



Nashville Public Education FOUNDATION

What we do: This Project

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

Parent Cabinet

What it is:

The Parent Cabinet was initiated in 2016 by the Mayor's Office in collaboration with the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) and Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) to elevate the voices of MNPS parents and family members in education policy and practice decisions.

Cabinet members provided feedback from the unique and important perspective of parents and guardians of MNPS students based on their experience in the city's public school system.

What We Did:

NPEF was responsible for organizing the cabinet logistics, managing the application and selection process, facilitating monthly sessions, and sharing cabinet feedback with policymakers.

Each year, the Parent Cabinet was comprised of MNPS family members from each cluster, representing diverse school types (traditional public schools, magnet schools, charter schools, etc.), tiers (elementary, middle, high), demographics, and variety of school experiences in our district.

Cabinet meetings featured presentations and discussions with special guests, including representatives from the Mayor's Office, MNPS' Director of Schools, and other MNPS leadership as relevant to the meeting's topic. Parents engaged in robust discussions sharing their perspectives and driving towards solutions on some of our district's most pressing issues. Meetings resulted in policy memos containing specific recommendations from the Parent Cabinet to MNPS or other stakeholders as pertaining to the focus issue.



Parent Cabinet

The Impact:

The work from each cabinet meeting generated valuable insights on ways the district and city can improve policies and practices that affect students and families. Specifically, feedback from the Parent Cabinet was used to:



Build and refine the Nashville Zone Finder tool.



Provide feedback on how the district regularly seeks family perspective and engages with family members as advocates for public schools.



Provide family input on the definition of teacher quality and supports necessary to ensure a high quality teacher in every classroom.



Inform how the district communicates effectively with parents and family members.



Define equitable education from the family perspective.



Provide feedback on the district's Strategic Plan.

Why it Matters:

Parent and family voices are often left out of education decision-making, yet it is critical to build schools and school systems that are informed by the experience of those sending their students through MNPS. The Parent Cabinet gave parents and family members the opportunity to engage in policy conversations, understand how to better advocate for their children, and effect change in MNPS.