



The Thurgood Marshall Alliance

Strengthening Schools and Communities through Diversity

The Thurgood Marshall Alliance Listening Tour

The mission of the Thurgood Marshall Alliance is to support neighborhood schools in Baltimore that share TMA's commitment to diversity and excellence. When fully operational, TMA will assist its partner schools with technical assistance in critical areas of programming and practice and with community outreach.

The Listening Tour is a critical step in TMA's organizational development. Hearing parents' goals for their children and for their children's schooling, what they think of the schooling options available to them in Baltimore City, and their thinking about the strengths and challenges of the Listening Tour Schools specifically will help TMA understand how it can best support the school leadership, parents and children of its partner schools.

With help from the Baltimore Neighborhoods Indicators Alliance, TMA has identified a set of K – 5 and K – 8 zoned schools that seem promising for its work. The attendance zones for these schools encompass lower income and middle income communities in close proximity, as well as communities of color and those with predominately white residents. If they were able to attract and retain a cross-section of families in their attendance zones, these schools would be among Baltimore City's most diverse.

The Listening Tour is holding community conversations with parents whose children attend these schools, with parents of preschoolers in nearby neighborhoods, and with parents of school-age children who live in zone but attend some other school. Those who bear responsibility for the well-being of Baltimore's children need to understand the thinking of Baltimore's parents. The Thurgood Marshall Alliance, to do its job well, also needs to understand the thinking of Baltimore's parents. That is the purpose of its Listening Tour.