Who makes decisions about our schools?

HOW MUCH MONEY SCHOOLS GET

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approves Basic Education Program
(BEP) formula, which determines state
amount for districts based on district's
ability to raise revenues; reviews BEP
formula annually

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Allocates funds to the BEP to be distributed to districts

MNPS SCHOOL BOARD

Recommends a budget amount to the Mayor that includes the BEP allocation

MAYOR

Recommends a budget amount to Council that includes the BEP allocation

METRO COUNCIL

Approves total budget

WHAT AND HOW THINGS ARE TAUGHT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adopts standards for instruction, determines who can teach in Tennessee, and approves textbooks

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Supports the implementation of State Board of Education policies and state priorities

MNPS SCHOOL BOARD

Sets broad policies to guide decisions around academic expectations, discipline, curriculum, compensation, and more

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

Implements School Board policies, selects and develops teachers and principals, and oversees schools

PRINCIPAL

Implements
high quality
instruction and
teacher
development

TEACHER

Develops and implements lesson plans aligned to district curriculum

Best Practices around Roles and Responsibilities of the School Board and Director of Schools



Co-create with families and community a vision for public education



Prioritize role as advocate for all students above all else



Ensure the safety and adequacy of all school facilities and resources



Develop partnerships with social service, health, and other community agencies



Ensure a focus on growing teachers, leaders, and staff



Align policies to district vision and strategic plan and measure outcomes

Glossary

Metro Council: The Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County is a legislative body made up of 40 elected officials—35 of which represent a district of Davidson County, and five of which serve as at-large council members. Each member's term lasts four years. The Metro Council has several committees, including education, budget and finance, public safety, and affordable housing.

MNPS Director of Schools: The Director of Schools of Metro Nashville Public Schools acts as the leader of the school district, having administrative control over the operations of the district at the school-level and at the central office. The Direct of Schools is managed and held accountable by the MNPS School Board.

MNPS School Board: The Metropolitan Nashville Board of Public Education is responsible for setting educational policy at the local district level. The Board is made up of nine members who are elected to serve four-year terms, each representing a district of Metro Nashville Public Schools.

State Board of Education: The State Board of Education is responsible for setting educational policy at the state level. The Board is made up of 11 members—nine of which each represent one of the state's congressional districts and who serve a five-year term, one student member who serves a one-year term, and one executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission who is a non-voting member. The Board has an executive director to oversee operations. Board members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Tennessee General Assembly.

State Department of Education: The Tennessee State Department of Education implements policies at the state level and oversees several initiatives and programs aimed to improve student outcomes across the state of Tennessee. The DOE is helmed by the Education Commissioner, who is appointed by the governor. The governor is also responsible for setting the agenda of the State Department of Education.

Tennessee General Assembly: The Tennessee General Assembly is the state's legislative body made up of the state Senate and the state House of Representatives. The Senate is made up of 33 elected senators, each representing one senatorial district across the state of Tennessee, and each serving a four-year term. The House of Representatives is made up of 99 representatives, each representing one House district, and each serving a two-year term. The Senate and House of Representatives both have several committees, including education, health, judiciary, commerce, and finance.

Want to know more? Visit www.nashvillepef.org.



The Nashville Public Education Foundation supports teachers and leaders to build schools where all kids thrive. To fulfill our mission, we help recruit, develop, and retain great teachers and school leaders, highlight successes and innovation, and advocate to eliminate inequities for Nashville's students. We work to solve the most intractable problems in public education.