



# Community Conversations Summary

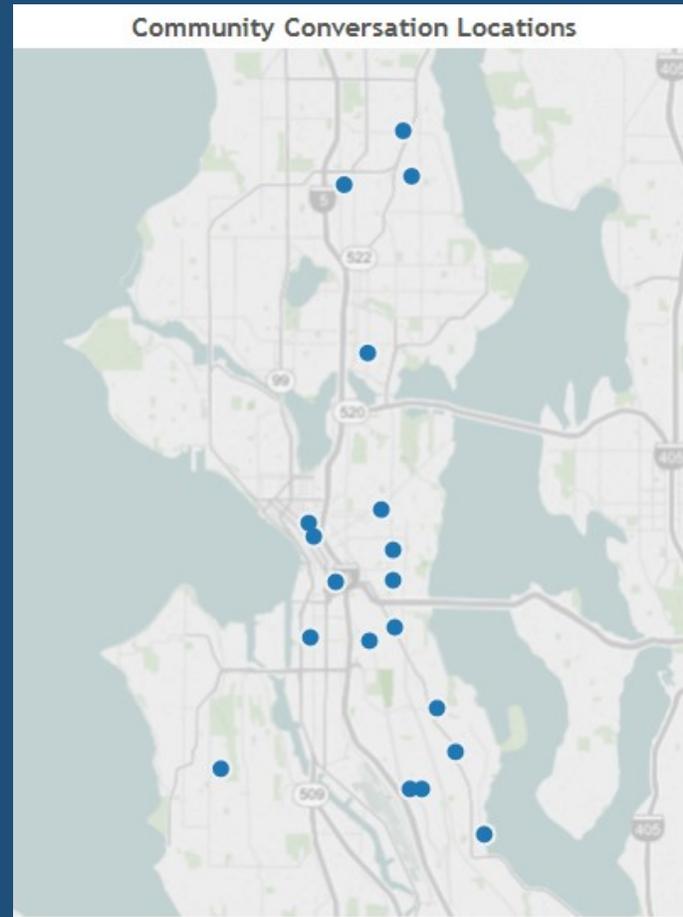
Education Advisory Group Meeting  
May 11, 2016



# Education Summit Community Engagement

**20** Community  
Conversations  
in **8** weeks

More than **1300**  
people attended



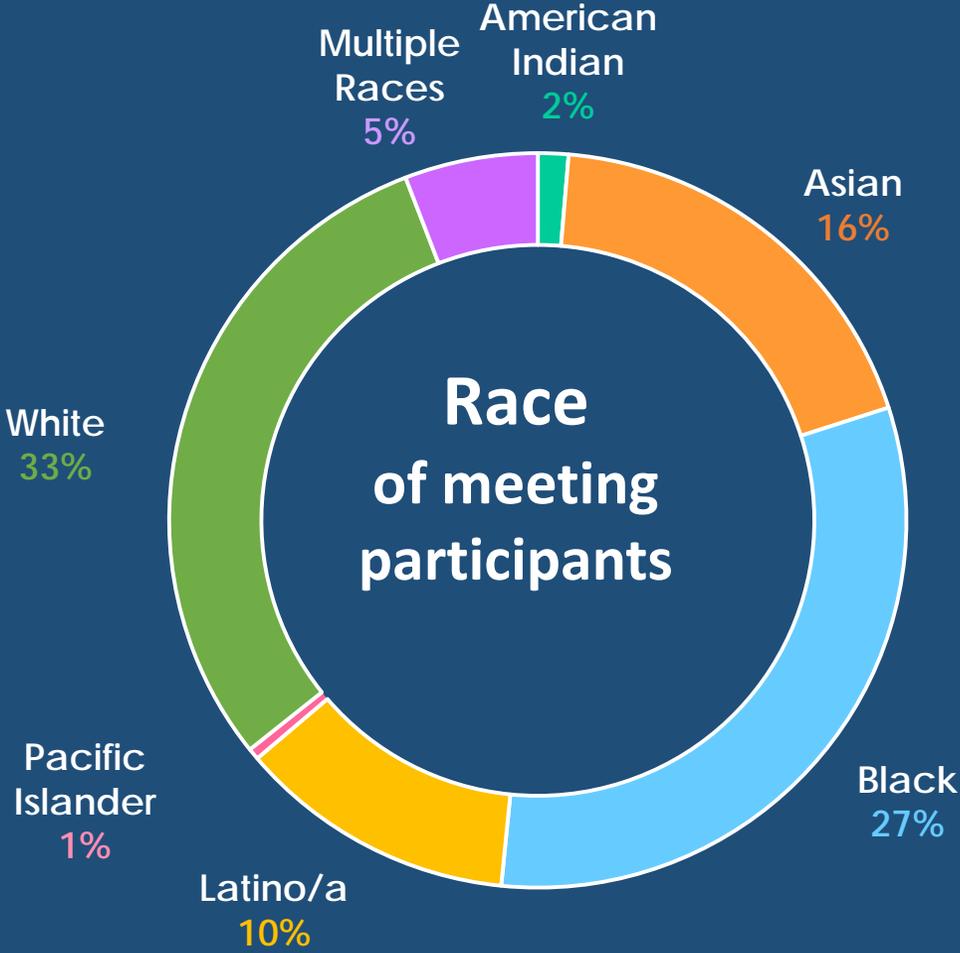
Education Summit  
attended by **500**  
people

