

Journey for Justice

"A National Grassroots Education Alliance"

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Laurie R. Glenn

Phone: 773.704.7246

E-mail: lrglenn@thinkincstrategy.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

MEDIA ALERT

NAT'L EDUCATION ALLIANCE KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN TO STOP SCHOOL DESERTS 25-City Alliance Demands Moratorium on School Closings

WHAT: In light of school closings throughout the country targeting low-income communities of color, a national 25-city coalition is calling for a stop to the creation of "school deserts" through a moratorium on all school closings, turnarounds, phase outs and charter expansions.

As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the *March On Washington, Journey for Justice Alliance* (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.

Across the nation leaders will hold actions demanding a stop to school closings that destabilize communities, create school deserts with no right-of-access to public schools, and do not improve low-income students academic performance.

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/

WHERE: Member groups include: 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: Events will be held Tuesday, August 27th - Thursday, August 29th, 2013

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 education.

Despite research showing that closing public schools does not improve test scores or graduation rates, the federal agenda has incentivized the privatization of schools with primary fall out on low-income communities of color. Explosive school closings resulting from this agenda violates the [United Nations proclamation of 1948, Article 26](http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml) (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>) establishing the inalienable human right of every child – regardless of race, income or community -- to receive a quality education in a safe environment.

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 and students in 10 cities filed Title VI Civil Rights complaints with both the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

###