

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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Annenberg Institute for School Reform

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013

MEDIA ALERT

**PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS 1-YEAR MORATORIUM ON SCHOOL CLOSINGS
PRIOR TO HEARING WITH DUNCAN & DEPT. OF ED TO CALL FOR
END TO DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL ACTIONS**

***Philadelphia Leads Nation With Approval of Moratorium On School Closings & Debates
Heat Up In Detroit, New York and Across the Country In Anticipation of Hearing***

WHAT: In the wake of publicity about the upcoming **community hearing before Arne Duncan** (in attendance for early portion of hearing) and the **U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.** on Tuesday, January 29th, 2013, voices across the country are **taking notice of the growing national movement and accelerating debates and actions** to address the devastating impact and civil rights violations resulting from the unchecked closings and turnarounds of schools serving predominantly low-income students of color.

On Thursday, January 24th, 2013, the **Philadelphia City Council voted 14-2 in favor of a nonbinding resolution put forward by the Philadelphia Coalition Advocating for Public Schools (PCAPS), calling for a one-year moratorium on school closings.** Debate also heated up in New York City as representatives took the issue to the state capitol and an announcement was made this week that the Dept. of Education Office of Civil Rights has launched a probe into the Title VI Civil Rights complaint in Detroit.

Cities who have filed 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 include: **Chicago, New York, Detroit, Newark, Washington D.C., Philadelphia and Ambler, Pa.** Additional cities preparing to file complaints include: **Oakland, Calif.; Los Angeles; New Orleans and Boston.**

Students, parents and advocacy representatives from **18 major United States cities** impacted by neglectful school actions will testify at the hearing and demand the **Department of Education** place a **moratorium on school closings** until a new process can be implemented nationally, **implement a sustainable, community-driven school improvement process** as national policy, and provide a **meeting with President Obama** so that he may hear directly from his constituents about the devastating impact and civil rights violations.

WHO: Approximately 500 students, parents and community representatives 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/ **Community Hearing & Rally**
WHERE: **Tuesday, January 29th, 2013**
2:00 p.m. – 3:55 p.m. EST
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington DC 20202

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

WHY: As the national hearing approaches, cities across the country are stepping up actions to address the negative impact of school closings on low-income students of color.

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