We’re mobilizing schools to help young people create a better world.

Our country is bitterly divided and at a crossroads. We need to mobilize the great strengths of Americans to mend our country’s fractures and prepare young people to build strong, inclusive communities and to strengthen democracy. This work has perhaps never been more important.

That’s why we are asking middle and high schools across the country* to join us in taking action to help prepare young people to be constructive community members and citizens who create a better world.

To join the campaign, we are asking schools to take a new action or substantially augment existing actions to advance one or more of the following goals:

1. Deepen students’ care for others and their communities;
2. Increase equity and access for all students in the college admissions process; and
3. Reduce excessive achievement pressure.

These goals align with and build on our successful Turning the Tide** initiative that has engaged more than 175 college admissions offices nationwide. More information about how schools can join the campaign can be found at highschools.makingcaringcommon.org.

The reason we are asking for “new” steps is because the campaign is based on the assumption that during these divisive, troubling times, we all need to do more and do better. In addition, campaigns like this will only generate attention to your actions and momentum if they are comprised of new actions. While joining the campaign requires a new step, we are also delighted to share your current school practices that advance one or more of these goals.

Schools that join us as early leaders during this first phase of the campaign will be included in press materials for a major national school recruitment initiative in early 2018. To be included as an early leader, schools should let us know about their specific commitment(s) by January 8, 2018. However, we understand that implementing new actions in most schools will take much longer.

Now is the time to say “enough” to growing selfishness and antagonism in our society, and to work to assure that young people have the commitment and skills they need to build a more caring and just world. We hope you’ll join us.

*We also welcome international schools to join our campaign.

**Read Frank Bruni’s column about Turning the Tide in the New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/20/opinion/rewriting-college-admissions.html?_r=0