

STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND'S 2024 TOUR FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT REPORT



AUGUST 2024

Strong Schools Maryland hosted and attended a series of events across the state, engaging and educating people about The Blueprint for Maryland's Future as well as the Fair Share Maryland Plan, as a part of our 2024 Tour for Maryland's Future.

Our goals for the summer:

- 1. ADVOCATE:** Advocate for Blueprint implementation with fidelity and full funding through meaningful solutions-based actions.
- 2. BUILD POWER:** Grow and invigorate the SSM Network by building knowledge, teaching skills, and creating momentum to deepen our collective power.
- 3. SHARE RESOURCES:** Collaborate to foster open channels of communication through which we can utilize our shared resources to amplify and act on local and statewide education issues.

ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS



During tour, space was created for community to reflect on education-related issues that were most impacting their communities. Issues varied based on region and relation to education, but consistent themes emerged throughout the state:

	THEMES	SPECIFIC ISSUES	MOST PRESSING ISSUES CURRENTLY:
ISSUE DEVELOPMENT	Blueprint-related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-kindergarten Expansion: <i>funding, limited space availability, child care provider credentialing</i> Career Ladder: <i>meeting minimum salary requirement, impact on classroom sizes, emphasis on National Board Certification</i> Community Schools: <i>coordination of services and partnerships, support for Community School Coordinators</i> Implementation: <i>quality of implementation plans, cross collaboration between LEAs</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge of the BP 2. Full Funding 3. Literacy 4. Engagement and Transparency 5. Quality of Implementation
	Overall education concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of available resources: <i>communication with students and families about what resources exist and are provided</i> Engagement: <i>low parental and familial engagement, language and cultural barriers</i> Arts education: <i>lack of arts prioritization in college and career readiness, constant budget threats</i> Attendance: <i>low student attendance rates, transportation availability/accessibility</i> 	
	Systemic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and racial disparities: <i>unequal support in places of poverty and opportunity zones statewide</i> Funding: <i>long term funding for the Blueprint, transparency in the use of funds, need for progressive revenue generation like Fair Share Maryland</i> 	

The 2024 Tour for Maryland's Future employed multiple engagement methods to reach a broader audience and establish diverse ways of connecting with communities, ensuring inclusive and impactful advocacy efforts.

Event Canvassing served as a powerful strategy to engage directly with communities across the state - 9 events were held in areas SSM previously had little to no engagement with. This outreach method allowed for more personal conversations and allowed for greater understanding of experiences and views of the current education landscape.

Workshops created a collaborative space for learning and dialogue through 2 workshops including a book discussion and a youth-led power mapping training. Sharing knowledge on education-related issues, such as systemic disparities and school funding, fostered a stronger, informed network of advocates ready to strategize actionable solutions.

Canvassing played a key role in reaching diverse communities across the state. By going door-to-door, SSM and volunteers directly connected with residents about Fair Share Maryland and the role of funding in the education system. With 175 doors knocked through one event, canvassing proves to be a critical strategy for mobilizing community members around progressive revenue generation.