Online Survey  
**200** respondents

# Community Hosts

- Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- Seattle Alliance of Black School Educators
- United Black Christian Clergy
- El Centro de la Raza
- South East Seattle Education Coalition
- Vietnamese Friendship Association
- Mockingbird Society
- Treehouse
- YMCA
- Soup for Teachers
- Councilmember Rob Johnson
- One America
- North Seattle Family Resource Center
- Children's Home Society
- Lake City Future First
- Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
- Rainier Beach High School
- Chinese Information Service Center
- Team Child
- Neighborhood House
- Garfield High School
- Nathan Hale High School
- Alliance for Education
- Seattle Educators Association

# Who Attended the Community Conversations?



## Meetings interpreted in:

- Amharic
- Bangla
- Cantonese
- English
- Farsi
- Filipino
- French
- Hmong
- Mandarin
- Oromo
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tigrinya
- Vietnamese

# What We Asked the Community

## Community Conversations & Web Survey

The purpose of these community conversations is to discuss how together we can address the opportunity gaps and **disparities** in education in order to achieve the Mayor's vision that "every child in Seattle graduate with hope and the ability to embrace their full potential."

### Questions Posed:

*What barriers do Seattle students, particularly student of color, face?*

*What is the solution to overcome these barriers?*

## Education Summit

### Question Posed:

*What can the City do to help you, your community, or your organization make sure each child succeeds in school and in life?*

# Summarizing Community Feedback:

## How community comments were collected and organized

- ❑ Comments were gathered through:
  - Notes from the discussion groups at community conversations
  - Online survey responses
  - Action Ideas cards from the April 30 Education Summit
- ❑ Every word in the Community Conversation Table Notes, Online Surveys and Education Summit Action Ideas was read!
- ❑ Nine major themes emerged; each theme includes several subtopics
- ❑ Within each subtopic, the comments most frequently heard were surfaced

# Common Threads Heard Throughout

- Affirming and valuing students' race and culture
- Programs and supports for students and families in their home language
- Adequate, fair, and flexible funding for schools

# Nine Major Themes Emerged...

**School Climate**

**Educator  
Workforce**

**Post-secondary  
Access**

**In-School  
Instruction &  
Programming**

**Community  
& Family  
Needs**

**Family/Community  
Engagement &  
Partnerships**

**School-City  
Collaboration**

**Expanded  
Learning  
Opportunities**

**Early  
Learning**

# Theme with Sub-topics: School Climate

## Cultural Competency and Anti-bias Training for Teachers

- Teachers have a lack of understanding around student/family culture
- Ongoing training for teachers on anti-bias and anti-racist principles
- Anti-racist multicultural curricula

