

THE ALLIANCE TO RECLAIM OUR SCHOOLS

MEDIA ADVISORY

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WALK-INS IN 200 CITIES/2000+ PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALL FOR MAJOR INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS IN BLACK & BROWN COMMUNITIES

Third & Largest in Growing Series of Parent-Student-Educator Actions Demanding Broad Reforms

The third, and by far the largest, of AROS's nationally coordinated mobilizations will take place in over 2000 public schools in 200 cities across the nation on Thursday, October 6, 2016. The actions will focus on a wide range of issues facing schools, particularly those in Black and Brown communities. AROS affiliates want an end to the long-standing and systematic under-funding of their public schools.

AROS-coordinated walk-ins on February 17th of this year drew participation in 33 cities. A second round on May 4th saw walk-ins in 70 cities.

The Walk-Ins give local educators, parents and students the opportunity to mobilize together around a range of issues in a platform identifying 6 specific areas of reform that the national coalition supports:

- a call for the investment of billions of dollars in public schools, particularly in Black and Brown communities;
- a call for “sustainable community schools” – which AROS [identifies](#) as having five major components such as expansive, culturally relevant curriculum, restorative practices and wrap-around services;

- an end to the expansion of unaccountable charter schools that drain billions from traditional public districts;
- an end to harsh discipline policies and a commitment to restorative practices in all our schools;
- an end to high stakes assessments;
- strong parent and community engagement in schools and an end to practices and policies (such as state takeovers) that disenfranchise local voters and eliminate local control in schools.

The October 6th walk-ins will feature many cities that are engaged in specific campaigns around these platform planks. In particular, AROS is developing a strong national focus on the failure of the federal government, as well as states, to fully invest in public schools in Black and Brown communities. Later this fall, AROS will be launching a national initiative on investment in public education, including a call for closing the billionaire’s tax windfall known as the “carried interest” loophole. Several of the upcoming walk-ins will be tied directly to fights for revenues. For example:

- In **Los Angeles** the walk-ins will focus on passage of Proposition 55. The ballot initiative would extend an existing tax on incomes over \$250,000 per year (for an individual). The State has dedicated 89% of the estimated \$5 billion in annual revenues from the tax increase to K-12 schools across the state. Instead of the usual morning walk-ins, Los Angeles activists will be rallying after school, then fanning out to canvas neighborhoods in support of the initiative.
- With **Chicago** facing another round of school cuts and a potential teachers strike, 300 schools will walk in to support a proposed ordinance that would redirect surplus funds primarily used to support developers to the public schools. The ordinance, if passed, could generate \$150 million for Chicago Public Schools.
- Across the Commonwealth of **Massachusetts**, walk-ins are being planned around the upcoming ballot initiative known as Question 2, which would lift the cap on the number of charter schools allowed to operate in Massachusetts. The Save Our Public Schools/Massachusetts campaign is opposing the initiative, pointing out that local school districts across the state stand to lose over \$450 million in revenues that would be transferred to charter schools next year.

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