

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Public Education Foundation Commends Tennessee’s Planned Review of Education Funding Formula; Implores All Nashvillians to Engage Immediately

Following Intensive Advocacy Efforts, NPEF is Cautiously Optimistic About BEP Review Process and Potential Funding Formula Overhaul

NASHVILLE, TENN. – October 8, 2021 – In response to Tennessee Governor Lee’s call to review the state’s Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula, the [Nashville Public Education Foundation \(NPEF\)](https://www.npef.org/) commends the visible commitment by the state to embark on a new analysis of the outdated and inadequate formula. NPEF has been vocal and active in advocating for this review and encourages all Tennesseans, but especially Davidson County residents, to accept the state’s offer to be involved by registering online at <https://www.tn.gov/education/tnedufunding>. NPEF is eager to support the critical and robust conversations about the best ways that funding can be enhanced to meet the needs of ALL public school students, but especially those in a high-needs urban district such as Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS).

“The commitment by Gov. Lee and Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn to review and update the formula is a first major step in ensuring that the investments necessary for ALL students to thrive are finally reflected in Tennessee’s values and beliefs,” said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation**. “Previous annual review committees have provided recommendations that can act as a sound starting point for understanding how to fully revise the BEP to better serve ALL our students.”

NPEF has reiterated many times that districts cannot conscientiously operate their schools – particularly one as large and diverse as MNPS – on the current BEP funding formula. NPEF believes that support for ALL children is best achieved, at minimum, by 1) increasing the % of GDP that Tennessee invests in K-12 education; 2) designing a student-based funding formula that allocates funding based on the needs of individual students; and 3) centering policy around family and educator voice of the students. At a bare minimum, NPEF wants to see the state implement recommendations from its own previous BEP review committees. Previous recommendations have included increased teacher compensation; increased funding for technology and accessibility; funding for more school counselors and nurses; and increased funding for getting students caught up.

Earlier this year, [NPEF released](#) an informational Policy Brief outlining the complexities, challenges, inadequacies, and consequences of Tennessee’s current Basic Education Program (BEP) funding formula for

schools. Titled “[Funding Our Schools: How Tennessee’s Funding Formula Fails to Meet the Needs of Nashville’s Students](#),” the brief encouraged Tennessee to fully adopt the recommendations of its own BEP Review Committee and called on the community to advocate for increased funding for the state’s schools.

“Our legislators are listening, so now is the time to crank the volume on this discussion. NPEF has worked tirelessly toward a result like the one announced by Tennessee today. But our efforts are most effective when the entire community, educators, area businesses and policy makers all enthusiastically work together to improve conditions that enable ALL kids to thrive,” said **Cour.**

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About the Nashville Public Education Foundation

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to remove the barriers to educational experiences by highlighting success, serving as a critical friend to Metro Nashville Public Schools, convening stakeholders, and advocating for change so all students can thrive in school. More information is available at nashvillepef.org.

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