



Nashville Public Education FOUNDATION

What we do: This Project

-  Advocating for Change
-  Promoting Excellence & Innovation ●
-  Supporting MNPS
-  Convening Stakeholders

What We Did:

The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) awards an outstanding class of teachers each year in partnership with the Nashville’s Agenda Steering Committee and MNPS. The Blue Ribbon Teacher Awards honor educators who exhibit instructional excellence, promote student growth, exemplify teacher leadership, and provide all students with an equitable and just education.

The award honors teachers exemplifying excellence through a variety of evidence, including teacher evaluation scores, a written or recorded video essay, testimonials, and demonstration of student outcomes and lasting impact.

Winners are determined through a rigorous selection process that includes a review by a team of experts and community representatives. Over the years the program has been in operation, the Blue Ribbon Teacher Awards have honored teachers exhibiting excellence in one of the following categories:

Blue Ribbon Teacher Awards

What it is:

The prestigious Blue Ribbon Teacher Awards are annually given to highly effective Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) educators to highlight their accomplishments, recognize their impact, and promote their stories with the greater Nashville community. Award winners receive \$1,000, are presented with a gorgeous trophy, and honored at a reception.

[Instructional excellence](#) - As evidenced by the teacher’s ability to deliver content to students in a way that requires students to interpret the content (as opposed to simply reproduce it) and contextualize that content for all students.

[Student growth](#) - As evidenced by the teacher’s ability to create environments that promote active student engagement and increase academic achievement among students from all backgrounds using state student growth metrics.

[Equity](#) - As evidenced by the teacher’s ability to provide students with educational and personal experiences that are culturally affirming; that broaden students’ perspectives of themselves, others, and the world; and that actively work to remove barriers and reduce inequities for students and families.

[Teacher leadership \(individual\)](#) - As evidenced by the teacher’s ability to both grow in their own talent and lead the development of other teachers in their building.

[Teacher leadership \(teams\)](#) - As evidenced by groups of teachers who collectively are working to address specific school needs.

Traditionally, honorees, community and business leaders, city leadership, and MNPS leaders gather for a reception in celebration of the Blue Ribbon Teacher award winners. The event serves as a way to recognize the dedication and impact of these outstanding teachers and honor the challenging and important work they do in their classrooms each day.



Blue Ribbon Teacher Awards

The Impact:



More than 300 teachers and teacher teams have been honored as Blue Ribbon Award winners to date. Each teacher is recognized with a \$1,000 cash prize (teacher teams up to 3 or more split \$5000) and a trophy recognizing their accomplishments.



The program elevates the exceptional work of teachers in MNPS and helps demonstrate to the community that substantial student growth is attainable with the right expertise and support.



With only approximately 50 awards granted annually through a comprehensive nomination and evaluation process, the Blue Ribbon Teacher designation has become a symbol of teaching excellence in our city.



Why it Matters:

The teaching profession is an admirably tough profession that requires extraordinary levels of expertise and commitment. Teachers have a substantial role in developing the fabric of our city, influencing everything from cultivating an individual's self-worth to developing the city's future workforce and leaders. Their efforts should be regularly lauded on a platform that maintains the prestige and significance of the teaching profession. While the program allows stakeholders and colleagues to celebrate MNPS' best, it also serves as a strong reminder to Nashvillians that we have a great talent pool here in Nashville and that these teachers are moving mountains every day on behalf of our students.

