



# 2020 Progress Report



Nashville  
Public Education  
FOUNDATION

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,

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Brenda P. Wynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Brenda Wynn  
NPEF Board Chair

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Katie Cour". The signature is bold and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Katie Cour  
NPEF President and CEO

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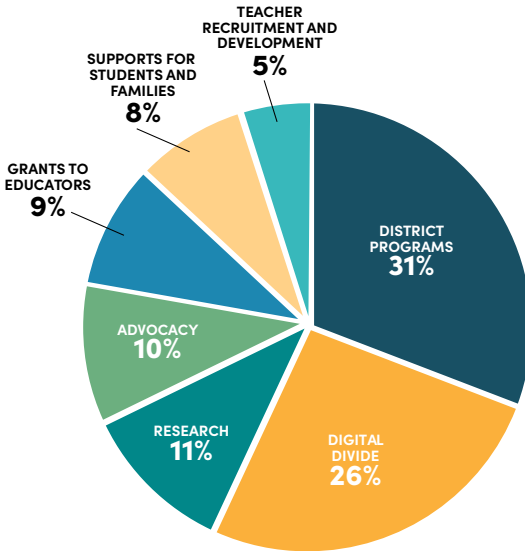
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# 2020 Highlights

**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



PROGRESS TOWARD OUR GOALS

# SUPPORTING TEACHERS AND LEADERS

## LAUNCHED

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

## DEVELOPED

teachers' skills to drive change through our Teacher Cabinet

## 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

## 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

## LED

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





PROGRESS TOWARD OUR GOALS

# 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





## 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

## CONVENED

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

## INVESTED

in the analysis of school conditions to support equitable resource allocation

## LED

efforts to help eliminate the digital divide during remote learning

## RELEASED

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

## HOSTED

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

## LAUNCHED

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

## ENGAGED

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

## EXPANDED

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

## 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



# 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](http://www.nashvillepef.org).



# About NPEF

2002

NPEF is founded

2008

NPEF funds the construction of the Martin Professional Development Center



2005

NPEF hosts first Public Schools Hall of Fame



2015

NPEF hosts Project RESET to develop a citywide education strategy



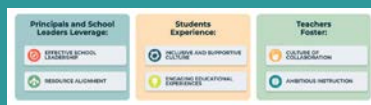
2017

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

## NPEF BOARD MEMBERS

Brenda Wynn, Chair  
Tony Heard, Vice-Chair  
Ashley Cook, Secretary  
Robert E. McNeilly III, Treasurer  
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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  
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Dollar General Corporation  
Education Networks of America  
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Richard Eskind  
H.G. Hill Realty  
HCA Healthcare/TriStar Health  
Margaret and Tony Heard  
Jennifer and Billy Frist

Joe C. Davis Foundation  
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Nashville Area Chamber of  
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Orcutt Winslow PLLC  
Piedmont Natural Gas  
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Trauger & Tuke  
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Cat Financial  
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Judith and Joe Cook  
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Crosslin PLLC  
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Gil Merritt  
Janet and David Miller  
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Nashville Predators  
Foundation  
Nashville State Community  
College Foundation  
Qualifacts  
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Ruffalo Noel Levitz  
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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.***



# Nashville Public Education

FOUNDATION

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.



@NashvillePEF



NashvillePublicEducationFoundation



@NashvillePEF

[www.nashvillepef.org](http://www.nashvillepef.org)  
[info@nashvillepef.org](mailto:info@nashvillepef.org)

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

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

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