

THE ALLIANCE TO RECLAIM OUR SCHOOLS

WALK IN! FOR THE SCHOOLS ALL OUR CHILDREN DESERVE MAY 4, 2016

The Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) is linking together parents, educators, students, school staff and community members in dozens of cities across the country on May 4th as they WALK IN to support the quality public schools that all our students deserve.

Our first nationally coordinated WALK-IN took place on February 17th and brought out over 35,000 participants at over 800 schools in 31 cities. Now you can join in!

What are Walk Ins?

Just that! Parents, teachers and students gather out front of their school 30-45 minutes before their duty-day starts. They picket, have donuts, coffee, etc. And then they all Walk-In together.

Given the never ending attacks on public education that many of our cities endure, this provides a *positive* action that says that these are *our* schools and *our* communities. It also builds solidarity among our members as they will feel the *power of collective action* without risking arrest or retaliation. Walk-ins build relationships. Walk-ins build power. Walk-ins build hope.

National Message / Local Flavor

The Walk-Ins will have a national message frame something like this:

Teachers, parents and students are walking in to reclaim our schools and advocate for the public schools all children deserve.

But each individual city will have its own local focus or flavor. In Milwaukee, folks are fighting against the takeover and chartering of their schools. In San Diego the focus is opting out of high stakes tests. In Seattle, they're fighting for more funding. In your city, your coalition of labor and community partners will tailor your walk-in to the issue that is right for you.

What's the Point?

The walk-ins have been used in different cities for different reasons and purposes: During their contract campaign two years ago, **The St. Paul Federation of Teachers** walked in. The actions gave them the high road message of taking back our schools and gave people courage and built confidence in their ability to pull off big collective actions. They report that the walk-in effort also gave them a very solid assessment of where their membership was at. And the district settled almost immediately afterwards because they knew a strike threat was real and that community support was on the side of educators. Watch this great video showing and describing a St. Paul walk-in: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhGsMn2OKJk>

In **Milwaukee (MTEA)**, two sets of walk-ins have protested a new law that could result in Milwaukee public schools being taken over and converted to charters. As a result of the walk-ins, by a *united coalition of parents, educators and students*, the power brokers are backing off. By doing walk-ins at over *105 schools* MTEA has built 105 community organizations ready to defend their public schools. The actions have also created an incredible opportunity to build a base of parents and community members who can be allies in future events.

Here are a couple of videos from Milwaukee walk-ins:

<https://vimeo.com/129999770>

<https://vimeo.com/139705198>

Where Did Walk-Ins Happen on February 17th?

The following cities participated on February 17th.

Los Angeles	Baltimore	Hazelwood (MO)
Chicago	Pittsburgh	Cleveland Heights
Milwaukee	Grand Junction	Kalamazoo
San Diego	St. Paul	Paterson (NJ)
Seattle	Pueblo (CO)	Peoria (IL)
Austin	Boulder	Solon Springs (WI)
Dallas	Green Bay	Tomah (WI)
Camden	LaCrosse	Houston
Newark	Racine	Cincinnati
...and more!!		

Will you join us on May 4th?