

COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

National
Alliance for Education Justice

Washington, DC
Empower DC

Chicago, IL
Kenwood Oakland Community Organization

Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Algebra Project

Detroit, MI
Keep the Vote, No Takeover
Black Parents for Quality Education

Newark, NJ
Parents Unified for Local School Education

New York, NY
Alliance for Quality Education
NYC Coalition for Educational Justice
Urban Youth Collaborative

Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Student Union

MEMBERS:

National
Leadership Center for the Common Good

Oakland, CA
Oakland Public Education Network

Los Angeles, CA
Labor Community Strategy Center

Hartford, CT
Parent Power

Atlanta, GA
Project South

Miami, FL
Power U

Chicago, IL
Action Now

Wichita, KS
Kansas Justice Advocate

New Orleans, LA
Concerned Conscious Citizens Controlling Community Changes
Coalition for Community Schools

Boston, MA
Boston Youth Organizing Project
Boston Parent Organizing Network

Detroit, MI
Detroit LIFE Coalition

Minneapolis, MN
Neighborhoods Organizing for Change

Eupora, MS
Fannie Lou Hamer Center for Change

Camden, NJ
Camden Comeback
Camden Education Association

Englewood, NJ
Citizens for Public Education

Jersey City, NJ
Parent Advocates for Children's Education
Concerned Citizens Coalition

Paterson, NJ
Paterson Education Organizing Council

Philadelphia, PA
Action United
Youth United for Change

ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

Chicago, IL
Teacher's for Social Justice

Journey for Justice

"A National Grassroots Education Alliance"

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

MEDIA ALERT

BOYCOTT OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS KICKS OFF NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CALLING FOR MORATORIUM ON SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Chicago Joins 25-City Alliance Demanding Stop To School Deserts

WHAT: In light of school closings throughout the country targeting low-income communities of color and have led to **school deserts**, **Chicago** will join a national 25-city coalition to call for a moratorium on school closings, turnarounds, phase outs and charter expansions.

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the **March On Washington, Journey for Justice (J4J)** members agenda is similar: racial justice and equal opportunity for all children – regardless of color, class or community – to a quality and safe education.

Chicago students, parents and advocates will congregate for "**Education is a Human Right**", a **one-day boycott of Chicago Public Schools** at a **rally in front of the Chicago Board of Education** followed by a **march to City Hall** demanding a stop to school closings that destabilize entire communities, create no right of access to public schools for at-risk students; and do not deliver improved academic performance of displaced low-income students of color.

Parents, students and community members will call for:

- **Local legislation to create an elected Chicago School Board.**
- **Allocation of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) funds and a financial transaction tax at the Mercantile Exchange in Chicago to re-open schools.**
- **National Journey for Justice Alliance demands include:**
 - **Moratorium on all school closings, turnarounds, phase outs, and charter expansions.**
 - **It's proposal for Sustainable School Transformation to replace failed intervention strategies for struggling schools.**
 - **U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to be held accountable for discriminatory, top-down policies that target communities of color and have not improved student outcomes.**

WHO: Thousands of Chicago-area students, parents and community representatives will join in the Chicago boycott and march to City Hall for the rally. Concurrently, *Journey for Justice* members will hold events including: **Oakland, Calif.; San Jose, Calif.; Los Angeles; Hartford, Conn.; District of Columbia; Atlanta; Miami; Chicago; Wichita, Kan.; New Orleans; Baltimore; Minneapolis; Camden, N.J.; Englewood, N.J.; Paterson, N.J.; Jersey City, N.J.; Newark; New York; North Carolina, Boston; Detroit; Eupora, Miss.; Jackson, Miss.; Philadelphia; South Carolina.**

WHEN/ **Boycott of Chicago Public Schools**

WHERE: **Wednesday, August 28th, 2013**
Day-long boycott

Rally & March

Wednesday, August 28th, 2013

10:00 a.m. CST

Chicago Public Schools Board of Education
125 S. Clark Street
Chicago, IL

WHY: A clear pattern of documented racial and economic discrimination has demonstrated that while there have been advances in the nation, as shown by the election of the nation's first black president, the federal administration's policies have embodied education strategies that continue to perpetuate racial and class bias and support inequality in the quality of education.

ABOUT JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Journey for Justice is a national grassroots alliance whose goal is to bring the voice of those directly impacted by discriminatory school actions into the debate about the direction for public education in the 21st century and to promote equality in education for all students and sustainable, community-driven school reform for all school districts across the country. Earlier this year parents in 10 cities filed Title VI Civil Rights complaints with both the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

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