

# Rally to Save Our Schools!



Featuring:

**Diane Ravitch**  
**Jitu Brown Sue Legg**

**Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018**

Central High School ~ 1130 W. Chestnut St. ~ Louisville

**Festivities Begin at 3:30 PM ~ Speakers Begin at 5:30 PM (in Auditorium)**

Visit [SaveOurSchoolsKY.org](http://SaveOurSchoolsKY.org) or call **502-565-8397** for more info.

## For immediate release

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## Public Education Rally Planned Around Return Visit of Award-Winning National Authority, Diane Ravitch

You may remember the name Diane Ravitch from when she served as assistant secretary of education in 1991-1993 under Lamar Alexander. Others may remember when she won the 2014 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Education for her 2010 book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education*. Either way, she is probably the nation's most outspoken and well-known champion for public education, and is the co-founder of the Network for Public Education. The organization is hosting its 5th annual conference in Indianapolis the Oct 21-22 weekend, and we are excited to announce that she has accepted our invitation to add a stop in Louisville on Oct. 18, so she can speak about the issues and threats surrounding public education in Kentucky. The event will be held at the same public school from which Muhammad Ali graduated, Central High School.

Joining her on stage that evening are Jitu Brown and Sue Legg. Jitu is the National Director for Journey 4 Justice. He most recently made national headlines for leading a 34-day hunger strike that prevented the closing of Dyett High School in South Chicago. Not only did the school remain open as a public school, it received \$16,000,000 in additional funding and is now an arts magnet. Sue Legg is the former education chair with the League of Women Voters. The Louisville chapter of the League is sponsoring her participation in the rally, where she is expected to talk about the extensive research her organization has done to investigate and hold accountable the more than 600 charter schools that have opened in her state.

Additional speakers will include Dr. Marty Pollio, JCPS Superintendent, Brent McKim of Jefferson County Teachers Association, and Sharon Felton of Pastors for Kentucky Children and others. There will be a question and answer period with Diane at the end of the program, as well.

The event will be held at Central High School at 1130 W. Chestnut in Louisville on October 18, 2018. From 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, free festivities, including food trucks, entertainment, vendor tables, candidate tables, an open mic and more will take place on Central's Courtyard (between the main entrance to the high school and the track). Central High School's marching band, as well as the Stingettes and Twirlettes will be performing that afternoon. Families can use this time to connect with friends and families, grab a bite to eat, talk to pro-public education candidates and grassroots organizations and sponsors, prior to heading into the auditorium for the mainstage event.

The local and national speakers will take the stage at 5:30 in Central's 1400-seat auditorium. The event is open to the public, however, tickets will be required to enter the auditorium. General admission tickets, which will be granted free entry to the auditorium on a first-come, first-served basis, will be available at no-cost from many of the event co-sponsors. Premium, reserved seating is available on the Save Our Schools Kentucky website beginning at Midnight Friday, September 28, ranging in price from \$5 to \$35, which includes a backstage pass. Should the event sell out, a video recording of the event will be posted on Save Our Schools KY's social media and website ([www.saveourschoolsky.org](http://www.saveourschoolsky.org)). We will also be broadcasting live from 6 to 7 pm,

during the regular air time of “Save Our Schools with Dear JCPS,” on 106.5 FM Forward Radio. This coincides with the portion of the program where the national speakers will be speaking.

The event will take place rain or shine! Should there be inclement weather, the event will be moved inside the high school gym and cafeteria areas.

### **More About the Featured Speakers:**

**Diane Ravitch** is the former assistant secretary of education under Lamar Alexander (1991-1993) and was a staunch proponent of today’s most popular ideas for restructuring schools, including privatization, standardized testing, punitive accountability, and the feckless multiplication of charter schools. In a stunning about-face in 2010, she published *The Death and Life of the Great American School System - How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*, followed by *Reign of Error - The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America’s Public Schools* in 2013. That same year, she co-founded Network for Public Education, which fights to save our public schools.

**Jitu Brown** is a Chicago native and community organizer who serves as national director of the Journey for Justice, an alliance of grassroots groups fighting against privatization and for sustainable community schools in 30 cities. Brown has been an education activist for the past 26 years. In 2015, he led a successful 34-day hunger strike to prevent the closing of Dyett High School in Chicago’s south side.

**Sue Legg** is the former education chair for the League of Women Voters in Florida. She writes the education blog for the League of Women Voters of Florida, which is followed by members of other Leagues and non-members, as well. A one-time public school teacher, Dr. Legg later directed the Office of Instructional Resources at the University of Florida. While there, she managed several statewide K-12 and college assessment programs for Florida’s Department of Education. Dr. Legg served two terms as chair of the College Board National Advisory Committee. She also directed the Partnership in Global Learning, a consortium of universities in Brazil, Mexico and Florida to collaborate on instructional design for online learning.

The event is hosted by Save Our Schools Kentucky, and made possible by contributions from Dear JCPS, Network for Public Education (NPE), Digital Promotions, Jefferson County Teachers Association (JCTA), the League of Women Voters of Louisville, 15th District PTA, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Journey 4 Justice, 16th District PTA - Lexington, KY, Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, Badass Teachers Association, Indivisible KY, Indivisible NKY District 4, Forward Radio, Pastors for Kentucky Children, Moms Demand Action Louisville, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Parents Across America, and more.

Gay Adelman, the event’s lead organizer, wants to make sure the event is well attended, regardless of how that happens. “As a grassroots organization, we don’t have any money to pay for a lot of travel expenses, or printing or rentals, so we’ve reached out to similarly focused organizations to ask for their help in operating the event and filling the seats.” In exchange for sponsorship, which can be made up of cash and/or in-kind contributions, organizations receive free tickets to the mainstage event, a table at the free outside festivities, as well as possible speaking opportunities. In-kind donations include promoting the event to their members, followers, as well as donating volunteers and resources before and/or during the event. “For example, Moms Demand Action Louisville is organizing the ushers in the auditorium and Fellowship of Reconciliation is providing the parking lot attendants. League of Women Voters is arranging the travel of one of their speakers. Due to the limited budgets of these social justice organizations, we have to be creative and use what we have at our disposal. And that’s usually manpower and communications channels. We are still three weeks out and the event is already shaping up to be more than we could have imagined or done on our own. We couldn’t do it without these groups stepping up with volunteers and resources,” Adelman said.

To find out how organizations can obtain tickets and a table by becoming a co-sponsor, email [moderator@saveourschoolsky.org](mailto:moderator@saveourschoolsky.org). For more press information, including images and logos, visit [www.saveourschoolsky.org/rally](http://www.saveourschoolsky.org/rally).