2020 Progress Report
Dear Friend of Public Education,

2020 was not the year we expected. Needless to say, our well-thought-through plans and detailed tactics were necessarily postponed in the spring to support the immediate needs of our students and families. In-person convenings were sidelined, communications and advocacy efforts were adapted, and district supports were amplified.

Yet the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) remained diligent in focusing on the long-term goal of eliminating inequities that too many of our students face. In fact, the pandemic only magnified the need for a constant focus on equity as a driving force for the Foundation.

And despite the challenges of 2020 and the roller coaster that was this year, NPEF made significant progress on our goals to support teachers and leaders, celebrate successes, and advocate for change so all students thrive in our schools.

We are excited to share this progress update with our partners and friends, who have supported us, invested in us, and encouraged us to continue our work on behalf of the students of Nashville. Together, we can ensure that every child is thriving in our schools every day.

With gratitude,

Brenda Wynn  
NPEF Board Chair

Katie Cour  
NPEF President and CEO
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2020 Highlights

CONVENED over 1,400 stakeholders to solve some of education’s most intractable problems

INVESTED in critical areas to drive change

COLLABORATED with MNPS and community stakeholders to address some of the biggest challenges in education, including how to:

- **Eliminate** the digital divide
- **Overhaul** how education is funded
- **Dismantle** inequities in student resources and supports
- **Increase** teacher pay
- **Advance** MNPS students’ college access and success
- **Improve** principal quality
2020 Goals

SUPPORT TEACHERS AND LEADERS
Help recruit, develop, and retain more great and diverse educators in Nashville

CELEBRATE SUCCESS
Spread the word about all the great things that are happening in our schools every day

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE
Push for systemic changes that break down inequities in our schools and city
SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND LEADERS

LAUNCHED

teach-nashville.org to recruit great teachers to the district

FUNDED

MNPS teachers of color to participate in the Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance fellowship and MNPS special education teachers to participate in Diverse Learners Collaborative workshops

DEVELOPED

teachers’ skills to drive change through our Teacher Cabinet

LED

the Principal Quality Initiative with MNPS to improve how the district selects and develops its principals

SUPPORTED

teacher leaders with the implementation of the district’s new literacy curriculum

SPEARHEADED

a compensation study with the Mayor’s Office to make recommendations for improving teacher pay in MNPS
LAUNCHED the Principal Quality Initiative with MNPS to improve how the district selects and develops its principals. Spearheaded a compensation study with the Mayor's Office to make recommendations for improving teacher pay in MNPS. Funded MNPS teachers of color to participate in the Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance fellowship and MNPS special education teachers to participate in Diverse Learners Collaborative workshops. Developed teachers' skills to drive change through our Teacher Cabinet. Supported teacher leaders with the implementation of the district's new literacy curriculum.
CELEBRATING SUCCESS

AWARDED
the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award to Tom Ward for his lifetime of work supporting students and families

PRESENTED
the Thomas J. Sherrard Inspiring Innovation award to Gideon’s Army for its life-changing work to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline

RECOGNIZED
Annette Eskind Inspiring Educators Amanda Dardy and Nikki Healy for their impact on students’ lives

LEVERAGED
our first-ever virtual Public Schools Hall of Fame to tell a compelling story about the power of equity in education
**INDUCTED**

four new distinguished alumni into the Public Schools Hall of Fame: Clint Gray, Derrick Moore, E.J. Reed, and Gini Pupo-Walker

**LEVERAGED**

our first-ever virtual Public Schools Hall of Fame to tell a compelling story about the power of equity in education

**HONORED**

over 50 exemplary teachers who are moving the needle for kids every day through our Blue Ribbon Teacher awards

**PROFILED**

a set of MNPS schools as part of our Thriving Schools series to highlight innovative and impactful practices
PROGRESS TOWARD OUR GOALS

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

PUBLISHED
Our Collective Responsibility for Equity in Education that outlined how inequities play out in our schools and what we need to do to eliminate them

INVESTED
in the analysis of school conditions to support equitable resource allocation

RELEASED
our third annual Bridge to Completion report that examined MNPS students’ college access and success

LAUNCHED
a funding advocacy campaign that includes increases to teacher pay and changes to the state funding formula

EXPANDED
Nashville Goes to College, a one-stop shop for MNPS students and their families to learn about the college-going process

CONVENED
over 90 policymakers, district leaders, and stakeholders in a multi-day work session on school finance facilitated by Georgetown’s Edunomics Lab

LED
efforts to help eliminate the digital divide during remote learning

HOSTED
multiple webinars and community gatherings to discuss how inequities play out for our students

ENGAGED
the MNPS School Board in conversation around national best practice for school governance

POLLED
over 500 Nashvillians to gather baseline information on public education, funding, and equity

CO-HOSTED
with partner organizations a forum for School Board candidates and provided detailed information about each candidate to the community
Our Collective Responsibility for Equity in Education that outlined how inequities play out in our schools and what we need to do to eliminate them.

