



Where We Stand

America's Schools in the 21st Century

Hosted by *Judy Woodruff*

WHERE WE STAND: AMERICA'S SCHOOLS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, PREMIERING SEPTEMBER 15 ON [PBS](#), PROVIDES AN HISTORIC ASSESSMENT OF U.S. SCHOOLS

Hosted By [Judy Woodruff](#), Senior Correspondent for [The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer](#)

New York, NY – August 19 – In 1995, America's college graduation rate was first in the world. Ten years later, it ranked 15th. As so many nations around the world continue to improve their systems of education, America can no longer afford to maintain the status quo. In an ever-changing, increasingly competitive global economy, is the U.S. doing all it can to prepare its students to win jobs and maintain a robust economy?

WHERE WE STAND: America's Schools in the 21st Century, premiering Monday, September 15, 2008 at 10 p.m. on PBS, presents a frank evaluation of our educational system's strengths and weaknesses. Hosted by Judy Woodruff, Senior Correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, the documentary will visit schools throughout Ohio, an important swing state that represents a range of socioeconomic and geographic school districts. The program will feature schools in urban Cincinnati, suburban Columbus, and rural Belpre.

WHERE WE STAND will introduce students, parents, teachers and administrators whose stories illustrate the overwhelming odds and shining successes of education in America. They include Bin Che, an educator from mainland China who teaches Mandarin in rural Ohio; Cherese Clark, principal of a high-poverty school struggling under the pressure of low test scores; and Guadalupe Medina, a student at a STEM school (which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), who completed her high school requirements in two years.

Several nationally recognized education experts and leading proponents of educational reform will put these examples in context. They include Geoffrey Canada, President of the [Harlem Children's Zone](#); John Wilson, Executive Director of the [National Education Association](#); Wendy Puriefoy, Director of [Public Education Network](#); Chester Finn, President of the Fordham Institute; [Rick Hess](#), Director of Education Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute; Michael Rebell, Executive Director of the [Campaign for Educational Equity](#), Teachers College, Columbia University; and Sharon Lynn Kagan, Associate Dean for Policy, [Teachers College at Columbia University](#).

WHERE WE STAND: America's Schools in the 21st Century is funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#).

WHERE WE STAND: America's Schools in the 21st Century is a production of [WLIW](#). Producer is Rebecca Haggerty. Ronald Thorpe is Executive Producer. Neal Shapiro is Executive in Charge.

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