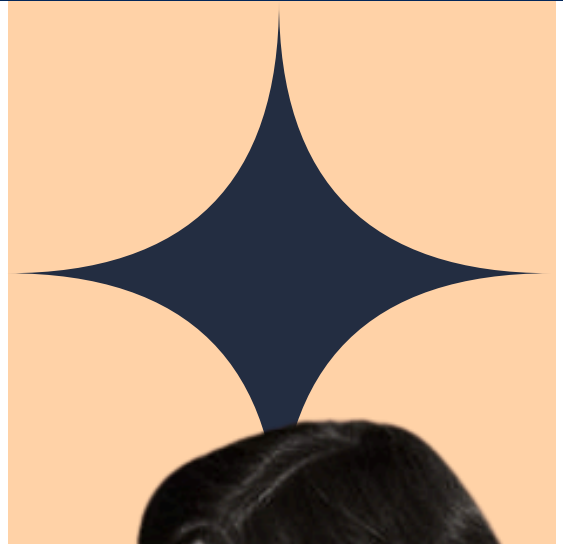




**FROM BROWN TO
NOW:
EDUCATION,
IMMIGRATION &
JUSTICE**



Film Festival
Edgewater Library
June 6, 2026



HOSTED BY: THE JEROME MCFADDEN EDUCATIONAL CENTER



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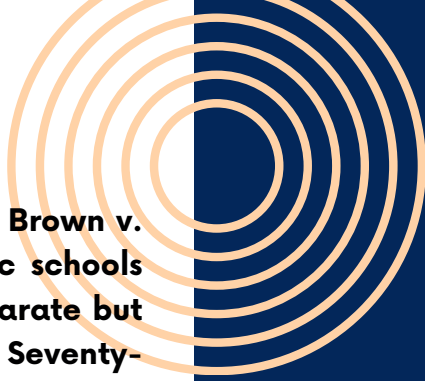
Anne Arundel County

Office of Multicultural Affairs



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On May 17, 1954, the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, challenging the harmful doctrine of “separate but equal” and reshaping the future of education in America. Seventy-two years later, we gather not only to commemorate this historic ruling, but to reflect on the ongoing fight for equity, dignity, and justice in our communities.

While *Brown v. Board* marked a pivotal victory in the Civil Rights Movement, the realities of educational inequity continue to impact Black, Afro-Latinx, Latinx, and immigrant communities across the nation. From underfunded schools and discriminatory policies to immigration enforcement practices that create fear and instability within families, many communities still face systemic barriers that limit access to safe, equitable, and empowering educational opportunities.

This film festival seeks to create space for truth-telling, reflection, and connection. Through the stories presented in *Busing Battleground* and *Stolen Education*, we explore how struggles for educational justice intersect across race, culture, language, and immigration status. These stories remind us that the fight for equality has never belonged to one community alone — it is a collective movement rooted in resilience, advocacy, and the belief that every child deserves access to quality education and the opportunity to thrive.

As we honor the legacy of those who challenged segregation and demanded change, we also recognize the importance of continuing that work today. Community healing begins with awareness, honest conversation, and collective action. May this gathering inspire deeper understanding, solidarity across communities, and renewed commitment to protecting the rights, histories, and futures of all people.

**“EDUCATION
IS THE
FOUNDATION
UPON WHICH
WE BUILD
OUR
FUTURE.”**

— CHRISTINE GREGOIRE



**WHY WE
GATHER**



THE HISTORY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court issued its historic ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, declaring racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. This landmark decision challenged the long-standing doctrine of "separate but equal," which had been upheld in the 1896 Supreme Court case *Plessy v. Ferguson*. For decades, segregation laws allowed Black students to attend schools that were often underfunded, overcrowded, and lacking the same resources provided to white students.

The *Brown v. Board* case was led by the NAACP and argued by civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall, who would later become the first Black Supreme Court Justice. The case combined multiple lawsuits from families across the country who challenged school segregation and demanded equal educational opportunities for their children. In its unanimous ruling, the Court stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," forever changing the landscape of public education in America.

The decision became a major turning point in the Civil Rights Movement and inspired further activism surrounding equality, voting rights, housing, and access to public resources. However, despite the ruling, many states resisted school integration. Black students and families faced hostility, threats, violence, and political opposition as communities fought against desegregation efforts. Events such as the integration of Central High School by the Little Rock Nine in 1957 highlighted both the courage of students and the deep resistance to racial equality in education.

