

# Journey for Justice

## "A National Grassroots Education Movement"

### MEMBERS:

**Ambler, PA**  
*Mattison Avenue Elementary School*

**Atlanta, GA**  
*Project South*

**Baltimore, MD**  
*Baltimore Algebra Project*

**Boston, MA**  
*Boston Youth Organizing Project*

**Chicago, IL**  
*Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization*

**Cleveland, OH**  
*Common Good Ohio*

**Detroit, MI**  
*Keep the Vote/NO Takeover*

**Eupora, MS**  
*Fannie Lou Hamer Center*

**Hartford, CT**  
*Parent Power*

**Kansas City, MO**  
*Full Potential*

**Los Angeles, CA**  
*Crenshaw High School  
Labor Community Strategy Center*

**Newark, NJ**  
*Parents Unified for Local School Education (PULSE)*

**New Orleans, LA**  
*Friends and Family of Louisiana's  
Incarcerated Children  
Parents Across America  
C6*

**New York, NY**  
*NYC Coalition for Educational Justice  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Urban Youth Collaborative  
Make the Road NY*

**Oakland, CA**  
*Santa Fe Elementary*

**Philadelphia, PA**  
*Philadelphia Student Union  
Youth United for Change  
Action United*

**Washington, DC**  
*Empower DC  
Alliance for Education Justice  
Leadership Center for the Common Good*

**Wichita, KS**  
*Sunflower Action*

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurie R. Glenn  
Phone: 773.704.7246  
E-mail: [lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com](mailto:lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013**

### MEDIA ALERT

**18 CITIES CONVERGE IN WASHINGTON D.C. ON "JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE," CALLING ON DUNCAN & DEPT. OF ED TO END DISCRIMINATORY CLOSINGS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

***National Movement Forms In Wake Of Mass School Closings & Turnarounds That Violate Civil Rights & Promote Divestment In Low-Income Communities Of Color***

**WHAT:** Students, parents and advocacy representatives from **18 major United States cities** will testify at a community hearing before **Arne Duncan** (in attendance for early portion of hearing) and the **U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.** on the devastating impact and civil rights violations resulting from the unchecked closing and turnaround of schools serving predominantly low-income, minority students across the country.

**More than 10 cities have filed, or are in the process of filing, Title VI Civil Rights complaints with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights**, citing the closing of schools and the criteria and methods for administering those actions as discriminatory toward low-income, minority communities. Representatives from 11 cities will testify at the hearing on the impact of school closings including the civil rights violations and the destabilization of their children and their communities resulting from the criteria used for school closings and the current accepted movement to privatize schools.

**Demands of the Department of Education include a moratorium on school closings until a new process can be implemented nationally, the implementation of a sustainable, community-driven school improvement process as national policy, and a meeting with President Obama** so that he may hear directly from his constituents about the devastating impact and civil rights violations.

**The community hearing will be followed by a candlelight vigil at the Martin Luther King Memorial** to continue to raise the voices of those impacted by the destabilization and sabotage of education in working and low-income, communities of color.

**WHO:** Approximately 500 students, parents and community representatives, impacted or at risk of impact by school closings, representing 18 cities across the country will attend the hearing including: **Ambler, Pa.; Atlanta; Baltimore; Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Detroit; District of Columbia; Eupora, Miss.; Hartford, Conn.; Kansas City, Mo.; Los Angeles; Newark; New Orleans; New York; Oakland, Calif.; Philadelphia; and Wichita, Kan.**

**WHEN/ WHERE:** **Community Hearing & Rally**  
**Tuesday, January 29th, 2013**  
**2:00 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.**

**U.S. Department of Education Auditorium**  
**400 Maryland Ave. SW**  
**Washington DC 20202**

**Candlelight Vigil**  
**Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**5:00 p.m. EST**  
**Martin Luther King Memorial**  
**1964 Independence Ave. SW**  
**Washington, DC 20024**

**WHY:** Cities across the country are experiencing the results of neglectful actions by the closing of schools serving predominantly low-income students of color including displacement and destabilization of children, increased violence and threats of physical harm as a result of re-assignment, and destabilization at schools receiving the displaced students.

Despite current research showing that closing these public schools does not improve test scores or graduation rates, closings have continued primarily because current federal **Race To The Top** policy has incentivized the closing and turnaround of schools by supporting privatization. However, the privatization of schools has resulted in unchecked actions and processes where the primary fallout is on those in low-income, minority communities. The devastating impact of these actions has only been tolerated because of the race and class of the communities affected.

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