



## **September 2006 is Act For Education Month in New York State**

### **Why is September 2006 *Act for Education Month* in New York State?**

- One in three New York students does not graduate on time, by some calculations it is one in two.
- New York State has the largest school funding gap in the country between high and low income school districts and one of the lowest graduation rates.
- We can solve the education challenges facing New York State. Education leaders have the expertise about the educational strategies that work to raise achievement and graduation. What our schools need are adequate resources in the form of state aid coupled with wise investment and accountability.
- September 2006 marks the start of another with no solution in sight. The class of 2019 enrolls in Kindergarten in September 2006. Our kids can't wait.

### **How can *Act for Education Month* help improve the quality of our schools?**

- On October 10 the New York State Court of Appeals hears what is expected to be the decisive appeal in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity school funding lawsuit. *Act for Education Month* will highlight the needs of our school children and the need for a statewide solution to the CFE lawsuit.
- Multiple polls in 2006 shows that education is the top issue or a top three issue for New Yorkers. *Act for Education Month* provides a timely way to make sure that our children's education remains at the top of the agenda for public policy makers.

### **How can I get involved in *Act for Education Month*?**

- Get local Mayors, Town Boards or City Councils to pass resolutions or issue proclamations commemorating *Act for Education Month*.
- Survey local school needs and publicize the results
- Organize a public forum with a *Great Schools* guest speaker to highlight the graduation and student achievement crisis
- Sponsor a Teach-in on the need for more school aid
- Organize a delegation of community members to meet with your state legislators and ask for their support for *Act for Education Month*
- Organize a poetry slam or rap song contest with a *Act for Education Month* theme
- Hold a Great School Rally or Youth March in your community
- Generate your own local ideas and work with us to plug into the statewide *Act for Education Month* effort

### ***Act for Education Month* Principles**

Support statewide school funding reform designed to:

- Solve the state's graduation crisis and prepare our public school students for college and the job market by ensuring every student access to the "meaningful high school education" that our state constitution guarantees.
- Provide a statewide resolution Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit in accordance with the order of the New York State Court of Appeals
- Provide the additional resources our local public schools need through increased state aid, not increased property taxes.
- Reform the state school funding formula to target funding to meet student need and to provide predictable and stable state school aid through a simple, transparent funding formula.