

# We are EmpowerED Birmingham

In June 2021, 18 Birmingham community organizations came together to reimagine education for our young people. The people of Birmingham have power, brilliance and resilience. And we know that together we can make sure all students have access to an excellent education that will prepare them for their next steps in life.

After spending time learning from one another, exploring different educational approaches, and interviewing people in the community, three focus areas emerged. We want to explore these with you and hear what you have to say.

We believe if we join our voices together we can empower students and families to make the changes that will create an exceptional educational experience for young people in Birmingham.

Bring your unique point of view to any of these focus areas at an EmpowerED Birmingham community House Meeting.

## Community Power



### Where we're at

Even in the midst of a crisis, our community is better when we stick together. The pain and hard times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in people coming together in astounding ways. But we're not out of the woods yet. Our children and their education still hangs in the balance of the choices we make right now!

### The change we want to see

Looking into the future, we hope to see a community that deeply understands the needs of our students and families. We want to use our collective voice to speak about the barriers that stop our children from thriving at school. We believe if we renew our commitment to work together, students and families can be influential decision makers when it comes to their education.

### Share with us

We need to hear your voice. Tell us what is needed so that we can unite and see real change! What could be done differently to improve your child's education experience? Are you provided with opportunities to share feedback with your school? When you share feedback, do you feel comfortable doing so? Is it taken seriously and/or acted upon?

### Access to Information



### Where we're at

When families and community groups have access to the right information, we are in a better position to help those who may be struggling.

Right now, school data is hard to find and doesn't provide us with a complete picture to ensure our students are set up to live happy, successful lives. We want to make it easier for families to access the information that will help them make the best decisions for the whole wellbeing of their children.

### The change we want to see

We want families, community organizations, churches and neighborhood groups to easily understand where and why students are thriving and where improvements can and need to be made. With this knowledge, we can rally around families and students to support them in new ways.

### Share with us

What does a thriving school look like to you? What information do you need to ensure your student is succeeding in school? What else beyond a report card do you need from your student's school to make informed decisions?

### Stronger Community Partnerships



### Where we're at

The Birmingham community is committed to serving others, and there are countless people, places, and programs that are making the city a better place to live. But it's not always easy to connect these resources and organizations with the community members who could benefit from them the most.

### The change we want to see

We believe that if we all come together in service of our children bringing our gifts and talents (both big and small), we can establish a community 'safety net' so that no children fall through the cracks and into the school-to-prison pipeline.

We want to see investment and exposure for the many people and organizations that are working towards this same goal.

### Share with us

Who is already doing great work in the community (especially the unsung heroes)? What are they doing to help children in the community? What would help make their work more accessible and/or more impactful? What would you do to help serve the students in your community if given a chance, and why do you think that would make a difference?



### **Come to a House Meeting**

If you want to be part of helping to improve education for students in Birmingham and believe that things can be done differently, come to a House Meeting to have your say. Be listened to. And listen to others. We want to make your voice heard and we want to be part of the change.

### Visit empoweredbirmingham.com for more information



### EmpowerED Birmingham Coalition Leaders & Members

#### ¡HICA!

A+ Education Partnership Birmingham Business Alliance Birmingham Promise Birmingham Urban League Black Alabamians for Education (BA4E) Breakthrough Birmingham Central Six Alabama Works! Elevate Birmingham Empowerment Alliance Greater Birmingham Arts Education Collaborative Greater Birmingham Ministries Birmingham Education Foundation Learning Little People MAAVIS Oak Tree Ministries Sixth Avenue Baptist Support Centered Services Surge Project Top Ladies of Distinction UAB Urban Impact Inc. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc

All photos by Richard DuCree