school in our nation.

Some key steps along the way were the development of a non-profit foundation so that we could be protected individually from many financial and legal conflicts. We actively sought ways to increase awareness of our mission to our national education associations and other related organizations and individuals, to identify a reliable data source, to develop a website, to establish a social media presence, and to recruit nation-wide colleagues to assist us with our mission in their respective parts of the country.

Nationally, we have regularly presented sessions about this issue at the annual conference of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Our latest website update now includes maps and tables of school enrollment data for each state, each county and each school district in the United States. The activities of our State Ambassadors are increasing and are uniquely designed based upon the interests and expertise within each of their respective states. We are eager to expand these proactive developments within and between the states. At this point, we are operating independently and are not engaged directly with either state or national governmental entities.

Our progress has been steady but we still have many hurdles to cross as we strive to get ALL United States children enrolled in school. Representatives of 23 of our 50 states have accepted our invitation to become voluntary WEF-USA Ambassadors. Several other individuals are considering this role in the remaining states.

How can you learn more about WEF-USA?

- Our social media presence includes:
 - Webpage: bit.ly/wefusa Linked in: bit.ly/2x4CUIL
 - Facebook: bit.ly/2IHePCR Twitter: bit.ly/2IYcZAR
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- “Join” the WEFUSA network by signing up on our website at www.wefusa.net. There is no membership fee to join.
- Share ideas with us that are working in Bulgaria. **Your WEF results in your nation are IMPRESSIVE and inspirational to us.**

JOIN US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR ALL KIDS OF OUR WORLD!

Contacts and NAESP Past Presidents:

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