

EQUITY IN EDUCATION FOR ADULTS: "SCHOOL ON A BUS" (GREAT BIG STORY)

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This discussion guide is designed for programming at American Spaces. American Spaces should work with their Public Affairs Section to ensure that this topic and video are appropriate for American Spaces audiences.



VIDEO INFORMATION

Video Title: *This School on a Bus Is*

Bringing Education to Everyone

Year Release: 2019

Duration: 7 min

English Level: Intermediate

Speaker: Sheila Hill, Community

Ambassador, Five Keys Charter School

Themes: Education, Community,

Helping Others, Self-Determination

[Link to Video](#)

VIDEO CONTEXT

The U.S. Constitution requires that children be given equal educational opportunities regardless of race, ethnic background, religion, gender, or whether they are rich or poor. Although all children have the right to education in the U.S., some children leave school due to challenges in their lives. This video tells the story of American adults returning to school on a special bus to improve their lives.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sheila Hill is a Community Ambassador for Five Keys, an organization that gives members of underserved communities a chance to restart their education. The Five Keys bus encourages residents to board the mobile classroom where they can study with a teacher and earn a general equivalency diploma (GED). After dropping out of school as a child, she returned to school through Five Keys and graduated from the program. Today, she helps other adult learners in restarting their educations.



Created November 2021

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

KEY VOCABULARY

- **Ambassador:** (*noun*) a person who represents a country (or an organization)
- **Community:** (*noun*) a group of people that live in the same area, such as a city, town, or neighborhood
- **The projects:** (*noun*) a slang term in American English referring to government owned housing for low income residents; also known as **housing projects**
- **Mobile:** (*adjective*) able to move from one place to another
- **High school diploma:** (*noun*) a document showing a person has graduated from high school (secondary school)
- **GED:** (*noun*) a test taken by an adult who did not finish high school (secondary school) to show the same knowledge of math, science, English, etc. as a high school diploma; also known as **general educational development**
- **Graduate:** (*verb*) to earn a degree or diploma from a school, college, or university
- **Cap and gown:** (*noun*) a special hat and dress worn by students during their graduation ceremony
- **Education desert:** (*noun*) an area that does not have any educational resources or opportunities
- **Underserved:** (*adjective*) not having enough services, resources, or help
- **Facilities:** (*noun*) something that is built for a specific purpose; for example, a school is built for educating students
- **Infrastructure:** (*noun*) basic equipment or structures needed for a country, city, or community to function properly



Discussion Questions

1. What is your definition of education? What places in your community provide opportunities for education?
2. What are some of the reasons mentioned in the video that these adults are restarting their education?
3. Are there underserved people in your community? What resources, facilities, or infrastructure would help them?
4. The school bus is a mobile classroom, bringing educational resources into the local community to increase access for underserved people. Is there a mobile resource you can think of that would help people in your community?
5. In your community, what are the top three topics that would be good topics for community education?

Additional Resources

- [Actions that Build Community](#)
- [Community Solutions Program \(CSP\)](#)
- [Five Keys Schools and Programs, California, USA](#)
- [White House initiative on equity in education for Black Americans](#)