More than seventy years later, the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education* continues to shape conversations about educational equity, systemic racism, and access to opportunity. While segregation by law was declared unconstitutional, disparities in school funding, disciplinary practices, academic access, and neighborhood segregation continue to impact Black and marginalized communities today. The fight for equitable education remains deeply connected to broader struggles for civil rights, immigration justice, and community empowerment.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

TIMELINE OF

EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE



1896

Plessy v. Ferguson

The Supreme Court upholds racial segregation under the doctrine of "separate but equal."

1954

Brown v. Board

The Supreme Court rules that segregated public schools are unconstitutional.

1957

Little Rock Nine

Nine Black students integrate Central High School in Arkansas under federal protection.

1964

Civil Rights Act

Federal law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1919-1960

The Civil Rights Movement was a nationwide struggle for racial equality, justice, and freedom led by Black Americans and allies throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Rooted in resistance against segregation and discrimination, the movement challenged unequal laws and demanded equal access to education, voting rights, public spaces, and economic opportunity. Young people and students played a critical role in pushing the movement forward through courage, organizing, and protest.

Student activism became a powerful force during the movement, as young people led sit-ins, marches, and demonstrations to challenge segregation and injustice. Activists participated in Freedom Rides across the South to protest segregated transportation and risked their safety to advocate for equal rights. Efforts to integrate schools following *Brown v. Board of Education* often placed Black students at the center of hostility and resistance, yet their bravery helped transform the nation's educational system.

The movement also fought to protect voting rights and expand political representation for Black communities. Organizers worked tirelessly to challenge voter suppression, intimidation, and discriminatory laws that denied Black Americans the right to fully participate in democracy. These efforts contributed to landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

At its core, the Civil Rights Movement viewed education as a pathway to liberation, empowerment, and opportunity. Access to quality education was seen not only as a legal right, but as a tool for breaking cycles of inequality and creating lasting social change — a belief that continues to inspire movements for justice today.

WE PROTEST
SCHOOLS

Don't
Our
PRIS





**“THE STRUGGLE FOR
EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE
DID NOT END IN 1954 —
IT EVOLVED.”**

KNOW THE FACTS”

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Education is a fundamental right that continues to shape the experiences of immigrant, Afro-Latinx, and Latinx communities across the United States. Despite legal protections, many students and families still face barriers tied to language access, discrimination, fear of deportation, and unequal educational opportunities.

THEN

Historical inequities:

- School segregation
- “Separate but equal”
- Discrimination based on race
- Limited educational opportunities

NOW

Modern challenges:

- Immigration-related fear
- Language inequities
- School funding disparities
- Continued racial segregation patterns

MYTH VS. FACT



Myth

"Undocumented children cannot attend public school."

"School segregation no longer exists."

"Immigration issues only affect adults."

Fact

Under Plyler v. Doe (1982), all children have the right to K-12 public education regardless of status.

Many schools remain segregated due to housing, income inequality, and systemic barriers.

Immigration enforcement impacts students' mental health, attendance, and educational stability.

"Education should not be determined by the language you speak, the neighborhood you live in, or your immigration status."



**“OVER 5
MILLION
CHILDREN
IN U.S.
SCHOOLS
HAVE AT
LEAST ONE
UNDOCUMENTED
PARENT.”**

Many immigrant students navigate school systems while learning English, translating for family members, and adapting to unfamiliar educational environments.



“EDUCATION CANNOT THRIVE WHERE FEAR EXISTS”

Immigration enforcement policies continue to impact thousands of families and communities across the United States. The actions of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have sparked ongoing national conversations surrounding human rights, family separation, detention practices, deportation, and the treatment of immigrant communities. For many families, the fear of detention or deportation creates emotional, financial, and educational instability that affects daily life.

Key Issues Impacting Communities Today

- Family separation and detention
- Fear and instability within school communities
- Access to legal resources and support
- Mental health impacts on children and families
- Ongoing advocacy for immigration reform and human rights

Students in immigrant households often experience heightened stress and uncertainty due to immigration enforcement efforts. Concerns surrounding raids, detainment, and changing immigration policies can impact school attendance, mental health, academic performance, and a child's sense of safety. Educators, advocates, and community organizations continue to work toward creating supportive environments where all students feel protected and valued regardless of immigration status.