## Discipline Policies and Implementation

- Address reasons for behavior before disciplining
- Track and regulate suspension fairness
- Restorative Justice Program

## Creating Positive Student/Family Experiences

- Focus on social emotional learning
- Student leadership opportunities
- Wrap-around services for students and families

## Additional School Climate Suggestions

- Trauma-Informed Practices
- Food Resources
- Condition of School Facilities
- Attendance Awareness and Support
- Lower Class Size
- Culturally Responsive Services

# Theme with Sub-topics: In-school Instruction & Programming

## Quality Instruction

- Provide highly challenging, innovative curricula across the district
- Support different learning styles
- Improved access to Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate programs

## English Language Learner Programs

- Better ELL and bilingual programs
- More ELL staff
- More dual language and language immersion

## Cultural Competency and Culturally Representative Curriculum

- Multi-cultural and culturally representative curriculum
- Culturally responsive services

## Additional In-school Instruction & Programming Suggestions

- Special Education Services
- Arts, STEM
- Technology in Classrooms
- Tracking and Testing

# Theme with Sub-topics: **Family/Community Engagement & Partnerships**

## Communication and Engagement

- More face-to face communication with families
- Home visits
- Cultural and language appropriate program of family engagement

## Community-Based Organization Partnerships

- Partner with community based organizations to connect schools to families
- Partner schools with philanthropy

## Translation, Interpretation and Language Access

- Provide all school information and materials in family's home language

## Additional Family/Community Engagement & Partnerships Suggestions

- Family Education/Training
- Family and Community Members as Decision-Makers in School and District Policy
- Communicating Results

# Theme with Sub-topics: Supporting Community & Family Needs

## Basic Needs Support

- Housing
- Food
- Living wage

## Health and Mental Health

- More school-based health clinics

## Transportation and Safety

- Safe transportation and access to school and after school programs

## Additional Supporting Community & Family Needs

- Family support and wrap around care

# Theme with Sub-topics: Post-Secondary Access

## Career Exploration

- Skill Center/Vocational Education
- Technical training
- Job readiness

## Advisors, Mentors & Counselors

- Mentoring support for challenged students and students of color
- More role models and volunteers

## College Enrollment & Completion

- Info on how to get to college; more college fairs
- More exposure to college campuses
- Info on scholarships
- Help with applications and FAFSA

## Additional Post-Secondary Access Suggestions

- Youth Jobs/Internships

# Theme with Sub-topics: Educator Workforce

## Diverse Educator Workforce

- Actively recruit and retain more teachers of color

## Professional Development for Educators

- Training and support for teachers— including monetary support for trainings

## Strategic Deployment of Principals and Teachers

- Incentivize good teachers to work at “high-need” schools

## Additional Educator Workforce Suggestions

- Principal Leadership
- Teacher and Staff Pay

# Theme with Sub-topics: School-City Collaboration

## Leadership

- Mayor and Superintendent should work together on shared vision and goals

## Governance

- Increase Mayoral and City Council influence in schools (pro/con)

## Funding

- Equity not Equality in distributing resources

## Additional School-City Collaboration Suggestions

- Charter schools (pro/con)
- Best practices and models

Theme with Sub-topics:

# Early Learning and Expanded Learning

## Quality Early Learning Opportunities

### Early Learning

- Make quality preschool available to all children
  - Adequate facilities
  - Knowledgeable teachers

## Expanded K-12 Opportunities

### Expanded K12 Learning

- Increase number and offerings of before- and after-school programs
  - Culturally relevant
  - ELL opportunities
- Extend the school day or year for those needing extra help
- Summer learning opportunities

# Questions for the Advisory Group:

- Is anything missing based on what you heard?
- What are the main barriers to addressing the opportunity gap?
- What promising ideas began to emerge for actions the city could take to address the opportunity gap?