Launched our third annual Bridge to Completion report that examined MNPS students’ college access and success.

Invested in the analysis of school conditions to support equitable resource allocation.

Expanded Nashville Goes to College, a one-stop shop for MNPS students and their families to learn about the college-going process.

Hosted efforts to help eliminate the digital divide during remote learning.

Led multiple webinars and community gatherings to discuss how inequities play out for our students.

Convened over 90 policymakers, district leaders, and stakeholders in a multi-day work session on school finance facilitated by Georgetown’s Edunomics Lab.

Polled over 500 Nashvillians to gather baseline information on public education, funding, and equity.

Co-hosted with partner organizations a forum for School Board candidates and provided detailed information about each candidate to the community.

Engaged the MNPS School Board in conversation around national best practice for school governance.
Priorities for 2021

NPEF will continue to remain steadfast in its focus on eliminating inequities in 2021. A top priority for 2021 is to build a coalition of stakeholders who advocate for and are passionate about dismantling inequities across our schools.

We will also work with district and community partners to provide equitable access to effective teachers across the district, so all of our students have the opportunity to experience engaging and rigorous instruction. We will focus on ways to foster inclusive and welcoming school cultures—places where our students, teachers and staff want to learn and grow. And at the heart of a great school is a great leader, which is why NPEF will also invest in improving principal quality across the district.

Finally, we believe our work at its core is about providing access to opportunity and resources for all students. We will work with partners to advocate for improving how we fund our schools to ensure that all Nashville students have what they need to thrive.

Learn more about our priorities and ways you can support our work by visiting www.nashvillepef.org.
About NPEF

2002
NPEF is founded

2008
NPEF funds the construction of the Martin Professional Development Center

2017
NPEF reports on two critical issues: literacy and college access and success

2019
NPEF launches the Thriving Schools series to shift the conversation about school success

2020
NPEF doubles down on COVID-19 support

2005
NPEF hosts first Public Schools Hall of Fame

2015
NPEF hosts Project RESET to develop a citywide education strategy
NPEF BOARD MEMBERS

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THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

**Innovator Partners**
- AllianceBernstein
- Country Music Association Foundation
- First Horizon Foundation
- Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County
- Scarlett Family Foundation
- State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE)
- The Weeks Family

**Collaborator Partners**
- Belmont University
- Cigna
- Annette Eskind
- Johanna A. Favrot Fund
- First Acceptance Corporation
- Google Fiber
- Ingram Charities
- Dan and Margaret Maddox Fund
- Susan and Rick Mattson
- James R. Meadows, Jr. Foundation
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- Trauger & Tuke
- Trust Foundation

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- Sue Willis-Green and Bob Gregory
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- Connie and Carl Haley, Jr.
- Meg and Alex Harris
- Debbie and Joey Hatch
- Sarah and David Ingram
- Denice and Milton Johnson
- Bill King
- KraftCPAs PLLC
- Heloise Werthan Kuhn
- LEAD Public Schools
- LP Foundation
- Wanda and Jerry Lyle
- Terri and Michael McConnell
- Tracy and Ted McCourtney
- Carolyn and Rob McNeilly
- Gil Merritt
- Janet and David Miller
- MP&F Strategic Communications
- Nashville Electric Service
- Nashville Predators Foundation
- Nashville State Community College Foundation
- Qualifacts
- Ben R. Rechter
- Ruffalo Noel Levitz
- Anne and Joe Russell
- Carole and John Sergent
- Robin Shah
- Dana and Tom Sherrard
- Robert Snyder
- Southwest Value Partners
- Studio Bank
- Synovus
- TBR - The College System of Tennessee
- The ASCAP Foundation
- Tiny Mighty Communications
- Titus Young
- Arleen Tuchman
- Waller Law
- Gail Williams
- Brenda and Emmett Wynn
- Shirley Zeitlin

And the hundreds of Friends of Public Education who have supported us this last year.
We believe teachers and school leaders are best positioned to create change in their schools. We believe we must make sure our teachers and leaders have what they need to help students succeed. And we believe that it’s up to all of us to ensure our students are thriving in our schools every day.

SUPPORT THE NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

USE YOUR PHONE’S CAMERA TO SCAN THE QR CODE

Text NPEF to (202) 858-1233 to donate.

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