At the same time, communities across the country continue organizing for immigration reform, expanded legal protections, and equitable access to education, healthcare, and community resources. Advocacy efforts emphasize the importance of dignity, due process, and the belief that every person deserves the opportunity to live, learn, and thrive without fear.





Shared Struggles

- Discrimination and systemic racism
- Unequal access to quality education
- Housing and neighborhood inequities
- Over-policing and surveillance
- Underrepresentation in leadership and media

OUR HISTORIES INTERSECT

“WHAT CONNECTS OUR COMMUNITIES?”

Shared Advocacy

Black, Afro-Latinx, and Latinx communities have long organized for civil rights, educational justice, voting rights, labor protections, and equitable treatment under the law. Across generations, communities have used activism, storytelling, art, and collective action to challenge injustice and demand change.

Shared Cultural Strength

Despite barriers, these communities continue to shape culture, language, music, education, and social movements across the nation. Community care, resilience, faith, family traditions, and resistance remain central to survival and empowerment.

Shared Fight for Educational Equity

From *Brown v. Board of Education* to *Plyler v. Doe*, communities of color have fought for the right to safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environments where all students can thrive regardless of race, language, or immigration status.

“When one community’s rights are threatened, the fight for justice belongs to us all.”

FILM SYNOPSIS

Busing Battleground



Busing Battleground explores the heated national debate surrounding school desegregation efforts following *Brown v. Board of Education*. The film examines how busing became one of the most controversial strategies used to integrate public schools and address racial segregation in education. Through historical footage, personal accounts, and political perspectives, the documentary highlights the tensions, resistance, and social divisions that emerged as communities across America grappled with integration.

The film sheds light on how Black students and families often carried the burden of desegregation efforts while facing hostility, discrimination, and unequal treatment. Busing Battleground challenges viewers to reflect on how the legacy of segregation and educational inequity continues to shape schools and communities today.

FILM SYNOPSIS

Stolen Education

A film about students in South Texas who filed a lawsuit to achieve equal education.



Stolen Education tells the story of Mexican-American students and families in South Texas who fought against discriminatory educational practices and unequal treatment within their school systems. The documentary highlights a powerful legal battle led by students seeking equal educational opportunities and recognition of their rights in the face of segregation and systemic inequities.

Through firsthand stories and historical context, the film explores the impact of racism, language discrimination, and exclusion on Latinx communities while emphasizing the courage and resilience of young people who demanded change. Stolen Education connects past struggles for educational justice to ongoing conversations surrounding immigration, identity, and equity in schools across the United States today.



HOW YOU CAN

MAKE AN IMPACT



Creating lasting change begins within our communities. While history reminds us of the challenges faced in the fight for educational and social justice, it also reminds us of the power of collective action. Each of us has the ability to support equity, advocate for inclusion, and help create opportunities for future generations.

Individual

- Attend school board meetings
- Support immigrant families
- Volunteer with youth organizations
- Mentor youth
- Read and share educational history

Community

- Advocate for equitable school funding
- Support culturally responsive education
- Defend inclusive curriculum
- Build cross-community partnerships

Organizations to Support

- [United We Dream](#)
- [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#)
- [The Jerome McFadden Educational Center](#)

MORE ABOUT **OUR HOSTS**



The Jerome McFadden Educational Center

The Jerome McFadden Educational Center is dedicated to empowering individuals and communities through education, advocacy, leadership development, and cultural awareness. Through community engagement initiatives and educational programming, the organization works to uplift future generations and create pathways toward equity and opportunity.

ways to support

- Attend community events and educational programs
- Volunteer your time and skills
- Share resources and information within your networks
- Partner on advocacy and community initiatives
- Donate to support ongoing programming and outreach efforts

**“THE FIGHT FOR
JUSTICE IS NOT
CONFINED TO
HISTORY
BOOKS — IT
LIVES IN THE
CHOICES WE
MAKE, THE
COMMUNITIES
WE BUILD, AND
THE VOICES WE
UPLIFT EVERY
DAY.”**





THANK YOU

for joining us



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